

Frewsburg Central School District



Reopening Plan

Frewsburg Central School District
Robert H. Jackson Elementary School
Frewsburg Middle/High School

2021-2022
School Year

August 31, 2021

District Rationale & Philosophy

The Frewsburg Central School District is committed to the safety of our students and adults. We also believe that students belong in our buildings. We have developed this plan for the 2021-22 school year; not knowing what directive will be in place prior to the start of the year. We also don't know what may transpire at any point during the year. This plan has been developed based on data collected over the course of the last year in conjunction with recommendations and direction from the CDC and NYS Department of Health. The plan considers and addresses developmental appropriateness, feasibility, and ability to implement practices in a safe, consistent manner. We want our district ready and able to adapt to meet the needs of our students. We also want to make sure that **all** stakeholders, especially our parents and students, understand potential scenarios for planning purposes.

We believe that the input of many stakeholders is an essential component of developing a reopening plan. To that end, the FCS reopening plan was developed with input from the following stakeholders:

- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Collective Bargaining Units
- Department Supervisors
- Parents
- Board of Education
- Medical Director
- Legal Counsel
- Insurance Carriers
- Students

Frewsburg CSD Goals

- We put safety first.
- We believe that **all** students need to be physically present in our buildings.
- We focus on the social-emotional health of students and employees.
- We build relationships.
- We prioritize student health and wellness over state test scores while maintaining high expectations for student achievement.
- We communicate plans to parents, students, teachers, and staff.
- We set clear expectations for students and parents prior to the school year.
- We prepare for all scenarios.
- We are flexible and adapt.

Frewsburg CSD Plan Timeline

The Board of Education will review this plan for reopening on July 15, 2021. Following their approval, meetings will be held with both collective bargaining units prior to finalizing the plan. The plan will be adjusted based on any forthcoming changes from the NYS Department of Health. Finally, parent meetings will be held to communicate changes.

| Date | Activity |
|-------------------|--|
| July 15, 2021 | Board of Education |
| July 28, 2021 | FFA |
| July 28, 2021 | FUSE |
| July 26, 2021 | Medical Director (Dr. Kahn) |
| July 26, 2021 | School Nurses |
| August 31, 2021 | Finalize Plan (Hopefully using guidance) |
| September 2, 2021 | Parent Meeting |

PEOPLE

Social Distancing and Face Coverings

Social Distancing

The Frewsburg Central School District will define appropriate social distancing as 6' whenever possible but never less than 3'.

Masks

In accordance with the Commissioner's Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status. People with medical or developmental conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask may be exempted from mask requirements, as documented by a medical provider. People do not need to wear masks when eating, drinking, singing, or playing a wind instrument; when masks are removed for these purposes, individuals must be spaced six feet apart. All mask requirements must be applied consistently with any state and federal law (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act).

Mask breaks may be taken by students once every hour for approximately 5 minutes. Students should be seated and stationary at their desks during mask breaks. If students are seated closer than 6 feet, breaks should be staggered so that students closer than 6 feet are not taking breaks at the same time. Masks can also be removed during meals as long as at least 3 feet of spacing is maintained. Maintaining students in the classroom at distances greater than 3 feet does NOT negate the need to wear masks.

- All students must wear a face covering on school transportation (busses) at all times.
- Masks are not required outside.
- Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health are not subject to the required use of a face covering (Physician's script required.)
- Training for all students, faculty, and staff on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, will be conducted immediately upon the return to work/school. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/cloth-face-covering.pdf>

School Safety Drills will be conducted in accordance with the NYS SAVE Regulations. Students will participate in modified drills to ensure social distancing between persons.

Space Configurations

- Students will be scheduled and supervised to ensure social distancing at lockers and cubbies.
- Students in grades PreK-3 will be assigned cohorts and will remain in the same space for the majority of the school day with the exception of intervention blocks during which they will be grouped across the grade level and specials. Students in grades 4-12 will physically move about to change classes.
- Art, music, band, chorus, library, FACS, technology, and physical education will occur in their respective classrooms (not as a push-in to the general classroom setting).
- Hallways are being labeled to reduce bi-directional foot traffic using tape and signs with arrows in hallways.
- Sneeze guards will be installed at all secretary desks and in the business office.
- Outside/inside use of facilities and grounds will be based on COVID restrictions and the feasibility of staffing to allow such usage. Our priority will be safely supporting the academic and instructional program while focusing efforts on sanitation and disinfection.

Schedules

- RHJ will return to regular start/end times (8:50-3:20)
- MS/HS will return to regular start/end times (7:30-2:20)
- Entrances and exits will be clearly marked and assigned for students and staff to reduce traffic flow.

Signage

- Signs are posted at all entrances, in bathrooms, offices, and hallways consistent with DOH COVID-19 signage regarding public health protections against COVID-19.
- Signage reminds individuals to:
 - Stay home if they feel sick.
 - Cover their nose and mouth with an acceptable mask. Face coverings will be required when unable to maintain social distance from others or in accordance with any stricter policy implemented by the school.
 - Properly store and, when necessary, discard PPE.
 - Adhere to social distancing instructions.
 - Report symptoms of, or exposure to, COVID-19, to the COVID designee; the Superintendent.
 - Follow hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection guidelines.
 - Follow respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette.

Gatherings

Meals

- The District will maintain compliance with the Child Nutrition Program requirements for meals.
- All enrolled students who require food assistance will have access to school meals each school day.
- A meal delivery system will be used for grades 5-6. All other students will rotate through the cafeteria as feasible. In the cafeteria, students will be seated at forward facing desks that are 6 feet apart.
- Students will maintain 6 feet of distance between one another during meal time.
- Individually plated meals will be served to eliminate sharing of food and beverages.
- Special accommodations will be made for students with food allergies.
- Students will be permitted to bring their lunch if they wish.
- Teachers/aides will clean all rooms after meals.
- Masks may be removed for meals.

Small Spaces

Faculty lounges will be open in both buildings:

- Capacity will be limited to allow for appropriate social distancing.
- Hand sanitizer stations will be available at the entry and exit of the faculty lounge.
- After using the microwave, refrigerator and tabletop use the district provided cleaning spray to disinfect the surfaces.

Faculty and Staff Meetings

- Faculty and staff meetings and conferences will be done in person observing social distancing requirements.
- Elevators are only used for medical reasons and not on a routine basis. If a medical need arises, only 1 person will use the elevator at a time.

Ventilation

- Cleaning and disinfecting supplies will not be used by students, particularly younger students, nor will students be present when disinfectants are in use.
- Restrooms and break rooms will have a signage system (e.g., flagging when occupied) to restrict occupancy.
- Windows will be open when possible unless allergies/asthma prohibit this.
- All air handlers will be set at 100%.
- The highest MERV filters that our systems will accept will be used and changed on a frequent basis. In lieu of Merv-13, our district will exceed the 20% ventilation requirement.

