

# ONTEORA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOICEVILLE, NEW YORK 12412

**Marystephanie Corsones**  
**Acting Superintendent of Schools**

(845) 657-6383  
(845) 657-8742 Fax

## **Onteora Central School District Addendum to COVID-19 Reopening Plan**

### **Introduction**

The Onteora Central School District reopened for the 2020-2021 school year in compliance with the guidance provided by NYSED and the NYSDOH in the fall of 2020. The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and school community is a priority for the Onteora Central School District. Regardless of the instructional model chosen by families, the education and mental health of all students is of the utmost importance.

The instructional model implemented for those students participating in the in-person learning model has been:

- Kindergarten through 6th grade: five days per week with two asynchronous days per month
- 7th grade through 12th grade: two days per week in person, two days per week remote, and one day per week asynchronous

Based on the revised guidance provided by the CDC and the NYSDOH, the following measures are in place as the Onteora Central School District moves forward to ensure continued safety of students, faculty and staff:

### **Masks**

- Face masks are required at all times, except for during meals.
- Students who are unable to physically tolerate a mask, including students for whom wearing a mask would impair their physical or mental health are not required to wear a mask, provided they obtain a medical note from their physician. An exemption can be approved by the Medical Director.
- Masks must be worn on school vehicles at all times.

### **Physical Distancing**

- Physical distancing between adults and students will remain six feet at all times. Physical distancing between students to be maintained at six feet when possible, but never to be less than three feet.
- In areas where physical distancing is reduced from six feet, additional mitigation strategies will be implemented such as increased ventilation and/or physical barriers.
- Cohorting of students in Kindergarten to 6th grade will continue to be utilized to the greatest degree possible.
- All students participating in activities that require projection of the voice (i.e., singing) or playing a wind instrument will remain six feet apart.
- Students participating in physical education classes will remain six feet apart.
- Students will be placed on school vehicles at the maximum available physical distance. Students from the same household may be seated together.

### **Ventilation**

- Classroom ventilation settings have been adjusted to provide for more frequent outside air exchange.
- Classroom ventilation systems filtration maintenance schedules have been adjusted for more frequent filter changes.
- School vehicles will be operated with windows open to the greatest extent possible.
- Classroom doors will remain open to the greatest extent possible.
- Classroom windows will be open to the greatest extent possible.

### **Lunch**

- Students will maintain six feet of physical distancing while eating. Students at the secondary level may either eat indoors in the cafeteria or an alternate location or outdoors, weather permitting.
- In elementary classrooms where the physical distancing must be less than six feet, students will be provided with an alternate setting for eating in which 6ft of physical distancing can be maintained.

### **Communication**

- The Ontario Central School District holds COVID-19 Community Forums twice each month to share information and plans with the community. These revised guidelines were shared with the community on April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, Principal messages are shared with families on a regular basis.

### **Modifications to Existing Instructional Plans**

#### **Woodstock, Phoenicia, and Bennett Elementary Schools**

The K-6 Elementary buildings have operated with in-person instruction five days per week for the entire 2020-2021 school year, while maintaining six feet of social distance space between students and adults. Students have been eating in classrooms and remaining in cohorts for specials and recess. This practice will continue. Modifications to social distancing will be considered on a case by case basis when needed to accommodate additional students returning to the in-person instructional model. In cases where six feet cannot be maintained, the largest possible amount of space will be utilized for social distancing. There may be instances where the social distancing in a particular classroom will be reduced to five feet or four feet in order to integrate additional students, but in no case will it be less than three feet. In cases where the social distancing is reduced in the classroom, students will be provided with a space in which to eat that can accommodate six feet of social distancing.

#### **Middle School /High School**

The secondary program has operated in a hybrid model with four cohorts of students participating in the in-person learning environment for the entire 2020-2021 school year. In the beginning of the year, the first phase of our hybrid plan was implemented and each cohort attended school one day per week. During the first few weeks of October, we transitioned to the next phase of our hybrid plan which allowed each cohort to receive in-person learning twice per week. In both of these phases, students always maintained six feet of distance in classrooms, the cafeteria, and common spaces. Twelve feet was maintained in the gymnasium during physical education classes. No in-person singing or playing of wind instruments was permitted.

The secondary program will now transition to the next phase, in which social distancing in classrooms may be reduced to three feet where necessary. All classrooms have been supplied with desk dividers (i.e., barriers) which will be used anytime that social distancing is less than 6 feet. Our goal is to maintain the maximum amount of distance between students in classrooms (no less than 3 feet.) As stated above, in all classrooms both window and doors will remain open allowing the enhanced ventilation which reflects the latest CDC guidelines. Also, in the building (in all classrooms) masks will be worn at all times except while eating. During lunch periods, an additional space (the gymnasium) will be set up to ensure that six feet is maintained during lunch periods. Social distancing in physical education classes, while indoors, will be reduced to six feet. Also, special masks that are designed for chorus and for the playing of wind instruments, and which are in compliance with the state's guidance, have been purchased. This will allow us to move chorus and band into larger spaces (e.g., auditorium) and allow students to practice while maintaining six feet distance between students.

Currently all enrolled students in the hybrid learning model will now have the opportunity to attend school in –person on Mondays, Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will remain a remote learning day for students. Hybrid students who prefer to maintain their current 2 days a week schedule, may continue to do so. Remote students may change in their learning preferences upon request. As we transition to the next phase of the secondary program we will continue to maintain a minimum of three (3) feet social distancing on our buses, students and drivers will continue to wear masks on the bus and windows will remain open for enhanced ventilation.

Reviewed by: Suellen Elmendorf KNSP

Date: 4-28-21

Suellen Elmendorf, Medical Director

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 4.28.21

Marystephanie Corsones, Acting Superintendent