

Return to School Plan

2021-2022 school year

Priority: Provide in-person instruction, five days per week for all students.

Students benefit from in-person learning and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.

The districts in Essex County continue to work closely with the Essex County Department of Health to solidify our procedures and guidelines. All have agreed to follow the Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year issued by the NY State Education Department last week.

Reopening will closely mirror our practices which were in place last spring at the end of the school year. Final specifics are continuing to evolve.

Key Points:

Universal masking for all students, staff, teachers and visitors while indoors and on a bus regardless of vaccination status. Masking while outdoors for instruction is not required.

Maintain a minimum of three feet social distance in all classrooms and preferably six feet whenever feasible. Six feet for the cafeteria or while eating will be required.

Maintain a multilayered approach to prevention: screening, surveillance testing, handwashing, respiratory etiquette, ventilation, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation and cleaning and disinfecting.

Monitoring of community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing and outbreaks to guide decisions as to the level of prevention and adjustments to the strategies to maintain in-person instruction.

Promote vaccination of all eligible teachers, staff and students to reduce the likelihood of serious illness and quarantine due to exposure. Those who are vaccinated and who follow the masking protocols are less likely to be identified for quarantine.

Yet to be finalized:

Screening testing to quickly identify cases and for the purposes of surveillance. This testing will be provided by the County free of charge at the schools.

*Effective as of August 17, 2021: subject to change with new information
Endorsed by the Board of Education 8/17/2021*