Common Areas

- All vending machines will be removed from the facilities.
- There will be no communal coffee machines.
- Water bottle fillers will be available in both buildings at a 1:100 occupancy ratio. Drinking fountains are turned off.

Operational Activity & General Instructional Information

Daily Transportation Procedures

- Students will be required to wear masks at all times on the bus. Disposable face coverings will be provided to students who do not have their own when boarding the bus.
- Bus drivers will wear a mask when students enter and exit the bus and as much as safely possible while driving.
- Students and staff should wear face coverings at bus stops and on busses.
- Members of different same households will sit together and the buses will operate at full capacity.

Cohorts

Students in grades PreK-3 will be assigned cohorts and will remain in the same space for the majority of the school day with the exception of specials and intervention blocks during which they will be grouped across the grade level. Students in grades 4-12 will physically move about to change classes.

Social Emotional Well-Being

The District has developed a team including the School Psychologist, Social Worker, Nurse, Counselors, and other support service personnel that has acted as an advisory panel to administration. Together they reviewed the School Counseling Plan and provided guidance on addressing the social emotional learning (SEL) needs of our students. Specifically, a research based SEL curriculum (Second Step) will be used in every grade K-8. Students in grades 9-12 will participate in daily activities during homeroom that align with SEL standards. The District will continue programming with the Source of Strength curriculum to integrate

mentorship and peer support into the school culture. Professional Development will include support for developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff.

Teaching & Learning

All instruction will be in person and aligned with NYS Learning Standards. Open houses, parent teacher conferences, and CSE meetings will continue to be virtual this year.

Special Education

A Free Appropriate Public Education will be provided for all students, including those with disabilities in accordance with their IEP's. CSE/CPSE meetings will be held via telephone and/or by zoom. Communication will occur in the parents' preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision of services to their child to meet the requirements of the IDEA. There will be continued collaboration between the committees on preschool special education (CPSE) and committees on special education (CSE) and program providers representing the variety of settings where students are served to ensure there is an understanding of the provision of services consistent with the recommendations on/individualized education programs/(IEPs), plans for monitoring and communicating student progress, and commitment to sharing resources. Access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of students will be delivered in accordance with the students IEP.

Bilingual Education/English Language Learners (ELL)

The District will provide required instructional Units of Study to all ELLs based on their most recently measured English language proficiency level during in-person or hybrid instruction. Regular, ongoing communication with parents/guardians of ELLs will be maintained to ensure that they are engaged in their children's education during the reopening process. All communications for parents/guardians of ELLs will be provided in their preferred language and mode of communication.

Teacher/Principal Evaluation

All teachers and principals will be evaluated pursuant to the District's currently approved APPR plan, including any variance applications approved by the Department.

Student Drop-off and Pick-Up/ Faculty/Staff Entrances and Exits

Drop off and pick up locations have been designated and are the same as last school year. Employees will enter through designated doors. Doors will be labeled as ingress or egress for employees in order to limit on-site interactions.

Deliveries

Designated areas for pickups and deliveries are the vestibule areas at the front office of each building. Anyone entering the building will comply with COVID screening requirements.

Personal Belongings

- K-2 devices stay in school, 3-12 devices go home daily.
- Students will be allowed to carry backpacks to school.
- Nothing should be brought into the building other than school required materials.
- Lockers and cubbies will be available for use. Students will be scheduled and supervised to ensure social distancing.

Places

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Masks should have at least two layers of material (e.g. 2-ply). Acceptable masks for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based masks (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, and surgical masks, that cover both the mouth and nose. Face shields worn without other masks are not considered adequate protection or source control against COVID-19 and should not be used. Please refer to the updated Face and Masks and Coverings for COVID-19 for recommendations on how to wear masks, how to improve mask protection, a list of which masks are NOT recommended, as well as how individuals can protect themselves while putting on and taking off a mask.
- The District will allow employees to use their own COVID-19 acceptable face coverings. Acceptable masks for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based masks (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, and surgical masks, that cover both the mouth and nose and should have at least 2 layers of material.
- Face shields worn without other face coverings are not considered adequate protection or source control against COVID-19 and are not permissible.
- Should an employee or student be in need of a face covering, disposable face coverings will be available in the main office at each building at no cost.
- The District will request that students bring their own face covering, but will not require it and will provide such coverings to any student who does not have their own, at no cost to the student.
- Masks should be cleaned or replaced after use and must not be shared. Students and parents/legal guardians should take responsibility for maintaining their masks.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection

Hygiene

- Handwashing is the first defense to stop the spread of all communicable diseases. For this reason, it is the preferred method of hand hygiene. Teachers are required to have students wash their hands with soap and water upon entrance into classrooms. They are required to build in hand washing routines into their classroom schedules. These schedules will be reviewed and approved by Building Principals.
- At a minimum, students and employees should wash hands, as follows:
 - Upon entering the building and each classroom;
 - After using shared objects or surfaces;
 - Before and after snacks and lunch;
 - After using the bathroom;
 - After helping a student with toileting;
 - After sneezing, wiping or blowing nose, or coughing into hands;
 - Upon coming in from outdoors; and
 - Anytime hands are visibly soiled.
- The District will train all students and employees on proper hand and respiratory hygiene, and will provide information to parents and/or legal guardians on ways to reinforce this at home.
- Hand sanitizer should only be used in the absence of soap and water. Students will not be required to use hand sanitizer. Parents/guardians can inform the school that they do not want their child to use alcohol based hand sanitizers by sending a written notice to the school. The District will provide accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer, to allow for their use of handwashing stations.

Hand sanitizing stations will be located in the following areas:

Stand up Hand Sanitizers:

5 RHJ Student Entrances- designated by circles on drawings
 4 MS/HS Student Entrances- designated by circles on drawings
 1 Business Office, 1 MS/HS Back Door, 1 Bus Garage

Wall Mount Hand Sanitizers:

1 MS/HS Receiving Room
 1 RHJ Receiving Room
 1 every classroom

Bus Garage Hand Sanitizers:

1 Break room
 1 Garage
 1 Dispatch office

Cleaning and Disinfection

- The District will ensure adherence to hygiene and cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH, including "Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19," and the "STOP THE SPREAD" poster, as applicable.
- The District will provide appropriate cleaning and disinfection supplies to faculty and staff for shared and frequently touched surfaces including sanitizing spray and disposable wipes. Frequently touched surfaces include but are not limited to the following:

