

Smithtown Central School District 2021-2022 Reopening Plan



All COVID-19 protocols will continually be reevaluated based on available guidance and recommendations from health professionals.

MASKS

Masks are universally required inside school buildings and on buses regardless of vaccination status. Additionally, masks are recommended for those not fully vaccinated while outdoors in crowded settings, or when in close contact with others not fully vaccinated. Students who have a medical need to refrain from mask wearing must seek permission via established protocols, including a statement from a medical professional. Mask breaks will be provided during the school day.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Student desks will be placed three feet apart, and that distance will be maintained among students within the classroom. Band and chorus classes will maintain six feet of distance.

HEALTH SCREENING

Parents will complete the health screening questionnaire one time prior to the beginning of school through the Parent Portal on PowerSchool confirming their understanding and need to keep their child home if he/she displays any of the noted COVID-19 symptoms.

VACCINATIONS

While the CDC has recommended it for those eligible age 12 and older, a COVID-19 vaccination is not required for in-person learning.

INSTRUCTION

This District will offer full time in-person instruction for all students. The district will not provide a fully remote option, but students who are medically unable to attend school will be afforded the opportunity to attend the Western Suffolk BOCES Regional Virtual School.

GENERAL PROTECTIONS

Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected every evening in conjunction with the use of misting and fogging machines. High-touch areas will be disinfected multiple times during the school day. The District will continue to use Bio-Shield, a certified antimicrobial protectant, which will adhere to surfaces for up to 90 days. Frequent handwashing is encouraged, and handwashing breaks will be built into the school day. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms and public spaces. Anyone with symptoms should stay home and seek medical attention.

QUARANTINING

Fully vaccinated people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not experience COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine, but should get tested 3-5 days following a known exposure. Unvaccinated people should get tested and must quarantine for 10 days if they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19.

REPORTING

The District will continue to report confirmed positive COVID-19 cases to the community by posting information on the website. Report positive COVID cases, or close contact with a positive case, to the school nurse or building administration.

CONTACT TRACING

Students in classrooms who are separated by three feet or greater and are masked are not considered close contacts. Adults separated by six feet or greater and are masked are not close contacts.

ATHLETICS

The NYSPHSAA and Section XI intend to run a full fall sports season. Home and visitor spectators will be permitted. Indoor spectators are expected to sit six feet away from other family units and remain masked.

THE ARTS

Band and chorus classes will maintain six feet of social distance. Orchestras may be at three feet and non-wind instruments (percussionists) in the band may also be at three feet.

TRANSPORTATION

Masks are required for all students and staff while on buses. Physical distance on buses is not required by the CDC. However, social distancing will be utilized where practicable.

MEALS

Physical distance will be maximized as much as possible. Additional spaces will be used outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating, including classrooms, to help facilitate distancing if practicable. The USDA has extended the provision of free meals (breakfast and lunch) to ALL students on days school is in session.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

The emotional well-being of students is of paramount importance. School psychologists, school social workers, school counselors and other staff are available to identify and support students and families who need assistance. Social and emotional support will continue to be provided to all students to not only offer emotional skill-building, but also to provide an opportunity for staff to have proactive check-ins with students to identify student social, emotional and mental health needs.