



Neenah Creek Elementary School

FAQs for the Beginning of the School Year at NCES

****Any/All information is subject to change.***

What is Coronavirus?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person and has spread throughout the world, reaching pandemic status.

What are the symptoms of Coronavirus?

People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms, from mild symptoms to severe illness.

- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. If you have fever, cough, or other symptoms, you might have COVID-19. (This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC continues to update this list as it learns more about COVID-19)
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

If you think your student has Coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms:

- KEEP YOUR STUDENT HOME, call the school, and contact your healthcare provider.

- Students must stay home:
 - Until there has been no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication **AND**
 - Other presenting symptoms have improved **AND**
 - At least 10-14 days (depending on guidance from the county health department recommendations or your physician) have passed since the symptoms first appeared
 - **OR** student has a negative COVID-19 test

MITIGATION MEASURES

What strategies are being utilized to safely reopen Neenah Creek Elementary School?

SDWD Infection Control and Mitigation Measures are based on guidance and recommendations from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI), Department of Health Services (DHS) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In addition to these resources, SDWD works closely with the local county health departments to receive regular updates and guidance.

It is important to remember that no guidance or mitigation measures will completely remove the risk of exposure to COVID-19 while the virus is still in wide circulation in the community, county, or state. However, the implementation of these measures can help limit the transmission of COVID-19 within our school district.

HYGIENE MEASURES

- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands with soap and water, or use hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) often. Examples of instances where these measures would be used more often include entering the building, entering and exiting the classroom, after touching frequently used items or surfaces, sneezing, or coughing. Students will be supervised in their use of hand sanitizer.
- Staff will reinforce good hygiene practices with students, such as avoiding touching your face, and sneezing or coughing into a tissue.
- Staff will disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.
- Staff will consider scheduled hand hygiene breaks in the classroom:
 - Upon entry/exit
 - Before/after eating
 - Before/after recess
- Signs will be posted inside the SDWD schools with information on the following:
 - Symptoms of COVID-19
 - How to stop the spread of COVID-19

- Proper handwashing steps
- How to properly wear a face covering

Will students be required to wear face coverings?

Student Measures

- Face coverings will be mandatory for all students within the school and on buses.*
- Each student will be provided with a reusable, cloth face covering. The district will maintain an inventory of reusable face coverings to be made available to students should they need a replacement.
- Face shields cannot be used as an alternative to cloth face coverings.
- Students are able to use a personal, cloth face covering as long as it complies with the dress code and displays school-appropriate messaging or images.
- All face coverings must be worn and washed according to CDC recommendations.

*In situations where a face covering is NOT recommended, parents/guardians are encouraged to contact the school's office staff or District Nurse to determine adaptations and/or an acceptable alternative where mitigation measures can still be maintained. When face coverings are worn, they must be worn appropriately and cannot conflict with these recommendations:

- Face coverings should not be used on:
 - Anyone who has trouble breathing
 - Anyone with a health condition that would be exacerbated by wearing a face covering
 - Anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance
 - Anyone engaging in physical activity
 - Anyone with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health conditions, or other sensory sensitivities

When can a mask/face covering be removed?

- While outside during recess
- While eating breakfast and lunch, and briefly while drinking from a personal water bottle in the student's classroom
- If within the classroom and working, reading, or playing independently, while also maintaining at least 6 feet distance from others, individuals can remove their mask and keep them on their person.
- If a staff member has their own office, they can remove their mask while in their office and alone.

Will teachers be required to wear masks/face coverings?

Staff Measures

- Face coverings will be mandatory for all staff.*
- Each staff member will be provided with a reusable, cloth face covering. The district will maintain an inventory of reusable face coverings to be made available to staff should they need a replacement.
- Face shields cannot be used as an alternative to cloth face coverings.
- Staff are able to use a personal, cloth face covering as long as it complies with the dress code and displays school-appropriate messaging or images.
- All face coverings must be worn and washed according to CDC recommendations or alternative instructions provided to staff by the District Nurse.
- Office staff who are assigned to caring for students in the designated Isolation Rooms should use Standard Precautions. These precautions include, but are not limited to, wearing a face covering, wearing gloves, and maintaining social distancing and limiting their timed exposure to the ill student when feasible.

*In situations where a face covering is NOT recommended due to medical reasons, staff members will work with their Administrator and/or District Nurse to determine an acceptable alternative where mitigation measures can still be maintained.

What is the plan for cleaning and disinfecting classrooms throughout the day?

Hard surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day and in the evening.

Efforts will be made to limit sharing of classroom supplies and equipment. Shared learning materials will be regularly sanitized and disinfected.

Students will always be encouraged to, and given adequate time to, wash their hands with soap and water (and/or use hand sanitizer) frequently throughout the day.

How will we check for symptoms?

All staff members and students must stay home from school and contact their healthcare provider if they have any of the following COVID-19 symptoms:

- Shortness of breath, sore throat or persistent cough
- Temperature at or higher than 100.4°F

- Congestion or runny nose
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- New loss of taste or smell

Staff and students should also stay home from school if they are experiencing other illness symptoms such as severe or long-lasting abdominal pain, rash with fever, or strep throat. In these instances, we encourage staff and students to contact their healthcare provider to be seen.

The SDWD community must continue to self-monitor on a daily basis for symptoms of COVID-19, which include temperature checks. Staff and parents are encouraged to notify school officials of any COVID-19 symptoms, positive tests for COVID-19, or exposure to someone who is a confirmed or suspected case. SDWD will also be working with the health departments in the event of a positive case.

Staff and parents/guardians of students should take their temperature at home before entering or reentering school daily.

While at school, temperature checks will continue to be maintained in the health room or office for general illness complaints. Staff or students who present with COVID-19 symptoms will have their temperature checked. The District Nurse or trained support staff will have access to infrared (no-touch) thermometers and/or temporal (forehead) thermometers. All equipment will be disinfected appropriately after each use.

Staff must attest to behavioral expectations to help minimize the risk of transmission in the SDWD community. Expectations include: continual symptom monitoring, not attending work if symptomatic of COVID-19 or respiratory illness, and not attending work if potentially exposed to COVID-19.

How will NCES limit shared materials and encourage social distancing in an elementary school?

- Students will be encouraged to take their belongings home each day.
- Students will be discouraged from bringing extra toys or materials to the school.
- Sharing of non-student owned supplies (art supplies, equipment, electronics, toys, books, games, learning aids, etc.) will be minimized as much as possible but will not always be possible. If the sharing of non-student owned supplies is unavoidable, supplies will be appropriately disinfected between each use by the classroom teacher. The district will be using CDC approved spray that activates in three minutes to sanitize hard surfaces.
- Students will have assigned seating areas.

- Students are asked to bring their own snack; birthday treats or other treats to share with the class will not be permitted.
- Where feasible, physical distancing measures will be encouraged and maintained as much as possible.
- Each school will have designated Isolation Rooms for any student who displays symptoms during the school day. These rooms will not be used for other purposes. A symptomatic student will wait in the designated room with a facial covering while arrangements are made for them to be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact as soon as possible. Upon arrival at the school, the adult should wait outside and staff will bring the student out.

What if my family travels out of state during the course of the school year?

Students/families are asked to disclose to the office if you leave the state of Wisconsin. Upon return students will have their temperature checked upon arrival for 10 school days.

In-Person Learning

When will school start?

School will start on September 1, 2020.

However, due to recent board approval, Neenah Creek will utilize a “soft start” for our students. For the first two weeks, we will be reducing the capacity of our building by 50% in order to familiarize students with new procedures and protocols related to COVID-19, and familiarize students with just how daily life will work.

Students scheduled for in-person learning will be divided into two groups based on their last names. They will attend school every other day for the first two weeks.

Week 1:

- Sept 1: ALL students 5K-5th with ***last name A-L***
- Sept 2: All students 5K - 5th with ***last name M-Z***
- Sept 3: All students 5K-5th with ***last name A-L***
- Sept 4: All students 5K-5 with ***last name M-Z***

Week 2:

- Sept 8: ALL students 5K-5th with ***last name A-L***
- Sept 9: All students 5K-5 with ***last name M-Z***
- Sept: 10: ALL students 5K-5 with ***last name A-L***
- Sept 11: All students 5K-5 with ***last name M-Z***

Week 3:

- ALL in-person students report daily, unless otherwise mandated by the county or state.

During this “soft start,” students will be guided through their typical schedule, participate in grade-level activities, and become familiar with routines and procedures that will become part of their daily life at Neenah Creek Elementary School.

What will in-person learning look like at Neenah Creek?

The first two weeks are part of the “soft start”, on Week 3 students will attend school five days per week, unless mandated by the county or state to do otherwise. In-person learning will have the typical school schedule. Our start time is 8:05 am and our release time will be 3:15 pm. Bus riders will be dismissed first. Car riders will be picked up after buses are dismissed. Students will remain with their class for the majority of their day. Specials teachers, such as art and music, will hold class in the regular classroom to maintain the cohort. Gym classes will start in the regular classroom and then move outdoors as much as possible, or in the gymnasium.

