



Onteora Central School District

COVID-19

Informational Meetings
Board of Education
Communications Committee
August 10, 2021



Summary of the Regulatory Guidance Received by Public Schools to Date



New York State Education Department

(July 29 & August 10, 2021 Memos)

- **CDC Guidance should be the basis for preparing for the 2021-22 school year.**
- **Until further Information is received from the Governor's Office or the NYSDOH – districts should use the guidance from both the CDC & the AAP.**
- **Schools should be open for in-person teaching & learning & students should be in schools** (as allowed by public health officials- Overall goals are to keep students & staff safe & healthy and to maximize in-person learning/ teaching.)



New York State Education Department

(July 29 & August 10, 2019 Memos)

- **If schools are required to close (due to a declared public health emergency) schools must pivot to 100% remote instruction.**
- **Schools are not required to provide online/ remote instruction, but districts may work with students & families if it is deemed in the best educational interest of the student.**



New York State Education Department

(July 29 & August 10, 2021 Memo)

- **When considering on-line/ remote learning capacity schools consider doing this through cooperative agreements with other school districts or through BOCES.**
- **NYSED issued a second letter to NYSDOH reiterating the need for specific guidance for school openings on August 5, 2021. In the August 10th letter, SED indicated that they are in the process of developing summary guidance.**



CDC Guidance

(August 4, 2021)



- **Students' safe return to in-person instruction is the priority for Fall 2021.**
- **Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy & promoting such can help schools safely return to in-person learning & other extra-curricular.**
- **In-door masking is required for all students, staff, teachers, & visitors (regardless of vaccination status.)**
- **Maintain 3 feet of social distancing between students within classrooms.**
- **If schools cannot fully re-open with 3 ft. schools should have multiple layers of other prevention strategies.**



CDC Guidance



(August 4, 2021)

- **Multiple layers of other prevention strategies include:**
 - **Screening testing**
 - **Ventilation**
 - **Handwashing & respiratory etiquette**
 - **Staying home when sick & getting tested**
 - **Contact Tracing**
 - **Quarantine & isolation**
 - **Cleaning & disinfection**
 - **Students, staff should stay home when they have any signs of infectious illness (seek testing & care from a healthcare provider)**



CDC Guidance



(August 4, 2021)

- **For schools with students under age 12 – Phoenicia, Woodstock, Bennett – implement layered prevention strategies.**
 - **Masking**
 - **3 feet social distancing**
 - **Screening testing**
 - **Ventilation**
 - **Handwashing & respiratory etiquette**
 - **Staying home when sick & getting tested**
 - **Contract Tracing**
 - **Quarantine & isolation**
 - **Cleaning & disinfection**
 - **Students, staff should stay home when they have any signs of infectious illness (seek testing & care from a healthcare provider)**



AAP Guidance



(July 18, 2021)

- **Same as CDC**
- **We have much more information about the virus at the opening of this school year than last.**
- **With return to school there needs to be continued focus on keeping all safe.**
- **With knowledge about low rates of in-school transmission when proper prevention measures are used, the benefits of in-person instruction outweigh the risks in almost all circumstances.**



AAP Guidance

(July 18, 2021)
(cont'd)



- **Remote learning highlighted the inequities in education, was detrimental to educational success of students of all ages & exacerbated the mental health crisis among children & adolescents.**
- **Everything must be done to keep all students in schools in-person.**
- **School districts must continue to take a multi-pronged approach / layers of protection which will make in-person learning safe & possible.**
- **Collaborating with Ulster County DOH & school superintendents to establish consistency to protect our community.**



COVID -19 Vaccination Clinic

Middle / High School Gyms

- The District is in the process of coordinating an on campus COVID-19 vaccination clinic for students aged 12 through 18, their families and the community – exact dates to be announced.
- For information on vaccinations through the County go to:

<https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/vaccine-resource-center/>



Operational Strategy for Opening of Schools 2021-22

(Through Phased Prevention)

What We Know

- **First day of school – September 8, 2021.**
- **Students are expected to attend five (5) days/ week.**
- **Goal/ first priority is the safety of our students and staff.**
- **Goal is to return to 100% in-person instruction.**
- **In case of school closures due to a declared public health emergency, our schools will pivot to 100% remote instruction.**

(NOTE: All school openings must follow the latest NYSDOH/UCDOH, NYSED, CDC, AAP guidance.)



Operational Strategy for Opening of Schools 2021-22

(Through Phased Prevention)

- **We will not be able to provide the same remote Onteora (specific hybrid/ remote-only option) as last year.**
- **While we are not planning to offer a fully remote/ hybrid option this year, if there are special circumstances that prevent a child from being able to return to school under the full in-person learning model we are exploring options through BOCES that will allow students to enroll in fully remote option.**

(NOTE: All school openings must follow the latest NYSDOH/UCDOH, NYSED, CDC, AAP guidance.)



Operational Strategy for Opening of Schools 2021-22

(Through Phased Prevention)

- **All students & staff in all locations will be required to always wear a mask while indoors regardless of vaccination status. (This represents no change from our present procedures.)**
- **We will maintain a minimum of 3 feet of social distance. Classrooms are currently configured with these guidelines (same as was in place per NYSED at conclusion of last school year.)**
- **We will continue to ask all students and staff to answer our pre-screening app and to show evidence of such completion as they enter our buildings.**
- **We will continue temperature checks.**

(NOTE: All school openings must follow the latest NYSDOH/UCDOH, NYSED, CDC, AAP guidance.)



Operational Strategy for Opening of Schools 2021-22

(Through Phased Prevention)

- **Students/ staff who are experiencing any symptoms of illness should not come to school or work. If symptoms develop during the school or workday the individual will be sent home.**
- **We are pausing extracurricular transportation for this upcoming school year. Students will still be transported to after-school childcare (same as last year with same protocols in place.)**
- **We may adjust these requirements as conditions change and as necessary based on any received guidance from NYSDOH or NYSED.**

(NOTE: All school openings must follow the latest NYSDOH/UCDOH, NYSED, CDC, AAP guidance.)



Operational Strategy for Opening of Schools 2021-22

(Through Phased Prevention)

What We Don't Know

- How we will configure school sports, spectatorships, extracurricular activities, school events, performing arts.
- We do not know what the State or County's criteria/threshold for positive cases will be for limiting building capacity or shutting down schools.

(NOTE: All school openings must follow the latest NYSDOH/UCDOH, NYSED, CDC, AAP guidance.)



Questions? Feedback?

Please utilize the Q & A function



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 (June 7, 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)

Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools from the CDC (August 5, 2021)

- » <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools from the AAP (July 18, 2021)

- » <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

Forthcoming Back to School Health and Safety Guidance (August 10, 2021)

- » <http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/coronavirus/forthcoming-back-to-school-health-and-safety-guidance-08-10-21.pdf>

Ulster County COVID-19 Dashboard

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

Superintendent's Letter on Reopening Schools in 2021 (August 6, 2021)

- » <https://www.onteora.k12.ny.us/about/2021-2022-school-year/superintendents-letter>