

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- **Our mindset:** We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- **Collaboration:** We work better together, always.
- **Innovation:** We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- **Integrity:** We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- **Learning environment:** Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- **Student centered:** We put students first.

Hancock Central School District *Wildcat Reset* Task Force Planning Tool©* Health/Safety/Welfare Sub-Committee

Context

The Hancock Central School District recognizes the need to take every precaution to ensure that students, teachers, and staff are safe at school and not transmitting the coronavirus. This need requires adopting evidence-based public health measures at every school, aligning those measures with necessary well-being strategies, and establishing clear communication protocols for all stakeholders.

Safety measures detailing how students and staff enter and exit school will require staggered schedules for who comes to school on what days and at what times. Procedures for school arrival and departure to ensure social distancing, plans for screening and testing students and staff for COVID-19, daily upon arrival, and procedures and space to isolate those with symptoms require planning. Regular and ongoing communication with students, parents, teachers, and other stakeholders about established safety procedures is a must as well as training for all to ensure effective implementation.

Safety protocols and procedures to keep students and staff safe during the school day will require constant attention. Developed schedules and guidelines should ensure physical distancing in shared spaces within the school and classroom. Procedures and schedules for frequent handwashing throughout the day, and deep cleaning and sanitizing the building are necessary. Methods for identifying and isolating suspected cases of infection throughout the school day will lead to the need to train all staff to properly put on, use, take off, and dispose of personal protective equipment. Students and staff will need training to understand COVID-19 risk factors and their protective behaviors.

Decisions to support student and staff emotional well-being are also vitally important. The experience of school closure caused by the COVID-19 crisis has been traumatic for teachers and students as they experience the loss of loved ones, economic instability, food instability, and isolation. At a time when school attendance could support, it may be a source of further distress due to intense procedures for safety. Schools should strive to balance activities that build relationships and trust with teaching and learning. Schedules will be needed for teacher training and collaborative planning to implement trauma-informed social-emotional practices and identify those in need additional mental health support.

The **Health/Safety/Welfare** Sub-Committee is charged with designing and coordinating the best approaches to safely open school during the 2020-21 school year regardless of the delivery scenario for teaching and learning.

Planning for Reentry

The *Wildcat Reset* Task Force Health/Safety/Welfare Planning Tool© will be used to guide discussion and planning around a set of actionable indicators of success and inform a report to the task force. The sub-committee will read and evaluate each indicator and place a mark (X) in the descriptor cell that best aligns. Marking and planning should explain:

- How each indicator will look through the lens of the selected school reentry scenario(s).
- The current status of the indicator (No-Action, In-Progress, or Complete).
- The expected implementation phase outlined in the *Wildcat Reset Communications Planning Timeline 2020-21*.

*The *Wildcat Reset* Task Force Health/Safety/Welfare Planning Tool© is the exclusive intellectual property of Terrance P. Dougherty, Ph.D. The author gratefully acknowledges Julie Bergman, Jackie Beamer, Diane Meredith, Albert Penna, Ed.D. and Connie Wehmeyer, Ph.D. (FourPoint Education Partners) for their outstanding research, editing and technical support.

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Planning Notes