- Classroom desks and chairs;
 - Lunchroom tables and chairs;
 - Door handles and push plates;
 - Handrails;
 - Kitchen and bathroom faucets;
 - Light switches;
 - Handles on equipment (e.g., athletic equipment);
 - Buttons on vending machines and elevators;
 - Shared telephones;
 - Shared desktops;
 - Shared computer keyboards and mice; and
 - Bus seats and handrails.
- The District will make hand sanitizer available near high-touch surfaces (e.g., trash receptacles, paper towel dispensers).
 - Drinking fountains will be disabled. Students, faculty, and staff should bring their own water bottles or use disposable cups. Water bottle fillers will be available in both buildings in accordance with 1:100 requirements.
 - The District will conduct regular cleaning and disinfection of the facilities and more frequent cleaning and disinfection for high-risk areas used by many individuals and for frequently touched surfaces, including desks and tables.
 - The District will ensure regular cleaning and disinfection of restrooms. Restrooms will be cleaned and disinfected more often depending on frequency of use.
 - The District will ensure that materials and tools used by employees are regularly cleaned and disinfected using registered disinfectants. Refer to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) list of products registered in New York State and identified by the EPA as effective against COVID-19.
 - If cleaning or disinfection products or the act of cleaning and disinfection causes safety hazards or degrades the material or machinery, the District will put in place hand hygiene stations between use and/or supply disposable gloves and/or limitations on the number of employees using such machinery.
 - The District has identified cleaning and disinfection frequency for each facility type and assigned responsibility by meeting with supervisors and reviewing detailed expectations. Following are the supervisor expectations that have been shared with each respective department (cleaners, cafeteria, buildings and grounds and transportation).

Custodial Cleaning Protocol

FCS is committed to following the guidelines from the CDC in order to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID19. Our cleaning staff along with administration will:

Develop our plan

- Determine what needs to be cleaned.
 - Areas unoccupied for 7 or more days will receive routine cleaning.

- Existing cleaning practices will be maintained for outdoor areas.
- Determine how areas will be disinfected
 - The type of surface and how often the surface is touched will be considered.
 - Frequently touched surfaces will be prioritized for disinfecting.
- Resources and needed equipment will be considered
 - Availability of cleaning products and personal protective equipment (PPE) appropriate for cleaners and disinfectants will be kept in mind.

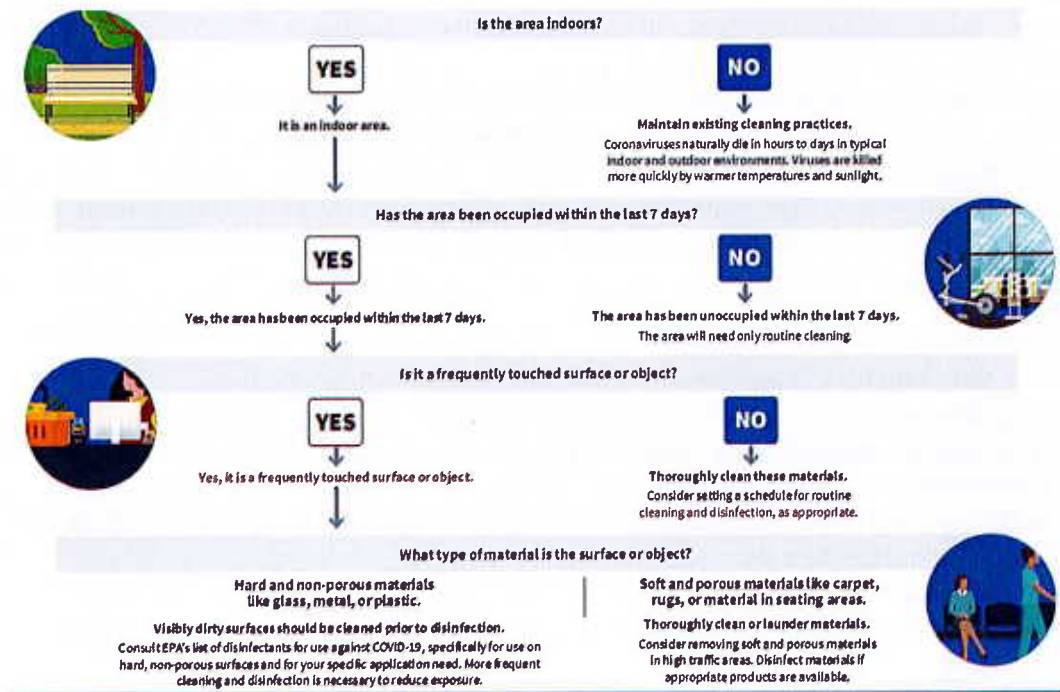
Implement our plan

- Visibly dirty surfaces will be cleaned with soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Appropriate cleaning or disinfectant products will be used.
- An [EPA-approved disinfectant against COVID-19](#) will be used, and the label will be read to make sure it meets our needs.
- If an EPA-approved disinfectant is unavailable, 1/3 cup of bleach added to 1 gallon of water, or 70% alcohol solutions will be used.
- Follow the directions on the label.
- Cleaning staff will maintain logs on site that document date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.

Maintain and revise our plan

- We will continue or revise our plan based upon appropriate disinfectant and PPE availability.
- Frequent handwashing, using cloth face coverings, and staying home if sick will be monitored.
- Maintaining social distancing, staying six feet away from others will be practiced whenever possible. The sharing of common spaces and frequently touched objects will be reduced when possible.

Cleaning Disinfection Tool



Safety of Custodial Staff

Because these people are at increased risk of being exposed to the virus and to any toxic effects of cleaning chemicals the following will be occur:

- Appropriate PPE will be provided by the District and worn by the employee.
- Staff will be instructed on how to apply the disinfectants according to the label. This instruction will be done by the Working Supervisor and/or the Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds.
- Whenever possible, social distancing will be maintained.
- All cleaning staff will have instruction on the importance of appropriate and frequent hand washing. Emphasis will be placed on continuing to wash hands once gloves are removed.
- All staff will receive training on when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly put on and take off PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.

Cleaning And Disinfecting Your Facility

Everyday Steps, Steps When Someone is Sick, and Considerations for Employers

How to clean and disinfect

Wear disposable gloves to clean and disinfect.

Clean

- **Clean surfaces using soap and water.** Practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.



High touch surfaces include:

Tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, sinks, etc.



Disinfect

- Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.
- **Recommend use of EPA-registered household disinfectant.** Follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product.

Many products recommend:

- Keeping surface wet for a period of time (see product label).
- Precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



- **Diluted household bleach solutions may also be used** if appropriate for the surface. Check to ensure the product is not past its expiration date. Unexpired household bleach will be effective against coronaviruses when properly diluted.

Follow manufacturer's instructions for application and proper ventilation. Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.

Leave solution on the surface for **at least 1 minute**

Bleach solutions will be **effective** for disinfection **up to 24 hours**.

