



# Frequently Asked Questions

## Education:

**Q: When will we be hearing about the decision to have in-person, fully remote, or a hybrid program?**

**A:** We are working diligently through our committees and subcommittees to finalize our plans for September. Once finalized, plans will be posted on the website. Although the ideal situation would be to have all students return to the classroom, under the current NYSED requirements of social distancing, space in our schools poses substantial limitations. In all instances of instruction, students will follow a structured schedule and there will be daily live student/teacher interaction.

**Q: What are other possible learning scenarios?**

**A:**

- A hybrid schedule will provide students with both in-person and remote learning. This model reduces in-person daily attendance and transportation by 50%. Various schedules are being considered.
- A fully remote schedule allows all students learning at home with a clear schedule for live instruction.

**Q: If our education plan includes alternating schedules, will family members be on the same schedule?**

**A:** The District will do its best to create same-day schedules for siblings. At the middle school and high school level, however, course offerings may not coincide.

**Q: How will remote learning look different?**

**A:** We will provide a structured day with a schedule for live instruction, and mandate attendance. There will be allotted time for teacher-student interaction.

**Q: If our education plan is in-person, will parents have the option to choose remote learning?**

**A:** Parents will have the option for full remote learning

**Q:** Is there a plan for Drivers Ed in the Fall, particularly for the students who were registered in the Spring and didn't get to finish the course?

**A:** Spring Driver Education will restart as soon as information from the State is received and will either resume over the summer or in the fall. All currently enrolled Spring Drivers Ed students will have the opportunity to schedule a new car and lecture time as soon as we get clearance to begin. Based on remaining availability, new students will be able to enroll in Fall Driver Education for any open slot during the second to third week in September and registration forms will be available at that time.

## Safe Return to School:

**Q:** Will everyone be required to have their temperatures taken each day?

**A:** For everyone's protection, all students, staff members, and visitors will be screened before entering our buildings.

Students arriving on busses will have their temperatures checked before boarding the bus and will enter the school through a designated bus entrance. All other students will have their temperatures taken as they enter the buildings. Any student with a temperature of 100°F or greater will be escorted to a designated room, parents will be contacted, and arrangements will be made for the student to be picked up. Staff members with a fever will be sent home.

Aside from a daily temperature check, students and staff members are required to have a periodic completion of a screening questionnaire. Staff members will complete a questionnaire daily and students will complete it once weekly.

Parents/guardians and staff members will be provided resources to educate them regarding the careful observation of symptoms of COVID-19 and health screening that must be conducted each morning before coming to school. While the District encourages parents to conduct this screening at home, our staff and faculty will be prepared to screen every child before they enter our schools each morning.

**Q:** Since there have been many cases of asymptomatic carriers of the COVID-19 virus, what role will the screening questionnaire play in determining risk of exposure to COVID-19?

**A:** The screening questionnaire determines whether the individual has:

- knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19;
- tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
- has experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100°F in the past 14 days: and/or
- has traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory in the past 14 days.

**Q: What is the protocol when someone in a school building has symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19?**

**A:** The CDC provides specific guidance for individuals who are on home isolation regarding when the isolation may end. We will follow the latest guidance issued. Current CDC Guidelines state that a student or staff member cannot return until:

- It has been at least ten days since the individual first had symptoms;
- It has been at least three days since the individual has had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine); and
- It has been at least three days since the individual's symptoms improved, including cough and shortness of breath.

In addition, the CDC recommends 14 days of quarantine after exposure to anyone testing positive to COVID-19, which is based on the time it may take to develop illness if infected. Anyone who has knowingly been exposed to someone infected with COVID-19 is expected to notify the District's Nurse Practitioner immediately and await further guidance. The District will also continue to monitor infection rates to make proper decisions about when school closures may be necessary.

If someone tests positive or shows symptoms, the following guidelines will be followed:

- The Nassau County and New York State Department of Health (DOH) will determine the amount of time before a student or staff member may return.
- A letter of clearance and a negative COVID-19 test are mentioned in the guidance if they were not diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If they were diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider, the student/staff should return when fever free and off fever reducing agents for at least 3 days, at least 10 days since first had symptoms and at least 3 days since there has been an improvement in symptoms including cough and shortness of breath.

**Q: What is the district doing to create adequate ventilation in the buildings?**

**A:** The District will maintain adequate, code required ventilation; both natural and mechanical. We will increase the fresh air ventilation rate to the extent possible to aid in maintaining healthy indoor air quality. We will ensure our filters are changed often to maximize air quality.

**Q: What options has the District considered for providing additional space required for students and staff to meet the 6 feet social distancing guidance while in school buildings?**

**A:** The District is considering all viable options. This includes the use of school gyms, music rooms, cafeterias, auditoriums and outside spaces as well as the use of tents and portables for classroom instruction. All options face their own challenges. Based on 6-foot social distancing guidance, at a minimum, a full in-person return would require an additional 78 elementary sections, 33 Middle School sections and 40 High School sections which would require additional staff and administration.

**Q:** How will busses ensure safe transport of students during COVID-19?

**A:** Transportation presents a challenge because of spacing. Drivers, bus attendants, and students will be required to have a temperature check before boarding. Students who are able will be required to wear masks and social distance on the bus. Siblings will be asked to sit together. Alcohol-based sanitizers are not permitted for safety reasons aboard any buses. Bus-eligible families are able to opt-out of District busing if they prefer to transport students themselves. The District is planning to assign a bus-monitor on all school buses to ensure that all guidelines are followed.

## Social Distancing/Mask Requirements:

**Q:** What are the social distancing requirements for schools?

**A:** Appropriate social distancing is required and is defined as maintaining 6 feet of space or barriers between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds.

**Q:** Will children and staff be required to wear face masks?

**A:** Face masks are required any time or place that individuals cannot maintain appropriate social distancing. This includes whenever they are within 6 feet of someone else, and at all times in hallways, restrooms, and on buses. If anyone arrives at a school building without a face mask, one will be provided.

**Q:** Are there any exceptions for individuals who are required to wear masks?

**A:** The only exception to the mask requirement is that students whose physical or mental health would be impaired by wearing a mask are not required to do so, but must maintain social distancing of 6 feet from other individuals. When appropriate and safe to do so, our staff and faculty may allow breaks for students from wearing masks.

## Cleaning:

**Q:** How will desks, materials, computers, bathrooms be cleaned?

**A:** The District will follow the extensive CDC Guidelines to ensure that our buildings are cleaned and disinfected properly and thoroughly. High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected frequently throughout the day. Deep cleaning of buildings will take place every day after school hours.

**Q:** How will students and staff clean their hands?

**A:** A variety of methods will be used to encourage good hand and respiratory hygiene among our students and staff. Handwashing with soap for 20 seconds is the preferred method of hygiene and will be utilized whenever possible. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be available in the classrooms.

## Meals:

**Q:** Will meal service continue to be provided if a hybrid model is put into place?

**A:** The District will continue to provide meals to our Free and Reduced lunch eligible population every weekday. Lunch will be available for purchase when the school buildings are open. At the elementary level lunch will be eaten in the classrooms. At the Middle and High School levels, lunch will be eaten in the cafeterias with proper social distancing.

## Communications:

**Q:** How will I know when the District finalizes the reopening plans?

**A:** Please visit the District website regularly where information will be posted. Additionally, Mr. Chang will continue to provide updates by email.