



1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

P: 414-963-3921 F: 414-963-3959

www.wfbschools.com

January 1, 2022

Dear Whitefish Bay School Community,

Our continued thanks to all of our families for your commitment to in-person learning for our students for the 2021-22 school year. We look forward to our ongoing positive partnership as we begin 2022.

The District will be continuing with in-person instruction at our schools beginning on January 3, 2022. However, we are aware of the increase in positive community COVID-19 cases, as well as the shortage of testing opportunities in our area. As a result, the District also will be providing a limited time **“9-day live-streaming option”** for families due to current COVID-19 challenges.

In more detail, the current COVID-19 challenges are as follows:

Increase in the number of community COVID-19 cases - There has been a significant increase in community COVID-19 cases in our area. The new variant is highly contagious and is affecting our students and staff. The health department’s critical designation is the highest level at >350 cases per 100,000, but most of our communities are at over 2,000 cases per 100,000 for these most recent two weeks. We hit our highest two-week new cases number by far, which is pretty evident on our dashboard: [North Shore COVID-19 Data \(nshealthdept.org\)](https://nshealthdept.org).

Reduced COVID-19 testing opportunities - Several area COVID-19 testing locations have temporarily shut down or have limited their hours due to a shortage of testing supplies and/or staffing. As a result there is uncertainty around identifying positive cases. Contact tracing following the holiday break is a concern.

In light of these challenges, in addition to in-person learning, the District will provide the following limited option to families:

A limited time, 9-day live-streaming option - Families can choose live-streaming instead of attending in person from January 4th to January 14th, 2022 (families must commit to the entire 9-day window). **If you choose this option, your student will not be able to attend school on January 3rd and will be considered excused.** They will then live-stream from January 4th to January 14th. Due to the teacher and staff workload associated with live-streaming, this decision must be made on or before January 3rd and cannot be changed.

Please know our teachers will continue their primary focus on providing instructional activities for those students in-person. **Live-streaming allows students to access instruction and assignments, but it is not intended to be full-service virtual schooling.** Live-streaming may be provided by a different teacher than usually teaches the class depending upon staffing availability and related staffing adjustments.



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The 9-day live-stream option should be considered for those wishing to quarantine due to extended travel, those concerned about the COVID-19 spread in the community as well as the testing shortages. This option is not available for those families traveling or who are out of town for any reason.

Your student's school will be sending specific live-stream information to families on Sunday, January 2nd by noon. We recognize this option will not be ideal for every family and we appreciate your consideration. The District will evaluate extending this live-stream opportunity based upon local trends on January 13th.

Please note that the District is also experiencing COVID-19 related staffing shortages and we are doing our very best to make necessary adjustments to keep our schools open and operating in alignment with the In-Person Learning Plan.

In order to best maintain 5 day of in person learning, the District asks all families to commit to the following:

1. **Do a symptom screen before sending your child to school.** [CDC](#)
2. **Stay home if your student is symptomatic.**
3. **Get tested.** If your child is symptomatic or there is any possibility that your student was exposed to someone with COVID-19, we strongly encourage that you keep your student home and that they get tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to school. Demand for access to COVID-19 tests has increased dramatically. Whitefish Bay School District has partnered with Accelerated Clinical Laboratories (ACL) to provide free, optional, diagnostic COVID-19 testing for students, their families, and staff. Please [visit the District website](#) for testing and registration information.
4. **Stay Home until you receive a negative test result.** If you are awaiting your student's results from a COVID-19 test, please keep them home from school.
5. **Communicate those test results.** If you have received COVID-19 test results for your student, please communicate the results [with your school nurse](#).
6. **Get Vaccinated.** Our local health department continues to encourage vaccinations for those eligible, which generally means three doses of the vaccine where possible.
7. **Wear a Proper Mask.** This means a fitted mask with no gaps. Consider a KF94, KN95 or N95 mask or double-mask using a surgical mask and a cloth mask - [CDC](#)

New CDC recommendations - The District is aware of new CDC recommendations. The District will be maintaining our current isolation and quarantine practices until further notice.

Please reach out to the District Nurse, [Allison Heisler](#) if you have any questions related to COVID-19.