To make a bleach solution, mix:

- 5 tablespoons (1/3rd cup) bleach per gallon of water

OR

- 4 teaspoons bleach per quart of water

- **Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol.**



Soft surfaces

For soft surfaces such as **carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes**

- **Clean the surface using soap and water** or with cleaners appropriate for use on these surfaces.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

- **Laundry items** (if possible) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the warmest appropriate water setting and dry items completely.

OR

- **Disinfect with an EPA-registered household disinfectant.** These disinfectants meet EPA's criteria for use against COVID-19.

Electronics

- For electronics, such as **tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines**
- Consider putting a **wipeable** cover on electronics.
- **Follow manufacturer's instruction** for cleaning and disinfecting.
 - If no guidance, **use alcohol-based wipes or sprays containing at least 70% alcohol.** Dry surface thoroughly.



Laundry

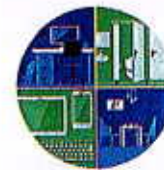
For clothing, towels, linens and other items

- Laundry items according to the manufacturer's instructions. Use the **warmest appropriate water setting** and dry items completely.
- **Wear disposable gloves** when handling dirty laundry from a person who is sick.
- Dirty laundry from a person who is sick **can be washed with other people's items.**
- **Do not shake** dirty laundry.
- Clean and **disinfect clothes hampers** according to guidance above for surfaces.
- **Remove gloves**, and wash hands right away.



Cleaning and disinfecting your building or facility if someone is sick

- **Close off areas** used by the person who is sick.
- **Open outside doors and windows** to increase air circulation in the area. **Wait 24 hours** before you clean or disinfect. If 24 hours is not feasible, wait as long as possible.
- Clean and disinfect **all areas used by the person who is sick**, such as offices, bathrooms, common areas, shared electronic equipment like tablets, touch screens, keyboards, remote controls, and ATM machines.
- If **more than 7 days** since the person who is sick visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary.
 - Continue routine cleaning and disinfection.



When cleaning

- **Wear disposable gloves and gowns for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.**
 - Additional personal protective equipment (PPE) might be required based on the cleaning/disinfectant products being used and whether there is a risk of splash.
 - Gloves and gowns should be removed carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for 20 seconds.
 - Always wash immediately after removing gloves and after contact with a person who is sick.



- Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.
- **Additional key times to wash hands** include:
 - After blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing.
 - After using the restroom.
 - Before eating or preparing food.
 - After contact with animals or pets.
 - Before and after providing routine care for another person who needs assistance (e.g., a child).

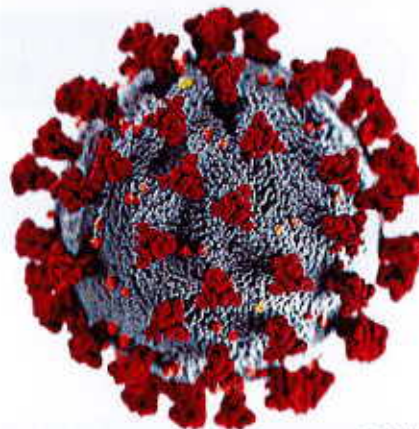
Additional Considerations for Employers



- **Educate workers** performing cleaning, laundry, and trash pick-up to recognize the symptoms of COVID-19.
- Provide instructions **on what to do if they develop symptoms within 14 days** after their last possible exposure to the virus.
- Develop **policies for worker protection and provide training** to all cleaning staff on site prior to providing cleaning tasks.
 - Training should include when to use PPE, what PPE is necessary, how to properly don (put on), use, and doff (take off) PPE, and how to properly dispose of PPE.
- Ensure workers are **trained on the hazards of the cleaning chemicals** used in the workplace in accordance with OSHA's Hazard Communication standard ([29 CFR 1910.1200](#)).
- **Comply** with OSHA's standards on Bloodborne Pathogens ([29 CFR 1910.1030](#)), including proper disposal of regulated waste, and PPE ([29 CFR 1910.132](#)).

For facilities that house people overnight:

- Follow CDC's guidance for [colleges and universities](#). Work with state and local health officials to determine the best way to isolate people who are sick and if temporary housing is needed.
- For guidance on cleaning and disinfecting the bedroom/bathroom for someone who is sick, review CDC's guidance on [disinfecting your home if someone is sick](#).



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6 Steps for Safe & Effective Disinfectant Use



Step 1: Check that your product is EPA-approved

Find the EPA registration number on the product. Then, check to see if it is on EPA's list of approved disinfectants at: [epa.gov/listn](https://www.epa.gov/listn)



Step 2: Read the directions

Follow the product's directions. Check "use sites" and "surface types" to see where you can use the product. Read the "precautionary statements."

Step 3: Pre-clean the surface

Make sure to wash the surface with soap and water if the directions mention pre-cleaning or if the surface is visibly dirty.



Step 4: Follow the contact time

You can find the contact time in the directions. The surface should remain wet the whole time to ensure the product is effective.

Step 5: Wear gloves and wash your hands

For disposable gloves, discard them after each cleaning. For reusable gloves, dedicate a pair to disinfecting COVID-19. Wash your hands after removing the gloves.



Step 6: Lock it up

Keep lids tightly closed and store out of reach of children.

coronavirus.gov

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html>



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

What Construction Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

Updated May 19, 2020

[Print](#)

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. Our understanding of how the virus spreads is evolving as we learn more about it, so check the CDC website for the latest information and current list of symptoms. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks.

Recent studies indicate that the virus can be spread by people who are not showing symptoms. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. This is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads, but we are still learning more about this virus. Older adults and people of any age who have serious underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

As a construction worker, how can I protect myself and slow the spread?

Potential sources of exposure include having close contact with a coworker or member of the public who is ill with COVID-19 and touching your nose, mouth, or eyes after touching surfaces contaminated with the virus or handling items that others infected with COVID-19 have touched. Actions you can take include the following:

- Notify your supervisor and stay home if you have symptoms.
- Follow CDC-recommended steps if you are sick. You should not return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers, your employer, and state and local health departments.
- Follow CDC-recommended precautions and notify your supervisor if you are well but have a sick family member at home with COVID-19.
- Limit close contact with others by maintaining a distance of at least 6 feet, when possible.
 - Limit the number of workers in small workspace areas such as job site elevators, trailers and vehicles, and spaces under construction if possible.
- CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas where there is significant community-based transmission of COVID-19.
 - Cloth face coverings may prevent people who don't know they have the virus from transmitting it to others.
- Cloth face coverings are NOT surgical masks or respirators and are not appropriate substitutes for them in workplaces where masks or respirators are recommended or required.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces such as shared tools, machines, vehicles and other equipment, handrails, ladders, doorknobs, and portable toilets. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces periodically throughout the shift but also:
 - At the beginning and end of every shift
 - After anyone uses your vehicle, tools, or workstation
- Limit tool sharing if possible.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. This is an important infection control measure. With appropriate hand hygiene, you do not need gloves to protect you from COVID-19. When possible, wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
 - Key times to clean hands include:

1/4

- Before and after work shifts and breaks
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After using the restroom
- Before eating and before and after preparing food
- After touching objects which have been handled by coworkers, such as tools and equipment
- Before putting on and after taking off work gloves
- After putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings
- Before donning or doffing eye or face protection (safety glasses, goggles, etc.)
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Use tissues when you cough, sneeze, or touch your face. Throw used tissues in the trash and wash your hands or use hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol if a sink to wash your hands is not available.

