

**Waterloo Central School District
Reopening to Diminish Risk to Public Health
2021-22**

This plan is subject to change with limited notice based on State, regional, and local circumstances.

This plan is effective September 7, 2021, at which time all Waterloo students will fully return to in-person learning. The plan is applicable to all Waterloo events and activities including the regular school day, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

In 2020-21, Waterloo had zero transmissions of COVID-19 in the school setting and remained open for the school year. As such, this plan was created to maximize opportunity for in-person learning, reduce the risk of school closure, and stop the spread of COVID-19. Our schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this plan emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.

This plan was reviewed by Seneca County Department of Health and the School District's Physician, Dr. Grace Freier. The district in conjunction with these entities will monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to monitor this plan and adjust as necessary.

CDC Strategies	School Implementation
Vaccination	<p>Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Vaccination is not required for school attendance. Vaccination, however, has a significant impact on COVID transmission. *As such, the health and safety measures in this plan will apply to everyone regardless of their vaccination status.</p> <p>For CDC transmission level designations at substantial and/or high, school buildings will initiate voluntary testing in concert with Seneca County Department of Health. Testing would only be performed with parental consent.</p> <p>*Those who are vaccinated can still contract COVID-19 but symptoms tend to be mild and significantly diminish severe illness, hospitalization and death.</p>

Consistent and correct
mask use

Minimum Expectations for Indoors*

Given the new information from the CDC (July 27, 2021), "to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others" masks are universally required. Levels of transmission are designated by the CDC and any change in mask requirements will be made in consultation with the Seneca County Department of Health.

Masking is required indoors (except for meals). Mask breaks will be taken outside. In the case of inclement weather, mask breaks with students socially distanced at 6' will occur inside.

When the CDC identifies the transmission level of low for a consistent period of time, masks will be encouraged but not required as long as physical distance is ensured.

Outdoors

Masks are not required for vaccinated individuals.

Masks are not required but recommended for unvaccinated people.

Masks will not be required during recess as long as social distancing is maintained. A maximum of two classes at a time will be on the playground. This is subject to change based on local rates of transmission.

Transportation

Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses at all times. Students must be wearing a face covering at the bus stop at the time of boarding the school bus. Students who do not have a face covering will not be denied transportation; they should wait until other students have boarded and will immediately be given a face covering by the bus driver. In order to ride the bus, all students must wear a face covering for the duration of the time aboard the bus. Students without authorized accommodations who refuse to wear a face covering will not be able to board the bus and the child will remain in the custody of the parent.

Parents are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses. Parents are to communicate transportation requests/intentions through the transportation form distributed to all parents.

Parents are encouraged to supply face coverings for their child's use in the school setting. Employees are encouraged to supply a face covering for their use. The school will supply a face covering to any student who does not have one. PPE will be available to all staff members.

*Changes to protocols for level designations will only be modified after consultation with the Seneca County Department of Health.

Physical Distancing	<p>Minimum Expectation for all subject areas* 3' minimum distancing requirement</p> <p>For students having meals in cafeterias, distancing will be implemented to the extent possible. At the elementary level, each table will be a pod that would be subject to quarantine if deemed a close contact. Seating charts will be created for each table during each lunch period. Students will eat in the cafeteria socially distanced or in classrooms.</p> <p>Instruction is considered a core activity. As such, physical distancing may be diminished for shorter intervals of core activities. Seating charts will be created for each class during each period of instruction.</p> <p>In PE class, students will remain 6' apart during physical activity and they do not need to wear a mask.</p> <p>In band and chorus masks should be utilized. Students should be socially distanced 6'.</p> <p>Large group assemblies where social distancing can be maintained are permissible. (In cases where transmission is substantial or high, indoor occupancy by outside agencies may not be permitted or will be limited to three feet distance.)</p>
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<p>All students and staff will be trained to follow COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face covering wearing, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene.</p> <p>Hand hygiene stations will be maintained, including handwashing with soap, running water, and disposable paper towels, as well as an alcohol-based sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not feasible.</p> <p>Should a person become ill and exhibit symptoms, they will be separated from others by at least 6' until they are picked up to leave.</p>