Breakfast will be “grab-n-go”. Students will eat breakfast in the classroom. Lunch will be staggered to limit the number of students in the cafeteria and students will be at an assigned table with their classmates. Recess will also be staggered to reduce the number of students in a given area; indoor recess will be in the classroom. Playgrounds will be sprayed at minimum weekly.

Students will be given a Chromebook which will be expected to go home each night, charged at home, and returned each morning. This will help prepare us in the event of a potential quarantine and need to transition to remote learning.

Will in-person classes be live-streamed?

No, in-person classes will not be live-streamed. For in-person learning, students will receive instruction in school five days a week.

When will students receive their Chromebook?

Students will receive their Chromebook during the “soft start” on the first few days of school.

How will lunch work? Do students get to eat in the cafeteria and do they get to socialize?

- The food service staff will wear gloves and face coverings.
- Staff will increase the cleaning and sanitizing of high-touch surfaces
- Trays will be distributed by food service staff.
- Self-serve fruit, vegetable, and salad bars will be replaced with pre-packaged options.
- Pre-packaged condiments will be utilized.
- No cash transactions during service times. Please maintain a positive balance in your accounts. No charging. Families may place money on their child’s account though e-funds online or by sending cash/check in an envelope with their child.
- Hand sanitizers will be available in each cafeteria.
- Individual classes will go through the lunch line and sit with their cohort.
- A revised cafeteria seating layout reducing the number of students at a table.
- Cafeterias will be designated by grade-level and used in a staggered manner to allow cleaning between uses.

Will drinking fountains be available for students?

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle from home that they will be able to fill their bottles using the classroom sink. All other drinking fountains will be turned off.

Will students be assigned coat hooks?

Students will be allowed to carry their backpacks to their classroom and leave their personal belongings there. K-5 students may use coat hooks which will be sprayed regularly or allow student belongings in the classroom. Families can assist by making sure students only bring materials that are necessary and no extra toys/items in their bags.

How will bathrooms, the gymnasium and playground equipment work this school year?

SDWD staff will continue to teach and reinforce good hygiene practices. Students will be given frequent breaks to wash hands throughout the day.

Items/machines touched and/or used by many people in a gym or on a playground will be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

What will riding the bus look like this school year?

The School District of Wisconsin Dells will implement health and safety practices for students riding the bus. The SDWD will perform the following measures for the 2020-21 school year:

- Drivers will use a cleaning and disinfection check-off list, and buses will be deep cleaned and sanitized every day at the end of each route.
- Each bus will be cleaned weekly with an electrostatic/ozone machine.
- Drivers will be required to wear a mask or have a protective shield in place around the driver. Gloves/masks will be provided to drivers as needed.
- Students will be required to wear a mask while on the bus.
- Hand sanitizers will be mounted in the entryway of every bus.
- Each bus will load students from back to front.
- Any group riding together as a family will sit together; others living in the same household will sit together as well.
- Buses will have increased ventilation via opened windows and roof hatches.
- During the 2020-21 school year, the SDWD will not allow guest riders; students that are not regularly assigned a bus will not be permitted to ride.

What will before school procedures look like at NCES?

Students will be allowed into the school building at **7:40 am** everyday. Students will not be allowed to enter the building prior to 7:40 am. Upon entering the building students will use hand sanitizer. There will be a “grab-n-go” breakfast option available at the entrance which students will eat in their classroom. All students will report directly to their classroom at the start of the day.

What does drop-off and pick-up look like if my child does not ride the bus?

Parents will form a line in their cars behind the bus and pull forward once the buses depart. Parents can park in the lot and wait for their child to be released from the building.

Will visitors be allowed in school?

To help keep our staff, students and community safe, we are monitoring and limiting access into our schools. **Visitors will not be allowed to enter a school without an appointment or prior approval from administrative staff.** Upon appointment or prior approval, these questions should be answered by each individual prior to entering school. If an individual answer is YES to any of these questions, they will not be allowed to enter our buildings.

ENTRY QUESTIONS

1. Possible symptoms of COVID-19 include fever (at or higher than 100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, headache, fatigue, body or muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and/or loss of taste or smell. Are you currently experiencing any of these symptoms? **YES/NO**
2. Have you had any of the symptoms listed above in the past 10 days? **YES/NO**
3. In the last 14 days, have you had contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, are under investigation for COVID-19, or are ill with respiratory illness? **YES/NO**
4. Have you travelled outside of your home community in the past 14 days? **YES/NO**

UPON BUILDING ENTRY

- Wash hands with hand sanitizer upon entering and exiting the building
- Make every effort to maintain a physical distancing of 6 feet or more
- All approved visitors **MUST** wear a face covering while in the building.
- All approved visitors must sign in at the office for COVID-19 contact tracing or exposure concerns.

