



Onteora Central School District

# COVID-19

Informational Meetings

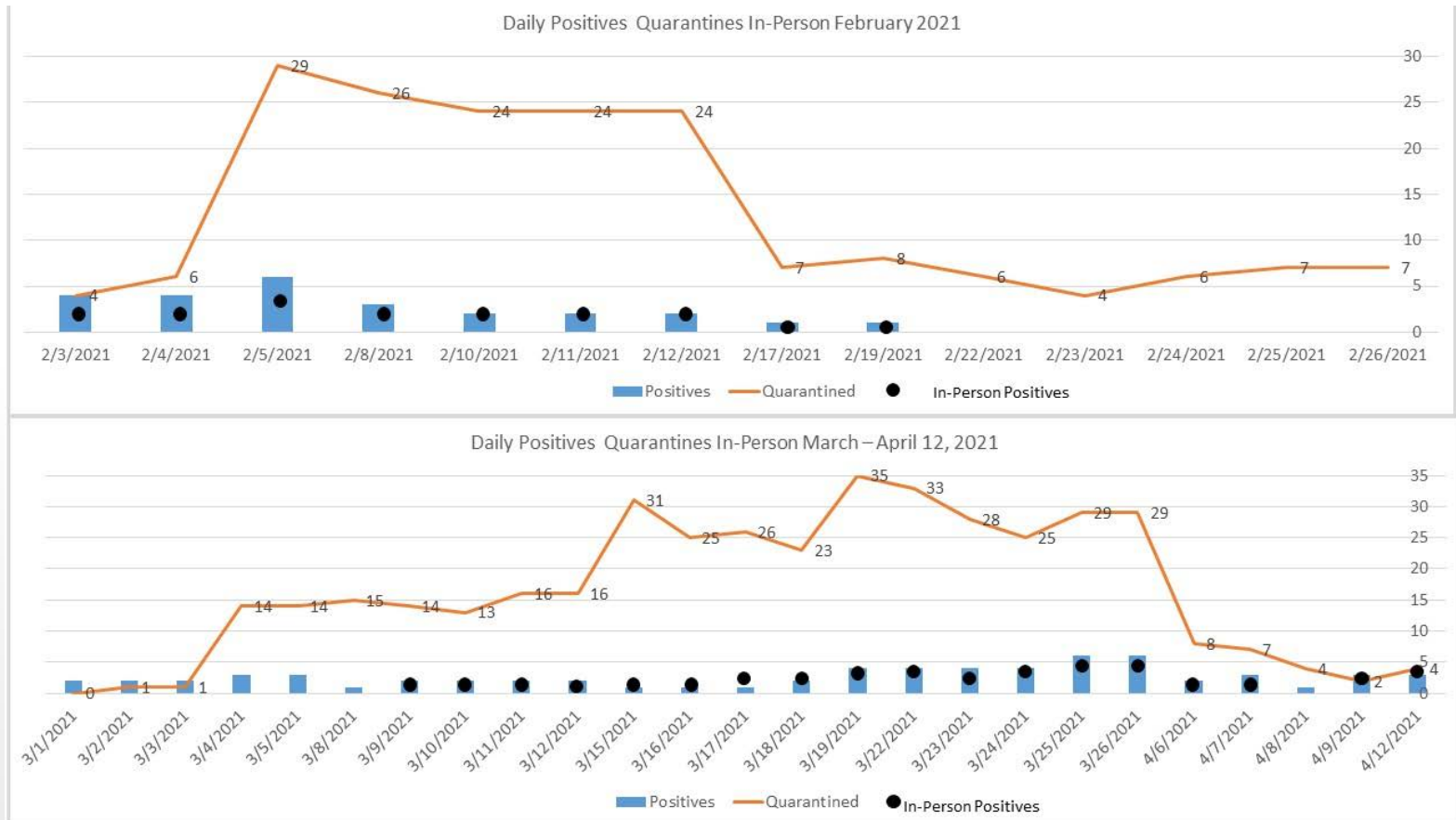
Board of Education

Communications Committee

April 13, 2021



# Onteora Central School District





## Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention

Updated Mar. 19, 2021

### Summary of Recent Changes

Updates as of March 19, 2021

- Revised physical distancing recommendations to reflect at least 3 feet between students in classrooms and provide clearer guidance when a greater distance (such as 6 feet) is recommended.
- Clarified that ventilation is a component of strategies to clean and maintain healthy facilities.
- ***Removed recommendation for physical barriers.***
- Clarified the role of community transmission levels in decision-making.
- Added guidance on interventions when clusters occur.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html>



## Onteora Central School District

### ***NYSDOH INTERIM GUIDANCE FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION AT PRE-K TO GRADE 12 SCHOOLS DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY***

*As of April 9, 2021*

**Cohorts:** Responsible Parties should “cohort” students, to the extent practicable, to limit potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus. Cohorts, particularly for younger students, are self-contained, preassigned groups of students with reasonable group size limits set forth by the Responsible Parties in their plans. Responsible Parties should enact measures to prevent intermingling between cohorts, to the extent possible (e.g., separation by appropriate physical distancing, particularly if there are multiple cohorts in one area). Responsible Parties should make reasonable efforts to ensure that cohorts are fixed – meaning contain the same students – for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Faculty may instruct more than one cohort so long as appropriate physical distancing is maintained. ***At some levels of community transmission, cohorting is recommended if a school is using less than six feet of physical distance in classrooms.*** Please refer to Table 2 in the CDC guidance for more detail.



