

Reopening Plan
 Ontario County School Districts
 1st Draft 8/2/21, Updated 8/9/2021
 Effective 8/23/21

The following plan was crafted using varying guiding principles from the latest CDC K-12 guidance, the latest American Academy of Pediatrics guidance, NYSED's guidance, Commissioner Betty Rosa's memo to the field on July 29th of 2021, and the advocacy letter sent to Governor Cuomo by WFL Superintendents on July 30th of 2021. Upon completion of the guidance below, these concepts were vetted by the district's Board of Education, Union Leadership, Leadership Teams, local Departments of Public Health, insurance providers, and school physicians prior to bringing the plan to the public.

-This plan is the minimum requirement and is subject to pending changes in local health data and/or state or federal guidance adjustments-

TOPIC	PROTOCOL	CONSIDERATIONS
VACCINATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These measures do not discern between those who are and are not vaccinated and will apply to all. Since we are not privy to COVID vaccination records and even if we were, managing a different set of rules for each would prove to be implausible, the health and safety measures we are putting in place will apply to everyone regardless of their vaccination status. At this time, school districts will not be requiring staff or students to be vaccinated. Unless there is a NYS law or federal law requiring employees to be vaccinated, we will comply with the law and engage in collective bargaining around the topic (in relation to if staff were required to obtain the vaccine). Achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination among eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is one of the most critical strategies to help schools safely resume full operations. 	<p>Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to have an asymptomatic infection or transmit COVID-19 to others than people who are not fully vaccinated. In most settings, people who are fully vaccinated can safely resume activities they did before the pandemic, except where prevention measures are required by federal, state, local, tribal or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance.</p> <p>To promote vaccination, schools can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit vaccines.gov to find out where teachers, staff, students, and their families can get vaccinated against COVID-19 in the community and promote COVID-19 vaccination locations near schools. Encourage teachers, staff, and families, including extended family members that have frequent contact with students, to get vaccinated as soon as they can. Consider partnering with state or local public health authorities to serve as COVID-19 vaccination sites, and work with local healthcare providers and organizations, including school-based health centers. Offering vaccines on-site before, during, and after the school day and during summer months can potentially decrease barriers to getting vaccinated against COVID-19. Identify other potential barriers that may be unique to the workforce and implement policies and practices to address them. The Workplace

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
VACCINATION (continued)		<p>Vaccination Program has information for employers on recommended policies and practices for encouraging COVID-19 vaccination uptake among workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find ways to adapt key messages to help families, teachers, and staff become more confident about the vaccine by using the language, tone, and format that fits the needs of the community and is responsive to concerns. Use CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits to educate members of the school community and promote COVID-19 vaccination. CDC's Workers COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit is also available to help employers educate their workers about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about vaccination benefits, and address common questions and concerns. HHS also has an On-site Vaccination Clinic Toolkit to help community groups, employers, and other host organizations work directly with vaccine providers to set up vaccination clinics in locations that people know and trust. Host information sessions to connect parents and guardians with information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Teachers, staff, and health professionals can be trusted sources to explain the safety, efficacy, and benefits of COVID-19 vaccines and answer frequently asked questions. Remind employees of flexible, supportive sick leave options under State law (e.g., paid sick leave) for employees to get vaccinated or who have side effects after vaccination. Promote vaccination information for parents and guardians, siblings who are eligible for vaccines, and other household members as part of kindergarten transition and enrollment in summer activities for families entering the school system. Provide students and families flexible options for excused absence to receive a COVID-19 vaccination and for possible side effects after vaccination. Work with local partners to offer COVID-19 vaccination for eligible students and eligible family members during pre-sport/extracurricular activity summer physicals.
MASKS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks are not required to be worn outdoors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Ontario County data. Districts should train on appropriate mask wearing.

