

## Wildwood Parent Forum Q&A 12-2020

**Question:** Since students come from many different counties, will the school close to students ( based on zones) by where they live, or by the county Wildwood School is in?

**Response:** Both our buildings are in Albany County. We will be following the Capital district DOH directions. As long as we are able to stay open, we will welcome your child to school. Transportation may be an issue, but parents can always transport.

**Question:**what happens if a child doesn't attend enough?

**Response:** We try our best to work with the families to have the child attend. We also send home work, and ask the parents to send us information if they are participating. We have also sent home self addressed envelopes so work can be sent back. We are able to lend out items to help with technology. We are also practicing attending online events with the students in school during art and music.

**Question:** Is Wildwood planning on being able to test students and staff if needed? I've heard that this can be financially very hard for a lot of schools

**Response:** Yes, it is costly and we are currently looking into how the tests will be done best. We have not yet made a decision as an agency.

**Question:** can parents drive in kid so parent can retrain kid so they can get tested

**Response:** That has not been decided yet. At this time, we are not allowing any other people in the building besides staff.

**Question:** My child is currently learning remote. If you go to the next hybrid model, will her current schedule change?

**Response:** It shouldn't change too much, if at all.

**Question:** Absences: are too many a problem for you. How is it different from a public school?

**Response:** Our staff really try to stay in contact with the families regarding attendance. We feel that districts are being lenient with attendance at this time, but it can be addressed after 20 days of being absent.

**Question:** new filters: do we have COVID funding for that?

**Response:** We have to replace our filters periodically anyways, so we just bought the MERV ones this time to replace the other ones.

**Question:** Hybrid 2 model: some districts are 2 days one week, 3 days next week. Are there other options?

**Response:** We can send out a survey to see what works best for our families and submit it to State Ed if we choose to change it.

**Question:** Would we be notified that our child was being tested? If so, when would we be notified?

**Response:** First we would be designated in a yellow, orange, or red zone, then we'd need to get a consent form from the parents. The provider of the testing service will probably dictate when testing will occur. We would contact you ahead of time.

**Question:** During the testing time frame, would school remain open until results came in?

**Response:** Yes. We have to provide a space to do the testing in a socially distanced way. It may take as little as 15 minutes to get a result. We are planning on staying in person on those days. If a student were to test positive we would move the student to the isolation room and contact the parent

**Question:** Are you basing zones on student residency or the school location?

**Response:** We're considered the capital district. If your home town is designated as one of the zones, and we're not, we'll be open. You may drive your child into school if your district is closed.

**Question:** Technically, haven't we met the threshold for yellow?

**Response:** Not as of today. We would have by the old standards, but there are new standards determined by the state. We are waiting for information from the state.

**Question:** To clarify, if our home district goes remote, will we not be allowed to send our child?

**Response:** We are planning to accept students as long as we are open unless the home district does not allow that.

**Question:** In regards to the remote day --my child cannot attend Google meets or do school work at home. I assume she is being marked absent on that day. You mentioned being penalized, how is she being penalized?

**Response:** That was a poor choice of words. We added a designation of "behavior associated with the disability" to the excused absence form. That would be an excused absence.

**Question:** In regards to the 2 day a week hybrid plan, when would that be put into place?

**Response:** If the governor asked us to reduce capacity, that's when we would move to that model.

**Question:** In that situation, would parents be given the option to have their students go remote so others could attend?

**Response:** Yes. Parents have the opportunity to choose remote services.

**Question:** Right now we're in Hybrid1, what would it take to get back to full time in -person?

**Response:** If we get to the point where our staffing levels are healthy, we will move back to full time in-person.

**Question:** For the types of tests, are you doing the deep "all the way to the brain" test? Or the one not as far up

**Response:** Before a parent consents will be able to clarify what the test will look like and when it would occur

**Question:** Are parents able to drive their kids to school if the home school is closed?

**Response:** As long as we are open, we allow parents to drive their students to school and pick them up at the end of the day.

**Question:** Do you have a staff retention plan to keep the staff?

**Response:** We have looked at the hourly rate. We have a bonus program for employees who do exemplary work. Extra training programs. New potential employees have the opportunity to visit the classrooms prior to being hired to make sure they think this will be a good place for them to work.