Ventilation	<p>Bus windows and roof hatches will be opened weather permitting</p> <p>Ventilation with fresh outside air shall be provided in all occupied spaces. The Director of Facilities or designee shall ensure that all occupied spaces will have an operable system to bring outside air into the space and that those systems are maintained to operate in accordance with the original design.</p>
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<p>Staying home when sick and getting tested</p>	<p>Parent submission of a daily health screen is not required. The district will send a regular reminder for parents and staff to screen at home for symptoms. Parents are responsible for screening student health every day prior to a student boarding a school bus or entering a building. The screening must include a temperature check and assessment of illness-related symptoms. Parents allowing a child to board a school bus or enter the school building for the instructional program are verifying that a health screen has been completed and that the child has not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowingly been in close or proximate contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 or who has or had symptoms of COVID-19; ● Tested positive through a diagnostic test for COVID-19 in the past 14 days; ● Experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100°F, in the past 14 days; and/or ● Travelled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per New York State Travel Advisories.
<p>Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine*</p>	<p>Screening Testing People who are fully vaccinated do not need to participate in screening testing and do not need to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. A vaccinated individual who develops symptoms would need to immediately mask for 14 days or until tested prior to being released.</p> <p>Contact Tracing and Positive Results There will be a contact tracing protocol administered by Seneca County Department of Health.</p> <p>The School Nurse will immediately notify the state and local health department about any case of diagnostic test results that are positive for COVID-19.</p>

	<p>The Seneca County Department of Health will not disclose personal information for those testing positive for COVID-19. Relevant parties will be notified appropriately by the Seneca County DOH.</p> <p>Students who screen positive for COVID-19 symptoms can only return to the in-person learning environment when approved by school medical authorities and in accordance with the protocols of the local health department. Any return-to-learn will require signed documentation from a healthcare provider that includes an evaluation, negative COVID-19 testing, and symptom resolution/release from isolation.</p> <p>In order to limit contacts and reduce risk of transmission in the school, visitors in buildings will continue to be substantially limited. Parents should continue to use designated drop-off/pick up procedures for each building and avoid entering the buildings.</p> <p>*The likelihood of having to quarantine is substantially diminished for those who are vaccinated, wear a mask, and physically distance.</p>
<p>Cleaning and disinfection</p>	<p>The district will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the CDC.</p>
<p>Instructional Model</p>	<p>Per the NYS Education Department, the district is expected to prioritize a return for all students to in-person instruction.</p> <p>At the elementary level, to the greatest extent possible, students will remain in cohorts. There will be times where students move in and out of cohorts.</p> <p>Based on the current schedule at the secondary level, cohorting students will not occur.</p> <p>All school buildings are staffed with school counselors, school psychologists, and community agency social workers/counselors. Students will be supported by a professional in the counseling office or other trained staff members. Staff member training will be offered by the Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) team regarding the support of students during and after the COVID-19 public health emergency. SEL teams with respective representatives are in place to employ existing practices for coping and resilience skills.</p>

Student Absence from In-Person Instruction Due to Illness

When your child is absent from school for illness or any other reason, parents or guardians must notify the School Health Office. Please remember to send in a written note of explanation when your child returns to school.

Absence from in-person learning does not make a student eligible for remote learning. Missed work can be requested from the classroom teacher. For students in grades 6-12, call the Counseling Office prior to 10:00 AM to request missed work. For students in grades UPK-5, call the child's teacher for missed work.

School Closure

Should a complete school closure be warranted as determined by the local health department in consultation with the school superintendent and district's medical director, the identified communication protocols will be used to provide information to families as aligned to the District's existing safety and emergency plans. A transition to fully remote learning will require at least 3 days and no more than 5 days of planning time before remote instruction may begin.

Homeschooling (home instruction)

Homeschooling is governed by the regulations of the New York State Education Department. Parents wishing to homeschool a child must follow the published guidelines, including the submission of an intent to homeschool and an Individualized Home Instruction Plan (IHIP). The Stated Education Department has published a Q&A document to support parents in the homeschooling process at:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/homeinstruction/homeschoolingganda.html>.

Parents must submit a letter of intent to homeschool according to the established timeframe. Letters of intent are to be emailed to: Heather Elisofon, District Registrar heather.elisofon@waterloocsd.org or by mail: 109 Washington Street Waterloo, NY 13165. Once the original letter of intent has been received, a school official will contact the family.

APPENDIX A

How To Wear Cloth Face Coverings

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-wear-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Wear your Face Covering Correctly

- Wash your hands before putting on your face covering
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Try to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Make sure you can breathe easily



Wear a Face Covering to Protect Others

- Wear a face covering that covers your nose and mouth to help protect others in case you're infected with COVID-19 but don't have symptoms
- Wear a face covering in public settings when around people who don't live in your household, especially when it may be difficult for you to stay three feet apart
- Don't put the face covering around your neck or up on your forehead
- Don't touch the face covering, and, if you do, wash your hands or use hand sanitizer to disinfect

Follow Everyday Health Habits

- Stay at least 3 feet away from others
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Wash your hands often, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds each time
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available



Take Off Your Cloth Face Covering Carefully, When You're Home

- Untie the strings behind your head or stretch the ear loops
- Handle only by the ear loops or ties
- Fold outside corners together
- Place covering in the washing machine (learn more about how to wash cloth face coverings)
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth when removing and wash hands immediately after removing.