What steps should my employer take?

Employers should have a COVID-19 response plan to protect workers, following CDC Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers, and share this plan with you and your coworkers in languages you all understand. Small construction businesses should review the CDC small business guidelines. Your employer should take steps to:

Reduce transmission among workers:

- Take steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if an employee is sick.
 - Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
 - Sick employees diagnosed with COVID-19 shouldn't return to work until the criteria to discontinue home isolation are met, in consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.
- Provide employees with accurate information (in a language they understand) about COVID-19, how it spreads, and risk of exposure.
 - Provide workers with basic facts.
 - Conduct toolbox talks on all job sites to explain the protective measures in place.
- Be aware that some employees may be at higher risk for severe illness. Implement specific policies to minimize face-to-face contact for these employees or assign work tasks that allow them to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other workers, customers, and visitors, or to telework if possible.
- Provide training to employees on proper handwashing practices and other routine preventative measures. This will help prevent the spread of many diseases, including COVID-19.
- Provide employees with access to soap, clean running water, and materials for drying their hands, or if soap and water are not readily available provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol at stations around the establishment for use by both workers and customers.
 - Place handwashing stations and/or hand sanitizers in multiple locations (including in or adjacent to portable restrooms) to encourage hand hygiene.
- Explore alternative ways to promote hand hygiene if there is difficulty sourcing hand sanitizer and running water is not available on site. Some examples may include:
 - Install temporary or mobile handwashing stations, making sure there is an adequate supply of water, soap, and single-use paper towels.
 - Provide a large (5+ gallon) bucket with a lid and tap that can be used to provide water for handwashing. If this method is used, the water tap should be regularly cleaned and disinfected, and the contaminated wastewater must be collected and treated in accordance with local laws and environmental regulations. Provide fresh clean water daily.
 - Depending on the size or configuration of the job site, there may need to be multiple handwashing stations available to accommodate the workforce while maintaining social distancing, and stations may need to be restocked during the course of the day to maintain adequate handwashing supplies.
- Develop and implement social distancing guidance for the workplace to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between workers when possible.

Maintain a healthy work environment

- Institute measures to physically separate and increase distance between employees, such as the following:

- Modify work schedules to stagger work, provide alternating workdays or extra shifts to reduce the total number of workers on a job site at any given time.
- Restrict access to reduce the number of workers in enclosed and confined areas at one time. Confined and enclosed areas (e.g., trailers, small rooms in buildings under construction) should be identified and access should be restricted to essential personnel only. Enclosed spaces (e.g., toilets, break areas) are potential transmission areas and should be treated accordingly. Time spent in these areas should be minimized.
- Rearrange administrative area workstations so that workers can stay at least 6 feet away from other workers.
- Install shields or barriers, such as plexiglass barriers, where possible.
- Remove or rearrange chairs and tables or add visual cue marks in break areas to support social distancing practices between workers. Identify alternative areas to accommodate overflow volume.
- Disinfect break or lunchroom areas between each group using the areas.
- Maintain social distancing when visiting lunch trucks or construction site vendors.
- Limit casual (social) conversations that normally occur at work.
- Cancel or postpone in-person meetings/trainings whenever possible. If you must meet, spread out to a distance of 6 feet or more between attendees.
- Reduce the number of individuals at meetings, including worker orientations, to increase the distance between individuals.
- Conduct a hazard assessment to determine if hazards are present, or are likely to be present, for which workers may need personal protective equipment (PPE). CDC and OSHA have recommended PPE for some types of work activities when engineering and administrative controls cannot be implemented or are not fully protective.
 - Employers are required to determine, select, provide, and train on correct PPE use and application for their workers' specific job duties (see 29 CFR 1926 Subpart E ☐).
- Place posters that encourage staying home when sick, cough and sneeze etiquette, signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and proper hand hygiene practices at the entrance to the workplace and in other workplace areas where they are likely to be seen.
- Provide tissues and no-touch disposal receptacles for employees to use.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces. If the surfaces are visibly dirty, clean them prior to disinfecting. To disinfect, use products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2 ☐ , diluted household bleach solutions that are prepared according to the manufacturer's label for disinfection, or alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, and that are appropriate for the surface. Follow manufacturer's directions for use.
 - Clean workspaces and breakrooms at least once per shift or as often as workers change workstations.
 - Provide worker training on manufacturer's directions for disinfectant use and provide workers with any additional PPE required for disinfection.
- Provide disposable disinfectant wipes (when available) so that surfaces commonly touched can be wiped down.
- Follow all applicable local, state, and federal regulations and public health agency guidelines.

Maintain healthy business operations

- Designate a safety and health officer to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns at every jobsite. Workers should know who this person is and how to contact them.
- Implement flexible sick leave and supportive policies and practices. Consider drafting non-punitive emergency sick leave policies if sick leave is not offered to some or all employees. Employers should not require a positive COVID-19 test result or a healthcare provider's note for employees who are sick to validate their illness, qualify for sick leave, or to return to work.
- Provide information on whom to contact if employees become sick. If an employee is confirmed to have COVID-19 infection, employers should inform fellow employees of their possible exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace but maintain confidentiality as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Reach out to local public health officials to establish ongoing communications to facilitate access to relevant information before and during a local outbreak.

Where can I get more information?

Stay informed. Talk to your employer, supervisor, or union representative who is responsible for responding to COVID-19

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/construction-workers.html>

Cafeteria Cleaning

Cleaning Products

- Use only products provided by the district (EPA approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Follow directions on the label of the EPA cleaning product.

Deep Cleaning Kitchen

- Kitchen area will be deeply cleaned at the end of every day by cafeteria employees.
- Ensure proper ventilation when cleaning.
- Using district provided cleaning products, follow the directions to clean all hard surfaces (kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, door handles, carts, and trays etc).
- Sweep floor, under cabinets, etc.

