

# 2021-2022 School Reopening Handbook for Families

Haldane Central School District

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HALDANE  
CENTRAL SCHOOL  
DISTRICT

Updated September 9, 2021

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# Introduction

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## Letter from Dr. Benante

Dear Haldane Community,

Our planning for the 2021-2022 school year must consider the continued influence of COVID-19 on the health and safety of our community. Thus, the following goals have guided our preparations for the upcoming year:

1. To provide students with access to in-person instruction and extracurricular opportunities to the greatest extent possible
2. To implement health and safety standards based upon the local context, including community transmission rates, vaccination status, and local testing data

There is no doubt that our communities have begun to reclaim the return to pre-COVID routines. Yet, it is clear that we are at another inflection point in this pandemic. With that comes a responsibility to ensure that we are doing our best to maintain a standard for health and safety that makes Haldane's programs available to all of our students.

I anticipate that these plans will continue to evolve throughout this school year. Our staff is also committed to hearing your feedback, which we will seek after the first month of the school year.

It was a community effort to provide our students with such an outstanding experience last year, and it will take the same this year. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Philip Benante, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools



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# Health and Safety

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## Mitigation Strategies for Haldane's K-12 Campus

### **Physical Distancing**

A minimum of 3 feet of physical distancing will be implemented in all classrooms, and may be expanded based on the number of students and available space in each room.

### **Masks**

All students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear masks while indoors. Masks will not be required outdoors.

### **Outdoor Classrooms**

Each building will have defined outdoor learning spaces for use throughout the day. Teachers will be encouraged to utilize these spaces to the greatest extent possible, weather permitting. Tented spaces will provide additional covering.

### **Ventilation**

The district will continue the enhanced ventilation procedures implemented during the 2020-2021 school year. This included maximizing outdoor air supplied to the buildings via installed mechanical systems, installing MERV-13 rated filters and conducting routine filter changes, instituting a preventative maintenance program for mechanical systems, and ensuring proper operation of the District's Building Management System.

### **Transportation**

All students who access district transportation will be required to be masked and seated at least 3 feet apart on the bus.



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## COVID Testing for Students and Staff

The district plans to continue its COVID testing program for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals in coordination with the Putnam County Department of Health. Families are encouraged to provide testing consent by registering their child(ren) via [FamilyID](#).

## Contact Tracing and Quarantine Guidelines

Based on current guidance from the [New York State Department of Health](#) and the [Putnam County Department of Health](#), indoor mask wearing and appropriate distancing will virtually eliminate the need for individuals to quarantine following exposure, unless they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

***COVID-positive individuals may return to school 10 days after the onset of symptoms provided they are fever-free without medication and symptoms have improved.***

## Symptom Monitoring

The district no longer requires individuals to complete a Daily Health Screener. Families are encouraged to remain vigilant about COVID symptoms. Any individual experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, must remain at home until:

- 1) A negative PCR test is obtained, symptoms are improving, and the student is fever-free for at least 24 hours. Rapid tests and at-home tests cannot be accepted.  
**-OR-**
- 2) The student has remained at home for at least 10 days past the onset of symptoms, symptoms are improving, and the student is fever-free for at least 24 hours.  
**-OR-**
- 3) A note from a primary care physician is obtained, indicating an alternate diagnosis (e.g. strep throat, influenza) and that COVID-19 is not suspected.

Please provide this documentation to the attendance office prior to return to school.



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# School Nutrition and Food Service

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## Lunch Procedures

Students will continue to enjoy lunch in outdoor spaces, weather permitting. When students are unable to eat outdoors, lunch will be held in the cafeteria with desks spaced 6 feet apart. Additional spaces such as the auditorium or consumer science room may also be utilized, as needed.

## Breakfast and Lunch

Haldane has extended the Free School Meal Waiver through the 2021-2022 school year. This program provides eligibility for all children under the age of 19 to receive free breakfast and lunch, regardless of household income. This temporary program is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and will expire June 30, 2022.

## School Lunch Accounts

Second lunches and a la carte menu items are not included in this free meal program and will be charged via your child's lunch account. Cash will not be accepted. You may add funds to your child's account through [MySchoolBucks](#) or by submitting a check to the school cafeteria. Students will be asked to provide their name or PIN when they order lunch.



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## Remote Learning

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Remote learning will only be available for students who are required to quarantine following exposure to COVID-19.

The district remains prepared to provide fully remote instruction should a school-wide or district-wide closure be required.

Students in need of homebound instruction for other health-related absences should follow pre-COVID procedures for requesting support through their building principal.





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## Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

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Haldane will proceed with all fall sports as scheduled. Participants in high-risk sports may be required to submit to weekly COVID screenings in order to participate. Additional details will be shared with families in the coming weeks.

All other extracurricular activities will be required to follow masking and distancing guidelines as outlined in this handbook.



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# Plan Monitoring

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## Surveys for Staff and Families

The district anticipates that these guidelines will be reviewed and updated on a continual basis as local conditions change. Significant adjustments will be communicated to all community members through the district's electronic messaging system.

The district also intends to solicit feedback from families, students, faculty, and staff to ensure that health & safety strategies are effective and are appropriately balanced with student learning and experiences.