

Dear Whitehall-Coplay School District Families,

Throughout this pandemic, we have been committed to evaluating National, State, County, and local data and guidance to make informed decisions on our District's approach to COVID-19. The Whitehall-Coplay School District (WCSD) Board of Education and administration developed and approved a Health and Safety Plan for the 2021/2022 School Year, and it is linked [here](#).

As a part of this approved plan, the District developed a dashboard that outlines the number of positive infectious cases at school in all WCSD school buildings. The Dashboard is linked [here](#). Furthermore, the District is monitoring the [CDC](#) level of community transmission in Lehigh County and the [positive cases and vaccination status](#) of WCSD residents.

At this time, we will be taking two additional preventive measures that will go into effect for the first day of school on Monday, August 30, 2021. First, we will require masks/face coverings on all WCSD buses and vehicles while transporting students K-12 regardless of vaccination status. Second, we will implement increased social distancing strategies for lunches in grades K-8. These measures will help mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in areas where social distancing is challenging to achieve, especially with students who are not yet able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

It is important to understand that this is a targeted temporary mitigation strategy. As the school year unfolds, we will continue to monitor the status of local spread and make decisions on more or fewer targeted mitigation strategies. Further temporary mitigation strategies could include adjustments to quarantine requirements, masking in specific locations such as hallways, masking in particular buildings, or universal masking.

In addition, we continue to maintain our enhanced cleaning and sanitization, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette practices, physical distancing, and the installation of bipolar ionizers in every occupied space.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email [questions@whitehallcoplay.org](mailto:questions@whitehallcoplay.org).

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert J. Steckel, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools