



West Irondequoit Central School District

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Reopening 2021-22 | Frequently Asked Questions

More information available at westirondequoit.org

Q. Will students/staff need to still complete a daily health screen?

A. No, but anyone who feels sick or has symptoms of infectious illness or COVID-19 should stay home.

Q. Will mask breaks be allowed?

A. Yes. They are defined as no longer than 15 minutes and distanced by 6 feet.

Q. Will students and staff be required to wear masks?

A. Yes. All students, staff and visitors must wear a face covering or mask over their nose and mouth in all buildings on campus, regardless of vaccination status. Outdoor masking remains optional.

Q. Why universal masking indoors?

A. It is overwhelmingly recommended by medical experts and has proven to be the most effective way to mitigate COVID-19 transmission and is mandated for schools by the New York State. We want students in school, full time for five days a week. Universal masking is the best way to ensure that.

Q. What if students arrive at school without a face covering/mask?

A. They will be provided with one. Students cannot attend a school without a mask. Gaiters, bandanas, scarves and masks with vents will not be sufficient.

Q. Will students have to wear face coverings on the bus to school?

A. Yes. The companies we contract with for transportation require students to wear face coverings/masks and the expectation is for 3 feet of distance, unless the students live in the same household. Students who live in the same house will be encouraged to sit together. Bus or vehicle windows should be open if doing so does not pose a safety risk.

Q. Will students need to be physically distanced?

A. Yes. We will require 3 feet of distance in classrooms and 6 feet, to every extent possible, while eating. Monroe County's transmission zone designation will determine the minimum expectation for physical distancing. As of Aug. 24, 2021, we are designated as in a "high" transmission zone, so 3 feet is expected. Current County levels can be monitored via the County's [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

Q. Will students be tested for COVID-19 in school?

A. No. We do not plan to conduct voluntary COVID-19 surveillance testing. However, we will monitor local transmission rates and assess, as needed. If testing resumes, parent/guardians will be notified in advance and permission will be necessary.

Q. Will COVID-19 vaccinations be required for students and staff?

A. We are not currently requiring vaccinations. We will monitor state and federal discussions related to vaccination mandates and will continue to keep families informed of any changes. The governor mentioned pursuing mandated vaccinations or weekly testing for school staff. There has been nothing regarding students.

Q. How will you accommodate students with serious or underlying health conditions?

A. Families with such students should contact their building principal, school nurse or school counselor as soon as possible to discuss solutions.

Q. Will students be able to eat in cafeterias?

A. Yes. We expect distancing in cafeterias/eating spaces to be 6 feet.

Q. How will you help accommodate the social-emotional needs of students?

A. School leaders, counselors, psychologists, social workers and teachers will do their best to provide a welcoming and supportive environment. We know the pandemic impacted children differently. Just like last school year, we will ask our staff to be vigilant.

Q. Will more attention be placed at elementary schools on handwashing instead of sanitizer use?

A. Yes. Particularly in the first few weeks of the school year, teachers and staff will focus on teaching best practices for washing and cleaning. Educating students and reminding them has proven to be effective.

Q. Will students who are symptomatic be required to be cleared by a doctor or show proof of a negative COVID-19 test before returning to school?

A. For protocols, please [refer to the flowcharts](#) provided by the Monroe County Department of Public Health at this link. To return to schools, symptomatic students/staff must provide signed documentation of an alternative diagnosis **OR** a negative COVID-19 test **OR** wait 10 days after first symptoms.

Q. Will spectators be allowed for large-scale events such as athletic games, plays, sing-a-longs, etc.?

A. For outdoor events, there are currently no spectator limitations (masks are optional). For indoor events, masking is required but there are currently no capacity restrictions. That is subject to change based on guidance.

Q. Will the district provide families with regular updates on COVID-19 cases in the district?

A. As was our practice in 2020-21, we will provide that information once school starts.

Q. What if schools must close for in-person instruction again due to COVID-19 or for any other reason?

A. More detailed information will be provided if that becomes necessary. However, we are confident based on what we all have been through since March 2020 that we can do it successfully.

Q. Are extra-curricular activities and field trips happening?

A. Yes. All activities must adhere to reopening requirements, including universal indoor masking. Instructional field trips during the instructional day are approved. All field trips are also subject to reopening requirements, including universal indoor masking.