

JOHNSBURG CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



**Description of programs for:
Remote Learning
COVID-19 Testing
Contact Tracing**

August 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Community Members,

We are adding this information to our COVID page so that it can be located easily. You will find our information on remote learning, COVID testing and contact tracing. Many of the items and topics below were also covered in parent meetings that were held through Google meets.

As you can see from the information we will be working hand and hand with Warren County Public Health. We have held several meetings this summer in preparation of reopening and plan to utilize their expertise and knowledge as we work through this difficult time.

It will take all of us working together to make sure we keep everyone as safe as possible. Wearing masks and socially distancing are two of the foundational items that we all must follow in order to keep the school community safe.

Please call Mrs. Flanagan or myself with any questions, 518-251-2921.

Thank you.

**Mr. Michael Markwica
Superintendent**

**Mrs. Heather Flanagan
Building Principal**

REMOTE LEARNING

Parents who choose not to return their child(ren) to school for in-person learning will have the opportunity to elect our remote learner option. Once a parent decision is made for either in-person or remote learning, the student will remain in that mode for a minimum of 5 weeks. If you have chosen remote learning, you have been sent a “Remote Learning Agreement” in the mail. If you choose to change the learning option for your child after 5 weeks, please notify the principal’s office as soon as you make your decision.

In person and remote instruction will support both “core” subject areas and elective courses. Some electives will be offered remotely after 12:30. All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

In most cases, daily student schedules will remain the same whether instruction is in-person or remote so that students do not encounter conflicts wherein synchronous lessons for different subjects are offered simultaneously.

Remote learning for elementary students will include an emphasis on synchronous learning opportunities with asynchronous activities used as a supplement. Teachers will ensure that their students are directly engaged with them and their class peers in experiential learning on a regular basis. With the exception of mealtimes, scheduled physical education times and transition times, elementary students in grades 2-6 will be expected to be on-line and engaged with their teacher and class peers between the hours of 8:00-12:30. Teachers will provide “screen” breaks, as needed and appropriate, for remote learners just as they will provide movement breaks for our in-person learners. Students learning remotely in grades PreK-1 will work out a remote learning schedule with the teacher. Necessary printed materials and other learning supplies will be provided for all remote learners, as needed. Both remote and in-person learners will be graded the same. Attendance will be taken daily.

Remote learning opportunities for secondary students (7-12) will also include a greater emphasis on synchronous instruction, with teachers finding ways to provide live instruction and lessons to students. Teachers will ensure that their students are directly engaged with them and their class peers in experiential learning on a regular basis. Asynchronous instruction will be used to supplement as where and when needed. With the exception of mealtimes, scheduled physical education times and transition times, secondary students will be expected to be on-line and engaged with their teacher and class peers between the hours of 8:00-12:30. Teachers will provide “screen” breaks, as needed and appropriate, for remote learners just as they will provide movement breaks for our in-person learners. Necessary printed materials and other learning supplies will be provided for all remote learners, as needed. Both remote and in-person learners will be graded the same. Attendance will be taken daily.

To ensure high-quality remote learning experiences, we have standardized the use of a single online learning platform, Google Meet/Classroom.

All classrooms will be equipped with the technology necessary to live stream teaching-learning sessions to be used for remote learning. Students who are not in attendance for in-person learning are expected to participate in remote learning according to the same master schedule used for in-person learning. Where conditions require asynchronous instructional methods, email, and telephone communication will be used to support student learning.

Access to technology is essential for the successful roll-out of this plan. Johnsbury Central School has been committed to ongoing planning and implementation of technologies to ensure equitable access for staff and students. If Internet access is not available at a student's home, hard copies of student work will be provided.

Remote learners will be provided with the necessary technology, mainly a 1:1 computing device (Chromebook), to support effective delivery of virtual teaching and learning.

COVID-19 TESTING

- The school will collaborate with the Warren County Health Department when there is a concern that diagnostic testing is needed. Diagnostic testing is generally someone who is a high priority or symptomatic.
- The school District liaison and/or school nurse will work with the County Health Department and/or the district's medical director (Hudson Headwaters Health Network) to refer students/staff for required testing. The decision to test lies with the medical provider/county health department.
- Testing is available through the students'/employees' primary health provider. Most often, this is the Hudson Headwaters Health Network (HHHN), which is also the school's designated physician. If the student/employee is not a regular HHHN patient, they will require them to establish a brief office visit in order to make a testing determination. If the student/employee is not able to consult with their primary medical provider, they have the option to consult with the county health departments who also have the capacity to administer the diagnostic testing.
- Individuals who have returned from international travel and/or a state designated through a New York State Travel advisory must complete mandatory quarantine prior to returning to the school.
- *Notification* - Warren County health departments will be notified immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 diagnostic test result by an individual in school facilities or on school grounds, including students, faculty, staff and visitors. In the case where an employee is not a resident of either Warren County, the county of residence will also be

notified. The school district will provide a list of contact information to all county health departments.

Return to School after Illness

- The school has established protocols and procedures, in consultation with the local health departments, about the requirements for determining when individuals, particularly students, who screened positive for COVID-19 symptoms can return to the in-person learning environment at school. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of whether the person is symptomatic or asymptomatic, will be permitted to return to work upon completion of at least 10 days of isolation from the onset of symptoms or 10 days of isolation after the first positive test if they remain asymptomatic. In all cases, the local Warren county health department will release the person from isolation.
- The district will refer to DOH's ["Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure"](#) regarding protocols and policies for faculty and staff seeking to return to work after a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or after the faculty or staff member had close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19.
- The district requires that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning. The discharge of an individual from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

CONTACT TRACING

- Public Health Officials assume the primary responsibility for contact tracing. Upon request from the local health department, the school district will provide information on the past locations of students and staff who are involved in the contact tracing program, including, but not limited to room locations and list of other occupants of the room, school transportation and list of other occupants of the vehicle. The school will maintain accurate records to answer all school-base contact tracing questions and will be prepared to provide this information to the county health departments in a timely manner in order to facilitate an effective contact tracing program.
- To assist with this process, the school nurse completed the Johns Hopkins University contact tracing program.
- To ensure the school district and its employees comply with contact tracing and disinfection requirements, the school will do the following:
 - Have a plan for cleaning, disinfection, and notifying Public Health, in the event of a positive case. In the case of an employee testing positive for COVID-19, CDC guidelines

will be followed regarding cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>

- Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
- Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
- Wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and copier machines.
- Vacuum the space if needed. Use a vacuum equipped with a high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter, if available.
- Consider temporarily turning off room fans and the central HVAC system that services the room or space, so that particles that escape from vacuuming will not circulate throughout the facility.
- Workers without close contact with the person who is sick can return to work immediately after disinfection.