MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Clay County Staff, Students, and Community,

Clay County Schools has seen a return to normalcy during the 2022-2023 school year. While we are extremely happy to have students back in class five days per week, Monday through Friday, we will continue to practice enhanced mitigation strategies that safeguard everyone's health. At this time, wearing a mask is optional for staff and students. Our "Return to School Guide" provides current guidance that will help with mask wearing decisions.

Please note that this information is subject to change as additional information about the spread and prevention of COVID-19 is known. In addition, directives may evolve as they are received from Governor Jim Justice, public health officials, and the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE). Therefore, all West Virginia County Boards of Education must be prepared to alter their guidance to comply with any new directives to best protect student health and learning needs. For our part, we will make sure staff, students and their families, and the community have access to the most current safe practices and guidance on our website.

On behalf of Clay County Schools, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all vested stakeholders for your continued support. We are working diligently to provide a caring, committed, and successful school year.

Respectfully,

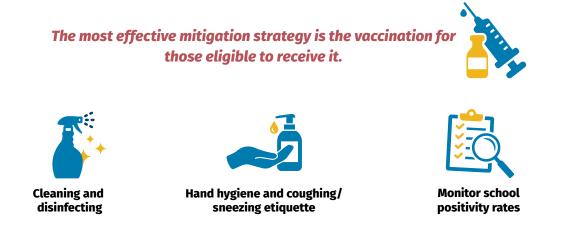Joan Haynie

Superintendent Clay County Schools

Joan Haynie
Superintendent, Clay County Schools

DON'T FEEL WELL?
STAY HOME

If you have the symptoms below, let your family and teachers know.

COUGH

FEVER

SORE THROAT

Rievewed and Updated: January 2023

KEY MITIGATIONS FOR SCHOOLS *(including extracurricular activities)*

These practices are important to not only guard against COVID-19, but also the spread of other infections such as the flu and the common cold.

The most effective mitigation strategy is the vaccination for those eligible to receive it.

Cleaning and disinfecting

Hand hygiene and coughing/ sneezing etiquette

Monitor school positivity rates

When student or staff tests positive for COVID-19:

» Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, should stay home for at least 5 days and isolate from others.

» Students are not allowed to participate in extracurricular activities while in isolation and potentially infectious.

» Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or day tested if asymptomatic.

» Students and staff may return to school if they:
  › Stayed home and isolated for at least 5 full days
  › Are fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing medications)
  › Have symptoms that are improving

» Individuals who were severely ill or immunocompromised should stay home and isolate for 10 days.

» Students and staff should take precautions when returning to school after completing their 5-day isolation. This includes wearing a well-fitted mask from days 6 to 10 inside the school. If a mask is unable to be worn, they should continue to isolate and remain at home for 10 days or have a two negative antigen tests on day 5 or later at least 48 hours apart.

» Schools may consider allowing students to participate in unmasked extracurricular activities during days 6-10 if they obtain two negative antigen tests on day 5 or later at least 48 hours apart.

Case reporting and other considerations

» Schools are to report in aggregate the number of positive staff and students for the prior week to an online portal: https://wvde.us/covid19/school-covid-dashboard/ This will allow for a more robust tracking of COVID-19 cases and will measure the true burden COVID-19 has on our school system by measuring the percent positivity. Routine screening testing is no longer recommended in schools.

» Schools and/or counties should share the number of positive cases weekly per school.

» Superintendents may consider closing a school for a five-day period to slow transmission, in consultation with the local health department, based on one of the thresholds:
  › School is unable to maintain a safe school environment due to the number of staff out with COVID.
  › School COVID-19 percent positivity exceeds 20% on the weekly report.

» Five-day closures do require all extra-curricular events to be cancelled/postponed. However, schools needing to close for a day or two due to staffing, may conduct extra-curricular events based on their county-level policies.

» Universal contact tracing is no longer recommended for COVID-19.

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RESOURCES

- claycountyschools.org
- wvde.us/covid19
- www.cdc.gov
- www.wvde.us
- www.wvssac.org