Quick Sanitizing of Kitchen

- Focus on high touch areas. These include frequently touched surfaces such as kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, door handles, carts, and trays, throughout the day. Follow the directions on the cleaning product's label and clean hands afterwards.
- Ensure proper ventilation when cleaning.

General Guidelines

- Plan menus, production, and food preparation schedules to allow employees to maintain the recommended social distance of 6 feet while working when possible.
- Practice proper hand hygiene. This is an important infection control measure. With appropriate hand hygiene, gloves are not necessary for workers who are not involved in food preparation. Wash your hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used, but not as a substitute for cleaning hands with soap and water.
- Key times to wash hands include:
 - Before and after work shifts
 - Before and after work breaks
 - After using the restroom
 - Before eating or preparing food
 - Before putting on and after taking off disposable gloves when preparing food
 - After touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other staff, customers or visitors, such as tables, trays, carts, racks, dishes, cups, utensils, bags, coolers, totes, and trash
 - After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
 - After putting on, touching, or removing cloth face coverings
- All kitchen employees must wear masks when unable to socially distance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/school-nutrition-professionals.html> **Transportation Cleaning**

Cleaning Products

- Use only products provided by the district (EPA approved for use against the virus that causes COVID-19).
- Follow directions on the label of the EPA cleaning product.
- Drivers are not permitted to carry sanitizer on the bus.

Deep Cleaning Busses

- Busses will be deeply cleaned at the end of every day by bus drivers.
- Ensure proper ventilation when cleaning.
- Using district provided cleaning products, follow the directions to clean all hard surfaces (bus walls, seats, seatbelts, etc.).
- Sweep bus aisles, under seats, etc.

Quick Sanitizing of Busses

- Focus on high touch areas. These include; windows, seats, seatbelts, etc.
- Ensure proper ventilation when cleaning.
- Using district provided sanitizing spray, follow the directions to clean surfaces between bus routes after students have been dropped off in the morning.

General Guidelines

Bus drivers will

- Not eat or drink on the bus;
- Open windows, roof hatches, and turn fans on during route operation;
- Wear masks;
- Be provided gloves and may wear gloves if they choose to do so but are not required unless they must be in physical contact with students;
- Wash their hands with soap and water before and after runs;
- Not carry hand sanitizer on the bus;

Heater filters will be changed on a regular basis.

If the school district is in session remotely or otherwise, pupil transportation will be provided to nonpublic, parochial, private, charter schools or students whose Individualized Education Program have placed them out of district whose schools are meeting in conducting in-person session education when/if the district is not.

<https://nyapt.org/Resource>

Coordination and Phased Reopening

The District has designated a COVID-19 safety coordinator, Mrs. Shelly O'Boyle (Superintendent), to be the main contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and to be responsible for subsequent

communication. She is responsible for answering questions from students, faculty, staff, and parents or legal guardians of students regarding the COVID-19 public health emergency and plans implemented by the school. This Safety Coordinator is responsible for continuous compliance with all aspects of this reopening plan, as well as any phased-in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or “new normal” levels.

Additionally, the school nurses, in consultation when necessary with the District Medical Director, are the COVID-19 resource persons in each building. In the absence of the nurse, the building principal will act as the resource person since she/he is familiar with the district plan. The nurses will be the main contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and will be responsible for subsequent communication.

Contact Information for the COVID-19 Resource Persons is as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--|
| MS/HS- Cherie Anderson | (716) 569-7034 | canderson@frewsburgcsd.org |
| RHJ- Louretta Blood (10/30/2020) | (716) 569-7083 | lblood@frewsburgcsd.org |

Communication of Plan

The District affirms that we have engaged with school stakeholders and community members when developing reopening plans. In developing this plan, the District sought input from the following groups:

- Teachers
- Support Staff
- Collective Bargaining Units
- Department Supervisors
- Parents
- Board of Education
- Medical Director
- Legal Counsel
- Insurance Carriers
- Students
- Local Daycare provider, TRZ

The District developed a communication plan to ensure all stakeholders were updated on the reopening plan. The District communicated as follows:

- Individual Zoom meetings (teachers, support staff, community stakeholders, parents, students)
- School Website
- School social media platforms
- Mailed letters
- Auto-call system, including text messaging
- Phone calls

The District will continue to utilize these modes of communication to keep our stakeholders informed as new developments arise.

PROCESSES

Screening and Testing

Health Screening and Temperature Checks

Parents are responsible for daily health screenings and temperature checks.

Visitors/Guests/Contractors/Vendors

- Visitors will be limited and only provided access into the building on a case by case basis depending on their purpose and necessity to the overall school operations.
- They will be required to wear a face covering upon entry and while in the building.
- A COVID-19 Employee/Visitor Daily Health-Screening Questionnaire must be completed.
- Visitors must sign-in prior to entering the building. The sign-in information includes: Name, Date, Time, Phone Number which allows for rapid contact tracing and the ability to clean areas accessed.

Staff Arrival

- Employees must be wearing a face covering upon arrival at school.
- Every day, immediately upon entrance, all employees must complete a wellness questionnaire. If you answer "yes" to any of the questions, you must contact your healthcare provider, immediate supervisor, and the COVID designee (Shelly O'Boyle).

Students Being Transported by Personal Vehicles*

- Students will be dropped off at the curb and met by an FCS employee.
- Parents will periodically be required to complete a Student Wellness Questionnaire.
- Parents will take their child's temperature daily before sending them to school (Temperatures of 100.0 or below are permissible.)

Students Being Transported by District Transportation*

- Parents will periodically be required to complete a Student Wellness Questionnaire.
- Parents will take their child's temperature daily before sending them to school on the bus. (Temperatures of 100.0 or below are permissible.)

*Parents unable to take their child's temperature at home must notify the school nurse to ensure students have a temperature screening upon arrival at school.

Positive Screen Protocols

Student

Do not send your child to school and immediately contact your healthcare provider if you:

- Answer "yes" to any of the questions on the daily screen questionnaire;

- Take your child's temperature and he/she has a fever greater than 100.0;
- Observe your child to have any flu-like symptoms such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

Your child is not permitted to come to school if they have had a temperature of 100.0 at any time in the past 14 days, even if a fever-reducing medication was administered and he/she no longer has a fever.

Please refer to the CDC guidance on "[Symptoms of Coronavirus](#)" for the most up to date information on symptoms associated with COVID-19.

Employee

- If you have a temperature 100.0 or higher, you must immediately go home. In the absence of the nurse, the secretary will secure the employee in a designated area and contact the COVID designee (Shelly O'Boyle).
- Any employee who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will be immediately sent home with instructions to contact their health care provider for assessment and testing.

If the School District learns of a positive COVID-19 test following a screening, we will immediately notify the local Department of Health.

