



Dr. Adele V. Pecora • Superintendent of Schools

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September 9, 2021

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Seaford Board of Education and the Superintendent of Seaford Schools appreciates your leadership and commitment to opening schools safely throughout the State of New York. Moreover, thank you for stating in a recent press conference that you will reassess mask wearing in areas where COVID numbers have dropped. This approach is similar to the reopening plan that our district devised in August.

Seaford’s Reopening of Schools Task Force worked diligently over the summer to come up with a proposal that would keep our children safe while largely returning their school days to pre-pandemic status. Our plan allows for masks to be optional when transmission rates were lower. For the past year, we have tracked the COVID Transmission Rates for Nassau County and using the Center for Disease Control metric for designating transmission rates as low, moderate, substantial, and high.

The premise guiding our plan was that universal masking was not necessary at all times and should be dependent upon the transmission rates in a county. When the transmission rate is high, masks would be required and when the transmission rates were low, moderate, or substantial, mask wearing would be optional. As evident in the chart below, 312 of our 357 cases occurred when the Nassau County transmission rate would have been designated as high.

Also, our data analysis for Nassau County (August 30, 2020 – August 20, 2021) revealed that if this standard was applied, out of a total of 356 days, our schools would have been mask optional for 157 days and masks would have been required for 199 days.

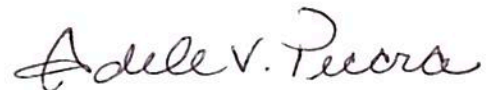
	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (per CDC)	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Number of Days in Each Band for Nassau County (Starting 8-30-2020 through 8-20-2021)	0	110	47	199
Number of Cases in Seaford UFSD in Each Band (Total Cases =337)	0	7	18	312

We are hopeful that you will work with local groups to devise a State plan that allows for differences in our counties. We encourage you to go through our plan and notice that it was developed with fidelity, and was in keeping with all safety protocols regarding the removal of masks when the transmission rates are lower. We are seeking approval to implement this plan immediately. Thank you for taking the time to examine our District's proposal, and we look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Sincerely,



Stacie Stark
President of Seaford Board of Education



Adele V. Pecora, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Seaford UFSD

Opening of School Plan

2021 - 2022

August 27, 2021

Introduction

With an eye toward keeping our students and staff safe, and in an effort to return to pre-COVID routines as soon as possible, the following routines and procedures will be put in place for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. All procedures will be assessed periodically by the **Opening of Schools Task Force** comprised of parents, staff, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members and adjusted as necessary. The district will:

- Establish safety protocols considering guidance issued by various health organizations, including but not limited to the CDC, the Departments of Health of NYS and Nassau County, the Office of the Governor, the State of NY, and the County Executive of Nassau County.
- Maintain communication with all local and state authorities.
- Work in every way possible to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while protecting the social and emotional and mental well-being of our students and staff.

Communication/Family and Community Engagement

The district remains committed to providing open and transparent communication. This plan will be posted on our district website at <https://www.seaford.k12.ny.us/> and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances.

The district will rely on the following methods of communication to communicate news, current requirements, and updates:

- Emails
- The District Website
- Shoutpoint Communications (voice and/or texts)

Delivery of Educational Services

- In Person Learning:

It is the belief of the Board of Education and District Administration that in-person education is the most effective way for students to learn. All students, K-12, will be in school and in person. Persons at serious risk will be informed of appropriate procedures to provide reasonable accommodations in school. Students will follow their regular schedules which include switching classes. Elementary students will leave their classrooms to attend special classes (Art, Music, Library, Physical Education).

- Remote Learning:

There will be no full-year remote instruction provided this school year. If a student is ill for an extended period of time, a doctor's note is required, and alternative accommodations will be determined as applicable.

Hallway Lockers

Students will be given the opportunity to use their hallway lockers.

Physical Education and Athletic Lockers

Students will be given the opportunity to use a physical education locker. Physical education lockers will be separated and designated by periods to allow for social distancing. In addition, student athletes will have access to athletic lockers.

Bathrooms

Students wishing to use the bathroom will need to check in with the lavatory monitor before entering. The number of students in a bathroom at a certain time will be monitored and regulated.

Lunch

We plan to use the cafeterias. Specific schedules, procedures, seating, routines, and locations will be determined by each individual building.