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
	<p>Based on Governor Hochul and the DOH mandate, masks must be worn universally in all school buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance masks will be used in substantial or high as well as bell covers. • Mask breaks will be permitted, at the discretion of our staff, while appropriately physically spaced (3' or greater). • When outdoors in congested areas where physical distancing is not possible, mask wearing is strongly encouraged.
<p>PHYSICAL DISTANCING</p>	<p>Minimum Expectation - Use the CDC transmission level designation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Low and Moderate</u> - No distancing requirements • <u>Substantial and High</u> - 3' distancing requirement where practicable. • Cohorting is an approach which may take place in schools / classes where practicable. The use of cohorting can limit the spread of COVID-19 between cohorts but should not replace other prevention measures within each group. Cohorting people who are fully vaccinated and people who are not fully vaccinated into separate cohorts is not recommended. • It is a school's responsibility to ensure that cohorting is done in an equitable manner that does not perpetuate academic, racial, or other tracking, as described in the U.S. Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook, Volume 1. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This includes music and physical education. • Large group assemblies where physical distancing can be maintained are permissible. • Isolation rooms for symptomatic individuals are no longer recommended. Rather, ensuring the person with symptoms is 6' or more from others and properly wearing a mask until they leave the facility is deemed sufficient intervention.
<p>CAFETERIA & MEALS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize physical distance to the extent practicable when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each table or radius will become a "pod" and would be subject to quarantine if there was an exposure. • Eating lunch in classrooms, creative/flexible spaces, and/or outside, weather permitting is recommended where possible. • Assigned seating is important to assist with contact tracing should there arise a need.

Reopening Plan 3

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
TRANSPORTATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school busses, including on busses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order. • No distancing requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows and roof hatches open if greater than 40 degrees when there is no precipitation • Two students to a seat where possible • Assigned seats on busses are recommended for contact tracing purposes.
DISABILITIES OR OTHER HEALTH CARE NEEDS	<p>Provide accommodations, modifications, and assistance for students, teachers, and staff with disabilities and other health care needs when implementing COVID-19 safety protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with families to better understand the individual needs of students with disabilities. • Remain accessible for students with disabilities: • Help provide access for direct service providers (DSP) (e.g. paraprofessionals, therapists, early intervention specialists, mental health and healthcare consultants, and others). • If DSPs who are not fully vaccinated provide services at more than one location, ask whether any of their other service locations have had COVID-19 cases. • Ensure access to services for students with disabilities when developing cohorts. • Consider having teachers and staff wear a clear or cloth mask with a clear panel when interacting with young students, students learning to read, or when interacting with people who rely on reading lips. • Use behavioral techniques (such as modeling and reinforcing desired behaviors and using picture schedules, timers, visual cues, and positive reinforcement to help all students adjust to transitions or changes in routines. 	
USE OF FACILITIES BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS	<p>Minimum Expectation - Use the CDC transmission level designation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Low and Moderate</u> - Indoor and outdoor occupancy limits are eliminated • <u>Substantial and High</u> - Indoor and outdoor occupancy will not be permitted by outside organizations or be limited to 50% occupancy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must follow all health and safety protocols in place by the district. • Administrators and/or the Board of Education may make a case-specific determination based on varying factors including but not limited to community transmission. The location of the facility use will be a key factor, with increased access more likely for outdoor areas. See "Visitors".

Reopening Plan 4

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
RECESS AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities). • However, particularly in areas of substantial to high transmission levels, people who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people who are not fully vaccinated. • When physical education activities or recess are held indoors, masks must be worn when in a substantial or high transmission zone. Distance should be maximized to the extent practicable. 	
SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We anticipate detailed athletic guidance will be forthcoming from the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and we will comply with said guidance if it does, unless conflicting with the reopening plan, in which case it will be reviewed with legal counsel. • Those who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear a mask or physically distance in any setting, while playing a sport or extracurricular activity. Those who are not fully vaccinated should continue to wear a mask and keep physical distance as much as possible while participating in indoor activities. • In areas of substantial or high transmission designation, when participation occurs indoors, masks are required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The adoption and implementation of this guidance should be done in collaboration with regulatory agencies and state, local, territorial, and tribal public health departments, and in compliance with state and local policies and practices. • Sports and extracurricular activities provide students with enrichment opportunities that can help them learn and achieve, and support their social, emotional, and mental health. • Due to increased exhalation that occurs during physical activity, some sports can put players, coaches, trainers, and others who are not fully vaccinated at increased risk for getting and spreading COVID-19. Close contact sports and indoor sports are particularly risky. Similar risks might exist for other extracurricular activities, such as band, choir, theater, and school clubs that meet indoors. • Prevention strategies for those who are not fully vaccinated in these activities remain important and should comply with school day policies and procedures. • Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. Students who are not fully vaccinated and participate in indoor sports and other higher-risk activities should continue to wear masks and keep physical distance as much as possible. • Schools should consider using screening testing for student athletes and adults (e.g., coaches, teachers, advisors) who are not fully vaccinated