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## CDC Guidance document:

### Physical distancing

- Between students in classrooms
  - In elementary schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart.<sup>1</sup>
  - In middle schools and high schools, students should be at least 3 feet apart in areas of low, moderate, or substantial community transmission. ***In areas of high community transmission, middle and high school students should be 6 feet apart if cohorting is not possible.***
- Maintain 6 feet of distance in the following settings:
  - Between adults (teachers and staff), and between adults and students, at all times in the school building. Several studies have found that transmission between staff is more common than transmission between students and staff, and among students, in schools.<sup>1</sup>
  - When masks cannot be worn, such as when eating.
  - During activities when increased exhalation occurs, such as singing, shouting, band, or sports and exercise. Move these activities outdoors or to large, well-ventilated space, when possible.
  - In common areas such as school lobbies and auditoriums.



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## CDC Guidance document:

### Physical distancing (cont'd)

- Use [cohorting](#), and maintain 6 feet of distance between cohorts where possible. Limit contact between cohorts. In areas of substantial (orange) and high (red) levels of community transmission, schools that use less than 6 feet between students in classrooms, cohorting is recommended, with at least 6 feet maintained between cohorts.
- Remove nonessential furniture and make other changes to classroom layouts to maximize distance between students.
- Face desks in the same direction, where possible.
- Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.



## Onteora Central School District

### **NYS DOH Updated Guidance (cont'd)**

CDC has developed four levels of indicators and threshold for community transmission of COVID-19. Please refer to Table 1 in the CDC guidance to see the measures. CDC also provides recommendations for physical distancing and cohorting for elementary, middle, and high schools at each level of transmission.

These recommendations are summarized below and are required to be adhered to by any responsible parties when implementing physical distancing of less than six feet in classrooms. Please refer to Table 2 in the CDC guidance for more detail.



## NYS DOH Updated Guidance (cont'd)

- In counties with low and moderate risk of transmission, elementary, middle, and high schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms.
- In counties with substantial risk of transmission, elementary, middle, and high schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and cohorting is recommended when possible.
- *In counties with high risk of transmission, elementary schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and cohorting is recommended when possible. However, in middle and high schools three feet between students in classrooms is recommended only when schools can use cohorting. When schools cannot maintain cohorting, middle and high schools must maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between students in classrooms.*

**The CDC no longer recommends physical barriers for mitigation where physical distancing cannot be maintained. A preferred approach is enhanced ventilation and air filtration to dilute and remove any SARS-Cov-2 particles from the air as described below and in the CDC school guidance.**





## Level of Community Transmission

Levels of community transmission is defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days  
(low, 0-9; moderate, 10-49; substantial, 50-99; high,  $\geq 100$ )

**and**

Percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days  
(low,  $< 5\%$ ; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high,  $\geq 10\%$ ).



# Onteora Central School District

## ULSTER COUNTY DAILY POSITIVITY RATE APRIL 12, 2021

Day	Date	Daily New Cases	Daily # of Tests Administered	Daily Positivity Rate
1	April 4, 2021	51	1294	3.9%
2	April 5, 2021	56	1113	5.0%
3	April 6, 2021	59	1247	4.7%
4	April 7, 2021	65	1913	3.4%
5	April 8, 2021	86	2299	3.7%
6	April 9, 2021	76	1872	4.1%
7	April 10, 2021	48	1829	2.6%
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>441</b>	11567	

<b>Total New Cases Per 100,000 Persons in the Past 7 Days*</b>	<b>248</b>
<b>Percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) that are Positive During the Past 7 Days</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

*\*Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 7 days is calculated by adding the number of new cases in the county in the last 7 days divided by the population in the county (177,577) and multiplying by 100,000.*



### **Current Circumstance:**

Elementary: maintaining six feet of physical distance in the majority of classrooms. Barriers have been ordered in order to support the return of additional students that would require a reduction in the physical distance. Most currently enrolled students have been in the learning model of their choice. New students and learning model change requests may require a reduction in physical distance in some cases.



### **Current Circumstance:**

Secondary: currently maintaining six feet of physical distance in the majority of classrooms. Barriers have been ordered in order to support the return of additional students that would require a reduction in the physical distance.

A number of requests for return to in-person learning has created a situation in which the physical distance must be decreased in order to honor the new requests.



## **Current Circumstance:**

Secondary:

Barriers have also been ordered for the cafeteria to support additional students. Tables have also been placed outside to provide the opportunity for students to eat lunch outside of the building to promote a healthier environment.



## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh\\_covid19\\_updatedgraduationguidance\\_041221.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh_covid19_updatedgraduationguidance_041221.pdf)

### **Virtual Celebrations:**

**Districts and schools can honor graduating students virtually.**

- Virtual ceremonies:
  - Host an online virtual ceremony and consider broadcasting live, if possible.
  - The ceremony can be similar to traditional graduation ceremonies in terms of commencement speakers and acknowledgements of awardees.
    - NOTE: Any in-person filming must adhere to current public health requirements, including limiting in-person gatherings to no more than 100 individuals indoors or 200 individuals outdoors in non-residential settings, ensuring social distancing is maintained, and wearing an acceptable face covering.



## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

### Videos:

- **Pre-record and make available a graduation ceremony, similar to a traditional graduation ceremony in terms of commencement speakers and acknowledgements of awardees.**
  - NOTE: Any in-person filming must adhere to current public health requirements, including limiting in-person gatherings to no more than 100 individuals indoors or 200 individuals outdoors in non-residential settings, ensuring social distancing is maintained, and wearing an acceptable face covering.
  - Ask graduates to send individual videos with short messages to their graduating classmates to include in the video.



## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

### **Celebrations that Maximize Social Distancing**

While virtual events are strongly encouraged, allowable in-person graduation events include:

- **Drive In Ceremonies**
- **Drive-through Ceremonies**
- **Individualized Ceremonies**





## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

### **Celebrations that Maintain Social Distancing**

Event organizers will need to determine the number of events based upon class size and available space to maintain social distancing protocol. At all events, regardless of location or scale, the organizers must ensure that attendees follow these precautions:

- **Contact Information for tracing**
- **Health Screening**
- **Social Distancing**
- **Face Coverings**
- **Controlled Movement**
  - **Students may walk across a stage or area and pose for a picture individually. All individuals must remain at least six feet apart at all times.**



# Onteora Central School District

## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

Outdoor Events	Capacity	Proof of Recent Negative Test or Immunization	Examples	Notes
<b>Small Scale</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Event Venue</li><li>● Catering Hall</li><li>● Performance Space</li></ul>	Up to 200 people or two attendees per student, up to 50% capacity	No, optional	Reception, Prom, Graduation	Outdoor social gathering limit is 200 people
<b>Medium Scale</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Event Venue</li><li>● Catering Hall</li><li>● Football Field</li></ul>	201 to 500 people, up to 33% capacity	<b>Yes, required</b>	Prom, Graduation, Commencement	Catering capacity is 50% in NYC, and 75% outside of NYC



## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

### **Considerations for Proms and Balls**

Activities traditionally associated with proms and balls, such as eating and dancing, present additional risks for viral transmission of COVID-19. To mitigate the risk of spread, proms and balls that involve eating and/or dancing, regardless of venue, must comply with the following restrictions in addition to the above venue and capacity restrictions, which shall take effect on June 1, 2021:

- Event organizers must ensure that attendees are not congregating, except when seated at their assigned table. Attendees should only be standing when necessary (e.g., enter/exit, restroom, use of staffed buffet), when essential to the event (e.g., entrance), or, when permitted under the below circumstances.
- Event organizers may provide cocktail receptions for attendees where standing is permitted with strict adherence to social distancing; provided, however, that attendees only remove their face coverings to consume food and beverages while seated. Further, attendees must not remove their face covering and must not consume food and beverage if members of different parties are within six feet.



## End of Year Celebrations

Guidance released April 12, 2021 (excerpt)

### **Considerations for Proms and Balls (cont'd)**

- Event organizers may permit live music, entertainment (e.g., DJ), and/or dancing within the following parameters, which will be revisited by the State as the public health condition continues to change:
  - Live music performers and other entertainers, particularly if unmasked or playing a wind instrument, must be separated from attendees by either 12 feet or an appropriate physical barrier.
  - Attendees may dance with members of their same party in designated and clearly marked dancing areas that allow for appropriate social distancing between members of different parties and any tables (i.e., at least, six feet apart). Attendees must wear face coverings while in the dancing area.
    - Event organizers should consider staggered intervals for food service at staffed buffets to allow attendees to maintain social distance while waiting in line.
    - Event organizers should consider serving any passed foods (e.g., hors d'oeuvres) in containers that limit touching of any shared surfaces (e.g., platters) by attendees.
    - Events are subject to inspection by State and local health authorities to ensure compliance with all provisions of State-issued guidance.



# Onteora Central School District

## Resources

### **Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (April 9, 2021)**

- » [https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/Pre-K%20to%20Grade%2012%20Schools%20MasterGuidance.pdf)

### **Updated Interim Guidance for End of Academic Year Celebrations During the COVID-19 State of Emergency (April 12, 2021)**

- » [https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh\\_covid19\\_updatedgraduationguidance\\_041221.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/04/doh_covid19_updatedgraduationguidance_041221.pdf)

### Ulster County COVID-19 Dashboard

- » <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/dashboard/>

### Onteora website showing history of COVID-19 cases, presumptive positive cases, and quarantines

- » <https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/about/2020-2021-school-year/letters-about-potential-confirmed-covid-cases>

### Onteora Website chart showing positive, quarantine, and in-person positive cases

- » <https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1610736998/onteorak12nyus/q8watauhvxnnh8z0nxzq/PositiveCasesw-inpersonquaran.pdf>



# Questions? Feedback?

Please utilize the Q & A function