- There will be assigned seating.
- Seating charts will be maintained for possible contact tracing.
- Recess will be outdoors as much as possible.
- Teachers will eat lunch in designated lunchrooms and will socially distance as much as practicable.

Athletics, Clubs, and Extracurricular Activities

- It is the belief of the Board of Education and the District Administration that the resumption of extracurricular activities is vital to the social and emotional health and well-being of our students. It is the plan of the district to provide the normal complement of athletics and extracurricular activities for students as long as no State or County Agency prohibits them.
- The district will monitor sports, clubs, and activities which interact with outside agencies and/or facilities.

Face Coverings

The District has been made aware of the intention of the Governor of the State of NY to direct the Department of Health to mandate universal masking in schools. The Seaford Board of Education and Central Administration must follow all mandates from the NYS Department of Health and NYS Department of Education.

However, should local discretion of this protocol be allowed, the district will implement the following procedures:

As Nassau County has been identified by the CDC as a county of substantial spread, we will continue to evaluate the transmission rate. When the transmission rate is below 100 (0-99) masks will be optional and rates 100 or greater will require mask wearing. This threshold will be reevaluated periodically. The first review will be conducted by the Reopening of Schools Task Force the week of October 11th. As school begins, the following procedures will be in place:

- Masks are worn if the transmission number is 100 or higher and masks are optional if the transmission number is lower than 100.
- Masks are not required outdoors with proper distancing.

- Mask breaks will be more frequent and for longer duration.
- Face coverings must be worn by everyone in the hallways depending upon first bullet.
- Face coverings must be worn on buses.
- The district will obtain and maintain adequate supplies of disposable face coverings for school staff and for students who forget their face coverings.
- PPE used by school health professionals will be provided by the district if requested.
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled; they may not be shared and should be properly stored or discarded.
- Outside activities will be encouraged whenever possible.

Reported on the CDC website:

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

Health Checks, Including Temperature Screening

Per current guidance, daily health checks and temperature screening are no longer required for students and staff; however, outside visitors to the building will require a screening.

Social Distancing

The CDC recommends social distancing in schools and further recommends a distance of 3 feet, if possible. Therefore, the following procedures and protocols will be enacted:

- All employees and students shall practice social distancing, especially in common areas such as the cafeteria and in hallways.
- Classrooms and other instructional areas will attempt to allow for student social distancing (3 ft. when possible).
- All adults must maintain social distances of 6 ft.

Transportation

Regardless of the positivity rate in the community, all bus occupants must wear a face covering before entering buses and must keep them on during the entirety of the time they are on the bus, until such time as mandates for mass transportation have been rescinded by New York State. Additionally, the following protocols and procedures will continue to be implemented:

- PPE supplies will be available on all buses.

- When possible, bus windows will be kept open.
- Elementary students will have assigned seating and seating charts will be maintained to facilitate contact tracing if necessary.
- Buses will be loaded back to front where possible for secondary students.
- Buses will be fully cleaned and sanitized at the end of the A.M. and P.M. runs.
- Siblings may sit together; all other students will be socially distanced as much as possible.
- Whenever possible, a single driver will be assigned to the same bus and same routes to minimize contact.

Health and Hygiene – General Procedures

The District is committed to providing the safest learning environment for staff and students. Therefore,

- Staff will be directed to stay home if they are sick and parents/guardians should keep sick children at home.
- The district will continue to support training of district nurses. As of this date, all district Nurses as well as other key employees have completed the Coursera course "COVID-19 Contact Tracing" offered by Johns Hopkins University.
- General hygiene procedures will be reviewed with each employee, parent/guardian and student. Signage for handwashing, distancing recommendations wearing of face coverings will be posted in various areas of each school. Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available throughout all school buildings. Additionally:
 - All rooms will be managed using the following protocols and/or procedures:
 - Sanitizing supplies will be provided in each classroom.
 - Alternative spaces will be used to accommodate larger instructional groups if necessary.
 - Outdoor spaces will be used for instruction whenever possible.
 - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each night.
 - Hallways and Lavatories
 - Traffic patterns will be reviewed to promote distancing in hallways.
 - Frequent cleaning of bathrooms will be done throughout the day.
 - Building Cleaning
 - Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected each evening.
 - High touch areas of the buildings will be cleaned and disinfected frequently each day, including, but not limited to door handles, rails, counters, tabletops, bathroom fixtures, trash cans, water fountains and cash registers.
 - Staff will be provided with the appropriate PPE to perform cleaning and disinfecting tasks.
 - Cleaning and disinfection training will continue to be provided to all custodial employees.
 - Cleaning chemicals used in the workplace will comply to all OSHA standards and be safe to use in schools.
 - Office Spaces