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
<p>SCHOOL-SPONSORED SPORTS AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES <i>(continued)</i></p>		<p>who participate in and support these activities to facilitate safe participation and reduce risk of transmission – and avoid jeopardizing in-person education due to outbreaks. No decision has been made about this approach (screening testing) at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the NYSED Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year, sports deemed high risk in areas designated as high transmission, according to the CDC, should go virtual or be cancelled. Coaches and school sports administrators should also consider specific sport-related risks for people who are not fully vaccinated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting of the sporting event or activity. In general, the risk of COVID-19 transmission is lower when playing outdoors than in indoor settings. Consider the ability to keep physical distance in various settings at the sporting event (i.e., fields, benches/team areas, locker rooms, spectator viewing areas, spectator facilities/restrooms, etc.). • Physical closeness. Spread of COVID-19 is more likely to occur in sports that require sustained close contact (such as wrestling, hockey, football). • Number of people. Risk of spread of COVID-19 increases with increasing numbers of athletes, spectators, teachers, and staff. • Level of intensity of activity. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases with the intensity of the sport. • Duration of time. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases the more time athletes, coaches, teachers, staff and spectators spend in close proximity or in indoor group settings. This includes time spent traveling to/from sporting events, meetings, meals, and other settings related to the event. • Presence of people more likely to develop severe illness. People at increased risk of severe illness might need to take extra precautions.

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
-------	-----------	-------

Mitigating Measures

HAND-WASHING & RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE	<p>People should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools can monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate hand washing supplies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. • Remind everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing. • If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age. 	
CLEANING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty will be provided cleaning supplies and will be encouraged to clean periodically throughout the day. • Custodial staff will clean high touch surfaces throughout the day and do a deeper cleaning each night. • Cleaning staff will continue maintaining cleaning logs for all spaces. 	
VENTILATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. • Along with other preventive strategies, including wearing a well-fitting, multi-layered mask, bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems. <p>During transportation, open or crack windows in buses and other forms of transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. Keeping windows open a few inches improves air circulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windows will be opened in classrooms, at least partially, all year round. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fans should not be blowing on individuals or across individuals. They should be outside facing, pulling interior air out.

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
VENTILATION (continued)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside air will be cycled in at the higher levels as we did last school year. • Highest rated MERV filters for our systems will be used. • In classrooms with Air Conditioning, schools should consider turning off the AC in order to open the windows depending on weather and other factors. 	
SCREENING/ HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A daily screener will no longer be necessary, rather, reminders to students and staff that they must stay home if they are exhibiting symptoms and call the school and their pediatrician for next steps. A screener may be used if Ontario County reaches substantial or high transmission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents/guardians or staff, by arriving at school or on school grounds, are attesting the fact that they (or their student) do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 or other communicable disease and that they have not been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 that they are aware of.
STAY HOME WHEN SICK & GET TESTED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care. • Schools should also allow flexible, non-punitive, and supportive paid sick leave policies and practices that encourage sick workers to stay home without fear of retaliation, loss of pay, or loss of employment level and provide excused absences for students who are sick. • Employers should ensure that workers are aware of and understand these policies. • Isolation: Anyone (students, faculty and staff) testing positive for Covid-19 will be ordered by the county health director to isolate in their home for ten days from onset of symptoms or from date of test if no symptoms. It is not recommended that a positive case re-test for it will not take the case out of isolation. • Quarantine: A legal order from the county public health director to quarantine at home for 10 days from exposure to a positive case. • Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine if exposed to a positive case. (Per CDC "should" mask for 14 days indoors and get tested between days 3 and 5. If negative, no need to continue to mask.) • Anyone being <u>within</u> 6 feet of a positive case for at least 15 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. • It also is essential for people who are not fully vaccinated to quarantine after a recent exposure to someone with COVID-19.