**Question:** Do you do exit interviews?

**Response:** Yes we do through HR dept.

**Question:** What are you doing with the students regarding their mental health? When the staff call out, having to stay home, all the changes.

**Response:** We have set up a group to help the mental health and stress for our students. Sue explained about the climate team meeting the student, staff and families needs during the pandemic. The social worker, along with the whole team are aware when the students begin to show stress.

**Question:** Online classes are 1 ½-2 hours vs. a 6 hour school day. What about other work to fill in that time during the remote learning day.

**Response:** Reason that there is only 1 ½-2 hours/day is because it is difficult to sit much longer. Packets should be sent home for your child to complete while home for that day including academics and functional life skills. The YAP program is attempting to do more online learning to extend while at home.

**Question:** Are the people doing the Covid testing going to be trained with our population?

**Response:** Our lead nurse, Melanie, is working with the agency that is coming in so they understand our students and how to best promote the way to test them.

***-A parent suggested maybe a video (with Bill) getting the test?***

**Question:** Have you considered using the test that requires a mouth swab instead of nasal swab?

**Response:** We have hired a group to perform the test and they will be doing the testing via nasal swab.

**Question:** I just realized work was sent home for my son. Where he is going for the day, they are also short staffed so I don't know if they are able to do it with him. Both parents work on the remote day, Tuesday so he can't attend remote sessions.

**Response:** Doesn't matter when the work is being done. We are being flexible. Reach out to your teacher and social worker and we will support you.

**Question:** Can we take our daughter to our pediatrician for the test?

**Response:** Yes, we have a 7 day window that we need the test to fall in. As we get more information, we will present it to the families for the different opinions we will have to meet that percentage of tests.

## Parent Survey Questions and Answers

Parent questions/suggestions	Response
<p>If each time we've closed there's been just one case, why did both sites close completely?</p>	<p>Each case was different. The first case we closed for a day so we could have some time to work through what we were doing - it's one thing to plan for something and another thing to have it actually happen. Our staff had a lot of anxiety with the first case and we needed to make sure all of our protocols were working. We weren't sure how long contact tracing was going to take, but we learned a lot from the first case.</p> <p>The second case was completely different; initially we thought it only affected one classroom but right at busing we found out that there were actually 14 staff that would be considered a contact to a positive case and would need to be under quarantine. We had initially planned on closing just that one classroom but after hearing about the number of staff it affected, we knew we didn't have staff to open safely the next day. Contact tracing by the department of health wasn't completed until the middle of the following week, so we weren't sure until that point when staff would be able to come back.</p>
<p>Staying fully in-person is very important. Hybrid models should be considered before closing entirely.</p>	<p>We agree 100%. It is our goal to stay open fully in-person; however, we need to ensure the safety of our students and staff and need to ensure proper staffing levels for supervision of students, programming, as well as cleaning.</p>
<p>Thank you for considering families with 2 students at WW in Hybrid 1 and making both students have the same remote day. Will you do the same for Hybrid 2 as well?</p>	<p>We tried to the best of our ability to keep siblings on the same day for remote instruction, however it wasn't possible in every instance. Hybrid 2 will have all students from the same family remote on the same days.</p>