The district/school will provide accommodations to all students and staff who are at high risk or live with a person at high risk. These arrangements will be made on a case by case basis depending on the needs/limitations in each circumstance. Parents and employees will be directed to the COVID designee; Shelly O'Boyle to make arrangements.

School Health Offices

Students and Employees Sick at School

- Employees and students who are sick should not come to work/school and will be sent home.
- Employees and students with flu-like symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea) at school will be immediately separated. Individuals who are sick will be sent home or to a healthcare facility depending on the severity of symptoms.
- If the school nurse determines that a student or employee is showing symptoms of a communicable or infectious disease reportable under the public health law that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school, he or she shall be excluded from the school and sent home immediately. The director of school health services shall immediately notify a local public health agency of any disease reportable under the public health law. The director of school health services, or other health professionals acting upon direction or referral of such director, may make such evaluations of teachers and any other school employees, school buildings and premises as, in their discretion, they may deem necessary to protect the health of the students and staff.
- School staff must immediately report any illness of students or staff to the school nurse or building principal in the absence of the nurse.
- All employees will be educated to observe students or other employees for signs of any type of illness such as:
 - Flushed cheeks;
 - Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity);
 - Fatigue, and/or irritability; and
 - Frequent use of the bathroom
- Both nurses' offices will have an isolation room in addition to their office space. One room for first aid and the other for flu-like symptoms.
- Symptomatic students who are waiting to be picked up will remain under the visual supervision of the nurse or designated employee who is socially distanced.

Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services/Public Health (added 8/17)

Chautauqua County School Districts

Partnership: COVID-19 Disease Investigation, Contact Tracing, and Testing

The Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division, as the local health department (LHD), is responsible for communicable disease surveillance and control, including the public health functions of case investigation and contact tracing. The District will take direction from the Department of Health regarding contract tracing.

School Reporting Responsibility

Under Education Law §906, school health services must notify the local public health agency of any disease reportable under Public Health Law. COVID-19 is a reportable disease and as such, school health personnel must contact the LHD when they learn that a student or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19.

Safety of School Nurses and Others

- School nurses and other healthcare providers will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for sick people. What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID-19 Infection will be reviewed with nursing staff.
- If there is moderate to substantial community transmission, eye protection (i.e., goggles or face shield) will be added. When caring for a suspect or confirmed individual with COVID-19, gloves, a gown, and a fit-tested N-95 respirator will be used, if available (or surgical face mask and face shield, if not available), as well as eye protection.
- Asthma-related acute respiratory treatment-School nurses will consult with students' healthcare providers for alternate asthma medication delivery systems. (Nebulizer treatments and suctioning are identified by the CDC as aerosol-generating procedures requiring an N-95 mask fitted to the healthcare worker). When nebulizer treatments and suctioning must be done, the following must be adhered to:
 - PPE must be used. This includes: gloves, N95 or surgical face masks; eye protection, a gown (if necessary).
 - PPE must be used when suctioning or administering nebulizer treatments; or using peak flow meters with students who have respiratory conditions.
 - Nebulizer treatments and suctioning must occur in a room separate from others with nursing personnel wearing the appropriate PPE as listed above. This room must be disinfected after use.
- The District will consult with the school maintenance and facilities department for environmental controls.

Cleaning of Nurse's Office

Cleaning and Disinfection Following Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 Case

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

- The District will provide for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19, with such cleaning and disinfection to include, at a minimum, all heavy transit areas and high-touch surfaces.
- The District will follow CDC guidelines on "Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility," if someone is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off and not used until they have been cleaned and disinfected.
- Outside doors and windows will be opened to increase air circulation in the area.
- Custodial staff will wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting, unless waiting 24 hours is not feasible, in which case, they will wait as long as possible.
- All areas used by the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19, such as offices, classrooms, bathrooms, lockers, and common areas will be cleaned.
- Once the area has been appropriately cleaned and disinfected, it can be reopened for use.
- Individuals without *close or proximate contact with the person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 can then return to the area and resume school activities immediately after cleaning and disinfection. (*Interim Guidance for Public and Private Employees Returning to Work Following COVID-19 Infection or Exposure" for information on "close and proximate" contacts.)
- If more than seven days have passed since the person who is suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 visited or used the facility, additional cleaning and disinfection is not necessary, but routine cleaning and disinfection should continue.
- Health cots will be cleaned and disinfected regularly (after each student use).
- Treatment table will be covered and pillow protectors will be used and discarded or laundered after each use.

Tracing and Tracking

Metrics

The [Early Warning Dashboard](#) from the forward.ny.gov website will be used for tracking regional and county COVID-19 cases. This data will serve as a warning sign that the level of COVID-19 transmission is increasing in the area. If the data reaches a concerning level, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Chautauqua County Department of Health, the School Nurses, and the Medical Director, will determine the best case of action for school attendance.

The District will collaborate with the Chautauqua County Department of Health to determine the parameters, conditions or metrics (e.g. increased absenteeism or increased illness in school community) that will also serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level.

Tracing Support

In order to quickly identify those that may have been exposed and assist the DOH, the District will:

- Maintain a daily sign-in log for all visitors that contains the following information:
 - Name
 - Date/time of entry/location
 - Phone Number
- Ensure student schedules are up to date;
- Maintain accurate student attendance records;
- Maintain accurate bus rosters; and
- Maintain accurate substitute rosters.

The District will ensure that confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state law and regulations and that it will cooperate with state and local health department contact tracing, isolation, and quarantine efforts.

The District will continue to coordinate with the Department of Health and if requested or required will function as a testing site.

Quarantine, Isolation, and Return to School

COVID-19 Employee/Visitor/Student Daily Health-Screening Questionnaire

This screening tool is offered for informational purposes to help you check for COVID-19 symptoms as outlined by the NYS Department of Health. If you answer "Yes" to any questions, please do not enter any school building.

This is not a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of disease or other conditions, including COVID-19. Always consult a medical professional for serious symptoms or call 911 for emergencies.

| Questions | Yes | No |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Have you knowingly been in contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19? | | |
| 2. Have you tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days? | | |
| 3. Are you experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, such as fever greater than or equal to 100 degrees, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea? | | |

If you have answered "YES" to any of questions 1-3 above:

- *Do not enter building*
- *Immediately notify your supervisor/principal/superintendent*

Resources

FALL 2021 COVID-19 BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS

FROM THE DESK OF CHRISTINE SCHUYLER
Director of Health and Human Services

The Chautauqua County Department of Health strives to help ensure that schools open and operate with the health and safety of students, teachers, school staff, their families and the community as the priority. Mutual goals are limiting the spread of COVID-19, keeping children healthy, and keeping them physically in school to get the education they deserve. Further guidance will be sent to you as it is developed and we hope these basics are helpful as we work together to meet those goals!