What about social-emotional resources?

We as an SDWD staff are aware that the sudden school shut down and ongoing concern with COVID-19 has placed a significant strain on families, students and the community as a whole. We are aware that many students may be experiencing an increase in anxiety and depression. Our SDWD staff will be engaging in the following to

ensure addressing our students social emotional needs as well as their academic needs.

- Staff will create safe and supportive environments for students returning to the brick and mortar classroom environment.
- We will provide frequent communication that clearly outlines for staff, students, parents and community members the safety and health procedures being put in place prior to the start of the school year.
- The SDWD Pupil Services Team will review social emotional needs of the staff and students within our district and will offer resources and services to meet those needs.
- We understand that there may be an increased level of misbehavior due to the struggles related to the pandemic. Staff and administration will provide behavioral support for misbehavior while using a trauma-sensitive approach to meeting student needs.
- Designated staff will be assigned to support and communicate with students and families who are not physically attending school.
- The SDWD Pupil Services Team will continually assess the mental health and behavioral needs of the SDWD staff and students, they will also provide mental health support and resources to the staff and families within the SDWD.

How will my child's IEP be handled this year? What if my child receives special education services?'

Students who have Individual Education Programs (IEP) will continue to receive the accommodations, services and specially designed instruction outlined in their IEP regardless of the learning format they are enrolled in. If the educational environment of the student changes from that reflected in the current IEP, that IEP team will meet to determine if adjustments to the IEP need to be made based on the new or changed environment.

- As a mitigation measure, all IEP and Evaluation meetings will be held virtually regardless of your child's learning environment.
- The SDWD will continue all Child Find activities virtually.
- Special Education evaluations will be conducted face to face when necessary, staff will use appropriate mitigating practices to ensure student and staff safety.
- SDWD will establish clean spaces using mitigating safety practices for all OT, PT, Speech and Language as well as individual and small group programming.
- All staff will be trained on virtual tools that would be used in the case of a full school shut down.

IF your child is enrolled with the SDWD in a virtual learning format:

- An IEP meeting may need to be held to address services and accommodations to reflect the change in the learning format.
- As applicable, your child will receive support from a special education teacher, Speech and Language Pathologist, paraprofessional, and/or other related services providers (i.e. OT/PT). This may be your child's current school team, or a different Special Education Teacher, SLP or Related Service Provider assigned to support the student in the online learning environment.
- Specially designed instruction as outlined in your child's IEP may occur through both a synchronous and asynchronous. This means that some instruction may occur in a synchronous format which will be real time online instruction, while other instruction may occur asynchronously which will use other format (i.e google classroom) to provide instruction that is not occurring in real time.

If in-person learning has to switch to virtual/remote learning during the year, will the virtual/remote learning be synchronous or asynchronous?

If in-person learning at a school or the district must switch to full virtual/remote learning at any point during the year, the instruction will be a mixture of synchronous (students learning online together at the same time) and asynchronous (instruction that is not occurring in real time).

If we have to go to virtual/remote learning, what platform will be used?

NCES will use Google Classroom as the common learning platform as well as the use of other Google Suite tools. Students will be using Google Classroom when in-person to help prepare them for a potential closure.

What happens if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the school?

In the case of a student or staff member with a confirmed case of COVID-19, the district will work with the county health department to determine appropriate action. Additional action could include:

- Extra disinfection and sanitization, and;
- Closures of classrooms, entire grade levels, individual schools or a complete district closure based on county guidance.

In the case of a prolonged closure, the classroom, grade level or entire school may switch to virtual/remote learning. There may be times during the school year that conditions require all in-person learning to switch to full virtual/remote learning.

Will parents be notified if there is a positive case in their child's classroom?

Yes, parents will be notified if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in their child's classroom. Parents will also receive information about next steps and actions based on guidance from the county health department.

What is the plan if we close school?

It is possible that classrooms, grade-levels, individual schools or the entire district will have to close for periods of time during the upcoming school year if there is a spike in COVID-19 infections or if we receive orders from the county health department or the state.

If there is a prolonged closure, all in-person learning will switch to full virtual/remote learning, which will include a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Unlike last spring, attendance will be taken, live and recorded instruction will occur, and student work will be graded if the district switches to virtual/remote learning during the year.

Our greatest hope!

Our greatest hope is that by late winter or spring, conditions will have changed (e.g. widespread vaccination) to an extent where we could return to a sense of normalcy for students and staff. Finally, we are a Five Star School and we thank you for all your support to maintain the high level of student academic achievement.