Recovery FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) Updated July 15, 2020

SAFETY OF REOPENING
Question: How is WCPS ensuring that any plans to reopen schools are done safely?
Response: WCPS has formed three separate recovery stakeholder groups focused on school operations and safety, student and family services and supports, and instruction. These committees include teachers, parents, community partners, health officials, school administrators and district leaders, and are working to develop plans that are in alignment with the draft Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education and the CDC’s K-12 Schools Readiness and Planning tool.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR REGISTRATION (PRE-REGISTRATION)
Question: Can I change my selections on the New School Year Registration?
Response: Yes, the New School Year Registration is helping Wicomico Schools gather pre-registration selections for each student to assist with planning. Informed decision-making based on the needs and circumstances of each family is important. Families will have the opportunity to review and finalize their decisions, including transportation decisions, for the first semester before the start of the school year – likely in late July or early August.

HEALTH SCREENINGS
Question: Will students and staff participate in daily health screenings?
Response: WCPS follows the guidance of the Wicomico County Health Department and the CDC in terms of screening and safety precautions. Currently all persons gaining access to any WCPS facility are assessed through a set of screening questions. The possibility of daily temperature checks is still under discussion with health officials.

USE OF MASKS
Question: Will faculty and students be required to wear masks while in school?
Response: WCPS employees and students will be required to wear masks that cover the nose and mouth at all times while in school (except when eating or drinking) and riding buses. The wearing of masks by our very youngest students and some special needs students is still under discussion.

SCHOOL DAY WITH HYBRID SCHEDULE
Question: What will a typical hybrid instruction day look like for an elementary, middle and high school student?
Response: Planning committees are currently working on the details of a hybrid model, with feedback from parents, community stakeholders and educators. Some points being discussed include:

- Limited class size and room arrangement to support physical distancing
- Specific daily schedules to include start/end times
- Hallway traffic flow to support physical distancing
- Bathroom use rules and sanitation measures
- Lunch time location and procedures
- Role of special areas in elementary school (art, music, physical education)
- Specifics related to certain related arts courses (chorus, band, etc.)
- Specifics related to CTE programs and requirements
- Instructional expectations, activities and supports in class and at home for students enrolled in the hybrid model
- The feasibility of allowing extracurricular activities in school

BUS TRANSPORTATION – Hybrid Model

Question: What safety precautions will be in place for school buses?
Response: Buses will be cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis between routes (at least 2 times per day). All precautions will be taken, and procedures will be in alignment with the Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education to emphasize safety on all WCPS buses. Students will be assigned seats utilizing physical distancing, understanding that siblings from the same household may be able to occupy the same seat.

IN CASE OF COVID-19

Question: How will WCPS respond to a positive COVID-19 case in a school building?
Response: WCPS is working closely with the Wicomico County Health Department to formulate an appropriate response to support the health and safety of all students and staff.

CLEANING

Question: What sanitation practices will be in place during the day?
Response: WCPS remains in constant contact with our local health officials and medical personnel to ensure our cleaning practices are aligned with CDC guidelines, including the following procedures:

- Building custodians will disinfect frequently touched surfaces in common areas throughout the day and restrooms will be disinfected between any scheduled class change.
- Buildings will be thoroughly cleaned each evening, including the use of disinfectant spray.
- Several trained cleaning crews will be traveling to all schools each night using the Protexus Spray Disinfecting System throughout each building.
- Every instructional space and office area will be provided with disinfectant spray and hand sanitizer.
- Each school will be given a supply of masks and gloves.
• Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at all entrances and in the common areas of each building.
• Signage to promote healthy practices will be posted around schools and in restrooms.
• Plexiglass dividers have been installed on the front counters of our school offices.
• Additional school custodial staff members would be hired to support these enhanced cleaning and sanitation procedures.

AIR QUALITY
Question: What steps have been taken to address air quality?
Response: WCPS remains in constant contact with our local health officials and medical personnel to ensure our practices for managing air quality are aligned with CDC guidelines, including the following action steps:
• WCPS personnel are working to ensure that fresh air intake and air filtration for buildings are at the maximum level for each of our HVAC systems.
• Buildings are being assessed for the installation of HVAC UV light air purifiers.

SPECIAL EDUCATION
Question: What would Special Education services look like in the hybrid model?
Response: Special Education and related services will continue to be provided to students with disabilities in accordance with their Individualized Education Plans (IEPS) and 504 Accommodations Plans in all scenarios. Throughout the closure, continuity of learning plans established through distance learning plans, in concert with parents’ input and agreement, have been implemented and will continue to be upon the beginning of the new school year. As needed, IEPs and 504 plans will be reviewed and amended/revised as appropriate to provide access to a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) consistent with the districtwide continuity of learning and recovery plans for all students. The district will have procedures in place to ensure the ongoing progress monitoring of the student; the ongoing communication with families, teachers, and services providers; and the ongoing documentation of the student progress and services delivered. These procedures will help us to ensure that student needs identified during the transition back into school buildings will be addressed appropriately through services and/or accommodations. Case managers will be in contact with families as local decisions are made regarding the educational models and any necessary meetings which must be held.

VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM IN HYBRID MODEL
Question: What will the online learning model look like?
Response: A typical student schedule enrolled in the online learning model will include:
• Some live teacher instruction
• Opportunities to collaborate with other students
• Instruction aligned to MD College and Career Readiness Standards
• Grades and teacher feedback and support
ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY

**Question:** How will WCPS ensure equity of access to technology?

**Response:** WCPS has secured additional technology to provide each student with a device equipped with the necessary applications and programs needed for students to engage in instruction. In addition, for those families needing support with internet access, WCPS has expanded Wi-Fi access in community spaces, worked with local partners such as Comcast to provide affordable internet access, and purchased secure hotspot devices for student use as needed.

THREE POSSIBLE MODELS: RED, YELLOW, GREEN

**Question:** Do parents have a choice between the red, yellow or green models?

**Response:** The requirement to move to the green or red model come from state leadership, not local school systems as referenced in Maryland’s Recovery Plan for Education.

ATHLETICS

**Question:** What is the plan for sports?

**Response:** Wicomico County Public Schools, in compliance with state and local health department guidelines, began to re-engage student athletes in pre-season conditioning beginning on July 13, 2020. No decisions have been made regarding the status of Fall sports at this time. We will continue to work in collaboration with the Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association and our local officials.