The Delta variant of the coronavirus is forcing renewed public health measures because it is VERY contagious and spreads more easily than the original strain of the coronavirus. People, including children, who get infected with the Delta variant are more likely to get seriously ill and need hospitalized than those infected with earlier strains of the virus.

COVID-19 Vaccination

The current COVID-19 vaccines are safe and are effective, even against the Delta variant. COVID-19 vaccination is the best way to protect our children from dangerous variants and from needing hospitalization or having long-lasting COVID-19 symptoms. Medical science has long proven that other vaccines keep dangerous diseases and viruses away from our children and the COVID-19 vaccine is no different.

Masking

- Effective August 27, Public Health Law (PHL) and the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) were amended to include the requirement for face coverings in certain settings, including schools. A violation of this Section of PHL is subject to a maximum fine of \$1,000 for each violation.
- Mask breaks may be taken by students once every hour for approximately 5 minutes. Students should be seated and stationary at their desks during mask breaks. If students are seated closer than 6 feet, breaks should be staggered so that students closer than 6 feet are not taking breaks at the same time. Masks can also be removed during meals as long as at least 3 feet of spacing is maintained. Maintaining students in the classroom at distances greater than 3 feet does NOT negate the need to wear masks.
- School buses operated by public and private school systems fall under the CDC's transportation order and as such, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses at all times, regardless of vaccination status, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC's Order: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>
- Outdoors: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.
- Exceptions to indoor and outdoor masking can be made for the following categories of people:
 - A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.)
 - A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- Schools will have masks available to students who need them.
- Scientists have proven that properly wearing a mask does help stop the spread of COVID-19 because it is spread from person to person by respiratory droplets. A layered prevention approach is best to prevent the spread of disease: vaccination, frequent hand-washing, wearing a mask, and keeping distance between people.

Identification of Close Contacts of Someone who tests Positive for COVID-19

- Outside of the classroom, close contacts are individuals who are within 6 feet of an infected person, regardless of mask use for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
- If universal masking is used in indoor K-12 classrooms, students who are exposed to an infected person are exempted from quarantine:
 - Students who are at least 3 feet away from an infected person are not considered close contacts and do not need to quarantine as long as both the infected student and the exposed student are correctly and consistently wearing masks the entire time.
 - This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have had a COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days also do not need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact.

Daily Screenings

Schools are no longer required to document or conduct daily temperature checks and wellness screenings. Parents should continue to screen children for symptoms of illness before sending them to school and keep them home if they are ill. If a student develops symptoms during the school day, the child should be evaluated by the school nurse and sent home if necessary.

**UPDATED
 SEPTEMBER 3, 2021**

COVID-19 SCREENING FLOW CHART

**Before sending child to school,
 parent/guardian should screen for
 potential symptoms of COVID-19**

- Cough
- Shortness of breath/trouble breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- Temp 100.0° F/37.8° C or greater
- Chills
- Fatigue
- Sore throat
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Nasal congestion/runny nose

**Proceed
 to school**

NO FLAGS



Pool testing allows for a large number of specimens to be tested at once. **Refer to pool testing fact sheet.** If the pooled test result is positive, all students in the pool will be placed in precautionary quarantine until positive student is identified. Once positive is identified, all others will be released from quarantine.

POOL



EXPOSURE



Cannot go to school

Follow public health quarantine order.* Child remains home for 10 days since exposure.

TEST FOR COVID-19? If no symptoms, testing is not required because it will not change the child's need to quarantine for 10 days. If you would like to pursue a test, contact your Primary Care Provider (PCP). Testing is recommended 3-5 days after potential exposure, regardless of having symptoms.

Individuals exposed to COVID-19 can end their quarantine after 10 days without a testing requirement as long as no symptoms have developed during the quarantine period. After day 10 is reached, individuals must continue monitoring for symptoms through day 14 and if any develop, they should immediately self-isolate and contact the local health department or their health care provider to report this change and determine if they should seek testing.

SYMPTOMS



Cannot go to school

• If determined by PCP to have a chronic, recurring diagnosis (not new or worsening symptoms) →

follow normal school policies to return to school.

• If a COVID test is negative and child has had no fever for at least 24 hours (without use of fever reducing medicine) and feels better → follow normal school policies to return to school.

• If no COVID test is done, child needs to stay home for 10 days since first symptom, no fever for 24 hours (without use of fever reducing medicine), and feels better → follow normal school policies to return to school.

TEST FOR COVID-19?: Consult PCP. If testing is indicated, the child must isolate at home pending results which may take up to 7 days.

**Cannot
 go to school**

**Follow public
 health isolation
 order.***

Child remains home for 10 days since positive COVID-19 test or symptom onset date.

CHILD: 10 day isolation as long as symptoms are resolving. Repeat COVID testing is NOT needed in order to return to school.

HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS: 10 day quarantine from last date of exposure to case during infectious period.

*** The Health Department will issue Isolation and Quarantine Orders, monitor positive cases and close contacts, and officially release individuals from Isolation and Quarantine. Per CDC guidance, people who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. Fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine as long as they do not have symptoms.**

Schools are to keep track of all excluded students/staff with symptoms with the goal that they will be evaluated by a medical provider and tested for COVID-19 within 48 hours of symptom onset. This tracking will enable public health and school officials to act accordingly based on a case by case basis.



Guidance for P-12 Schools when a student or staff member has COVID-19 symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test

What to do when a student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms

If the student/staff is at school when symptoms begin, the student/staff should be evaluated by the nurse or sent home to isolate. Binax testing supplies will be provided to schools for testing of students and staff as determined by the school nurse.

One of the following three criteria must be met before the student/staff can return to school:

1. A note from the student/staff's medical care provider with an alternative diagnosis is provided OR
2. The result of a negative diagnostic COVID-19 test is provided OR
3. There have been at least ten days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms.

What to do when a student tests positive for COVID-19

The student/staff should remain in isolation per public health order. All of the following three criteria must be met before the student/staff can return to school:

1. At least ten days after COVID-19 symptom onset or ten days from their first positive test if asymptomatic AND
2. Fever-free for at least **24** consecutive hours without the use of fever-reducing medication AND
3. Symptoms are improving.

What to do with classmates or staff members in contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case

1. Outside of the classroom, close contacts are individuals who are within 6 feet of an infected person, regardless of mask use for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.
2. If universal masking is used in indoor K-12 classrooms, students who are exposed to an infected person are exempted from quarantine:
 - a. Students who are at least 3 feet away from an infected person are not considered close contacts and do not need to quarantine as long as both the infected student and the exposed student are correctly and consistently wearing masks the entire time.
 - b. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.
 - c. Individuals who are fully vaccinated or who have had a COVID-19 infection within the last 90 days also do not need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact.