<p>Hybrid 1 - Why are elem in-person 5 days and Int/HS/YAP 4 days? Chronological age doesn't necessarily match needs, younger students have longer to catch up, and may be easier to manage at home.</p>	
<p>Consistency is important for students and cutting class size is important for safety. Please consider Hybrid 2</p>	<p>We recognize that; with switching to Hybrid 1 we have staff to split up the larger classrooms into two separate locations and this is what we are doing now.</p>
<p>Consider adding portable air purifier/filtration system in each classroom</p>	<p><b>What MERV filter is recommended for preventing the transmission of airborne illnesses such as COVID-19?</b></p> <p><b>A:</b> Although ASHRAE does not recommend a specific MERV filter rating for preventing COVID-19 transmission, the organization suggests that upgrading systems in non-healthcare facilities to MERV-13 or the highest achievable level can be a worthwhile step in emergency response plans.</p> <p>ASHRAE is a diverse organization dedicated to advancing the arts and sciences of heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world.</p>
<p>Please update how hygiene practices, sanitizing, masking, handwashing, social distancing practices are going at school.</p>	<p>We continue to work on hygiene practices (handwashing, coughing/sneezing into your elbow, wearing a mask) and social distancing at school on a daily basis. Our Behavior Support Department has written mask wearing protocols to use with students who will not tolerate wearing a mask; as with everything we do - this is a process but we are making progress. We continue to have students use hand sanitizer and</p>
<p>Advice on how to teach social distancing, mask wearing, etc. is good to share with families</p>	<p>If you'd like some materials to have at home please contact your social worker. The social work department has many social stories about these topics.</p>
<p>How are you addressing the issue of students who won't wear masks?</p>	<p>We are working on this with each individual student. Every single one of our students are at a different place with regards to wearing</p>

	<p>masks. Some are still working on tolerating others wearing masks; some are working on having a mask for themselves near them; some are working on holding a mask; others are working on wearing a mask just on their chin; all the way up to wearing a mask over their nose and mouth for extended periods of time. We are working to identify potential reinforcers for students to try to increase this behavior (wherever they are on the spectrum of tolerating a mask).</p>
<p>How will mandatory testing of staff and students be handled?</p>	<p>We are currently in the process of looking at companies to partner with to do mandatory testing so we have a plan in place when the time comes. You should have received a survey asking if you would be willing to have your child tested so we can get an idea of how many students we would have in a pool to randomly select according to the required percentage.</p>
<p>Can you provide social stories for students to help prepare them for testing?</p>	<p>Yes. Please ask your social worker for this.</p>
<p>How are parents notified if their child is exposed to someone who has Covid?</p>	<p>If their child has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for Covid, a member of school administration will reach out to you as soon as we are made aware. Please be aware that we will ask you to come pick up your child and that you will also be contacted by the Department of Health.</p>
<p>Please increase transparency. For instance, notify families if staffing levels are a concern before you get to the point of closing</p>	<p>We are actively working on this. We acknowledge that we haven't been transparent and this has come at a cost to you. Please continue to communicate with us so we know if we are doing better but also if there is still work to be done.</p>
<p>When remote, how can you consider a student in attendance if they only get on a Google meet for 5 minutes?</p>	<p>Participating in a google meet is a learning process for our students. Some students are able to participate for the full meet but a lot of others are not. Just like we do in school, we recognize and celebrate successive approximations to our goal. Supplemental activities are also sent home so you can work on meaningful activities with your child when not on a google meet.</p>

<p>How can parents be more involved? (e.g. giving input, on the board, etc.)</p>	<p>We love that you want to be more involved! We have a few parents looking to revitalize our parent group - contact information is below: wildwoodparent@gmail.com</p>
<p>On remote days, please have staff send all the google invites for the day by early in the morning</p>	<p>We will communicate with our teachers and therapists the expectation of having a set schedule from week to week so you can plan ahead.</p>
<p>On remote days, could you have the google meets in one block, instead of scattered throughout the day?</p>	<p>We've broken the google meets up throughout the day to try to encourage students to move around and take breaks in between activities. We are also mindful of those parents who are also working from home, and they might have a meeting in the morning but could help their child attend an afternoon meeting. The majority of our students are unable to sit for multiple meets back to back. Please communicate with your child's teacher if this is what you are looking for, we might be able to adjust individual session times.</p>
<p>Can you include classmates in google meets for students who are working remotely?</p>	<p>We've grouped all of our remote students in the HS program level together for remote instruction for this reason; please contact your child's teacher, social worker, or program coordinator so we can orchestrate this at your level.</p>
<p>Routine is so important. Are you able to maintain routine for students during this time?</p>	<p>We are able to continue on with our daily routines for the days we are in-person. Some things are different this school year (art and music are mostly virtual and there are fewer transitions around the building) but the rest of our program remains intact.</p>
<p>Can you teach my child how to use a chrome book?</p>	<p>There are a lot of different skills that are involved with using a chrome book; please reach out to your child's teacher so we can assess where your child is and make a plan.</p>