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
STAY HOME WHEN SICK & GET TESTED (continued)	<p>minutes unmasked while that person was infectious, should be quarantined for 10 days (indoor or outdoor contact).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students fully masked at 3 ft (and 6 ft) will NOT be identified as a proximate contact as of 5/27/21. Both the case and the contact must have been masked. Students eating at 6ft unmasked will not be identified as a close contact as of 5/27/21. A positive case in a 2nd grade classroom and below will be decided on a case-by-case basis after a discussion with the teacher and administrator. The whole class may need to be quarantined if there were lapses in masking and distancing. 	
VISITORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitors will be permitted on a limited basis. Virtual options will be encouraged to limit access. All visitors must answer health screening surveys and have their temperature taken. External groups shall be limited with respect to facilities use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administrators and/or the Board of Education may make a case-specific determination based on varying factors including but not limited to community transmission. The location of the facility use will be a key factor, with increased access more likely for outdoor areas. See "Use of Facilities by Outside Organizations"
TESTING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OCPH would like us to consider voluntary surveillance testing if we are in a substantial and/or high transmission zone. No decision has been made regarding this up until this point. Part of it is linked to state and federal requirements as well as potential for grants. Prior to any student testing written parental consent will be obtained. At any level of community transmission, screening testing should be offered to all teachers and staff who have not been fully vaccinated. CDC recommendation is that to be effective, the screening program should test at least once per week, and rapidly (within 24 hours) report results. Screening testing more than once a week might be more effective at interrupting transmission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools may consider multiple screening testing strategies, for example, testing a random sample of at least 10% of students who are not fully vaccinated, or conducting pooled testing of cohorts. Testing in low-prevalence settings might produce false positive results, but testing can provide an important prevention strategy and safety net to support in-person education. Screening testing should be done in a way that ensures the ability to maintain confidentiality of results and protect student, teacher, and staff privacy.

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
CONTACT TRACING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools should continue to collaborate with state and local health departments, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This allows identifying which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should <u>isolate</u>, and which <u>close contacts</u> should <u>quarantine</u>. Public Health staff will conduct an interview with all positive individuals (or parent/guardian if case is under 18 years of age) to ascertain if there are contacts (individuals who were exposed) of the case that need to be quarantined. This is a telephone interview. 	
OCCUPANCY LIMITS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor occupancy limits are eliminated. Indoor occupancy limits are eliminated in low or moderate transmission areas. In cases where transmission is substantial or high, indoor occupancy will include a minimum of three feet of physical distancing or between individuals not from the same household. 	
VIRTUAL SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NYSED's position on remote instruction is as follows: • <i>So long as allowed by public health officials, schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school.</i> • <i>In case of school closures due to a declared public health emergency, schools must be prepared to provide remote instruction.</i> • <i>While the Department will not require schools that are open for full-time, in-person instruction to provide on-line or remote instruction, districts may work with students and families to offer remote options if it is deemed to be in the best educational interest of the student.</i> Virtual instruction for the 2021-22 school year will be an individual district's decision and at their discretion based on their needs and capacity. 	
FIELD TRIPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> So long as travel restrictions are not in place by government officials, districts may choose to cautiously proceed with field trips as they deem appropriate. All masking and distancing protocols will be in place on field trips equivalent to what would be expected in school at the time of the 	

TOPIC	PROTOCOLS	NOTES
FIELD TRIPS (continued)	<p>field trip and in relation to the CDC transmission designation for the destination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special attention should be paid to not allocate monies to field trips which may be non-refundable should a trip be cancelled for COVID, Health/Safety reasons. • We must fully disclose to families the risks at hand specific to entertaining field trips (strongly encourage trip insurance, etc.). • Field Trip contracts must be scrutinized by district office/legal teams before signing. 	
DATA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ontario County Public Health data will be used to determine our CDC Zone designation as either low, moderate, substantial, or high transmission. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone designations will be determined weekly and communicated to county superintendents from Ontario County Administration.
SCHOOL CLOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should a complete school closure be warranted as determined by the local health department in consultation with the school superintendent and the district's medical director, we will communicate the decision to the community as soon as possible. • A transition to fully remote learning may create a lag where remote instruction may take a day or two to begin as we facilitate the transition. 	
HOME- SCHOOLING (HOME INSTRUCTION)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homeschooling is governed by the regulations of the New York State Education Department. Parents wishing to homeschool a child must follow the published guidelines, including submission of an intent to homeschool and an Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP). • The State Education Department has published a Q&A document to support parents in the homeschooling process. 	