- Workers will be discouraged from using other workers' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment whenever possible.
- Conference rooms will be disinfected on a daily basis at a minimum if they are used.
- Building Systems
 - Total airflow supply to occupied spaces will be increased, wherever possible.
 - Natural ventilation will be increased by opening windows if possible and safe to do so in order to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air when environmental conditions allow.
 - Building ventilation systems will be run during unoccupied times to maximize dilution ventilation when outside air temperatures permit.

Contact Tracing and Quarantining

Any instances of COVID infection will be reported to the Nassau County Department of Health and contact tracing will be conducted immediately. In addition, parents/guardians and staff will be notified when there is a confirmed case.

Quarantining is not required if:

- Students are all wearing masks and maintain social distance of 3' (6' for adults)
- Individual is vaccinated
- Individual had COVID within the last 90 days

In a mask-optional environment, students in a proximity of a confirmed case will be quarantined as per the Nassau County Department of Health.

Procedures for Suspected or Confirmed Cases

Unless additional guidance is provided by the Nassau County, the New York State Department of Health, or the New York State Education Department, the District will follow these procedures:

If symptoms are evident while school is in session:

- The school nurse will evaluate employees and students, who show symptoms of COVID-19 while in school. When a symptomatic person is sent to the school nurse or other designated personnel in each building, the following procedures will be initiated:
 - The person will be moved to a predetermined isolation room or area.
 - These areas will be closed off and not used before they can be cleaned and disinfected.
 - If the individual is a student, the parent/guardian will be contacted so that the child can be picked up as soon as possible.
 - Sick staff members and children will be advised not to return until they have one of the following: medical clearance from a health care provider, a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, and/or release from isolation (provided by the Department of Health).
 - Persons who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and to follow CDC guidance if symptoms

develop. If a person does not have symptoms, they will be instructed to follow appropriate CDC guidance for home quarantine.

In the event that the school is notified of an employee or student who was exposed to COVID-19 and are quarantined by the Department of Health, or if a family member has been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19 and/or is being isolated, the following procedure will be followed:

- The district will report the case to the Nassau County Department of Health and the district will follow all the protocols established by the Nassau County Department of Health including contact tracing according to the guidelines established.
- The custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers, and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected.

School Closures

The district will continue to prepare for situations in which one or more school buildings need to close due to a significant number of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19, or if it is directed to do so because there is a considerable regional increase in COVID-19 cases. The district may choose to modify operations in one or more schools prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will consult the Department of Health when making such decisions.

Arrival and Dismissal

Our goal is to provide safe and efficient access to our district's buildings and property. Each school will have their own specific procedures/locations for their arrivals/dismissals including:

- Using multiple entrances and exits for student arrivals and dismissals.
- Identifying specific locations for parents to drop off and pick up students.

Visitors to Schools

Only essential visitors, including parents/guardians, will be permitted into the school buildings. The following protocols and procedures will continue to be required of all visitors to schools:

- All visitors will be required to complete a health screening including temperature checks and are required to wear appropriate PPE before entering the building.
- Visitors will submit their license to school personnel who will verify the name with the appointment log and ask the visitor to affix a disposable visitor badge to their outermost garment.

Item Drop off Procedures

In order to limit the amount of contact tracing within a school building, procedures for the drop off of items during the school day will be limited and controlled. When necessary, these are the procedures that will be followed:

- The drop off of items (such as lunches, instruments, books, etc.) must be coordinated with the main office. Items can be left in the drop-off areas at the entrances of our buildings.
- Medication drop offs must be coordinated with the Health Office of the building.

- A designated drop off area will be established for all deliveries (ex, FedEx, UPS) to limit the number of visitors entering the buildings.

Safety Drills

Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency; therefore, all state required drills will be conducted. Steps will be taken to minimize the risk of spreading infection while conducting drills by maintaining social distancing wherever practicable. All schools will ensure that students and staff are receiving instruction in emergency procedures and participating in drills when they are in attendance.