



Bedford Central School District
Inspiring and Challenging Our Students

BCSD 2021-22

Opening of Schools Update

Board of Education
August 18, 2021





Bedford Central School District
Inspiring and Challenging Our Students

Important Reminder:

The information in this presentation reflects the most current guidance and data.

This is a “living document” and we will continue to provide the most timely information to our community. Plans are subject to change per state or federal guidance and/or if conditions present locally that require us to “pivot” as necessary.



Overview of School Plans

- Schools will be **open**, everyday, for on-site learning for all students (K-12)
- **Regular schedule** for all schools
- **No** staggered arrival and dismissal procedures
- Transportation will run with **normal bus routes**
- Social distancing of **at least 3 feet** wherever possible
- **Masks** to be worn indoors regardless of vaccination status (*Exception: per the CDC, reasonable accommodations for individuals... "who are unable to wear **and/or** have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability"*).
- **Daily screeners** will no longer be used
- **Sunday message** to all families and staff reiterating important safety protocols and procedures



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Current Guidance & Updates

as of August 17, 2021



Return to Full In-Person Instruction



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“Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.” - *Center for Disease Control*

“The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to keep students and staff healthy and safe, be responsive to student needs, and maximize in-person teaching and learning.” - *NYS Dept. of Education Health & Safety Guide, 8/12/2021*



NYS Department of Education

Health & Safety Guide for 2021-22 School Year

“The CDC recommends schools should consider many factors as they prepare for the 2021-2022 school year... The CDC guidance identifies multiple **prevention strategies** in a **layered approach** to promote safer in-person learning and care. This is particularly significant due to the fact that students under age 12 cannot receive the vaccine at this time. These strategies include but are not limited to:

- Promoting vaccinations;
- Consistent and correct use of masks;
- Physical distancing;
- Surveillance COVID testing;
- Improved ventilation;
- Proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- Staying home when sick and getting tested;
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine;
- Routine cleaning with disinfection.”

Indoor Learning:

- Individual student work spaces 3 feet apart where possible
- Students will transition to specials & MS/HS classes
- Frequent disinfecting of high-touch surfaces
- Maintaining smaller elementary class sizes to allow full classes to meet in one classroom and comply with physical distancing guidelines
- Large group gatherings in spaces that allow for distancing between students

Outdoor Learning:

- Class assemblies & large gatherings outdoors, weather permitting
- Snacks and meals outdoors, weather permitting
- Physical Education
- Instrumental Music
- Mask Breaks
- Outdoor classes whenever possible

Schedules:

- All regular schedules will resume
- Normal pick-up/drop-off times
- All after-school programs, including Fall Sports (Varsity, JV, Modified) resume

Reminder:

- FLMS students' arrival no later than 7:45 a.m.
- Homebase begins at 7:50 a.m.

Visitors:

All visitors must be scheduled in advance and masked indoors



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Health & Safety Update

August 18, 2021



Indoor Mask Requirement

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention

“CDC recommends **universal indoor masking** for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.”

NYS DOE Health & Safety Guide:

“The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend **universal indoor masking** for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels.”

American Academy of Pediatrics recommends universal masking in school at this time for the following reasons:

- a significant portion of the student population is not eligible for vaccination
- protection of unvaccinated students from COVID-19 and to reduce transmission
- lack of a system to monitor vaccine status among students, teachers and staff
- potential difficulty in monitoring or enforcing mask policies for those who are not vaccinated; in the absence of schools being able to conduct this monitoring, universal masking is the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status
- possibility of low vaccination uptake within the surrounding school community
- continued concerns for variants that are more easily spread among children, adolescents, and adults

Additional COVID Mitigation Strategies:



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- **Vaccination** - The BCSD will continue to encourage students and staff to become vaccinated, as appropriate and available. We will be available to the WCDOH to provide pop-up vaccine sites on our campuses.
- **Social Distancing** - The CDC recommends that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing, to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
- **COVID Testing** - The BCSD could partner with the Westchester County Department of Health in developing program of testing of students, faculty and staff.

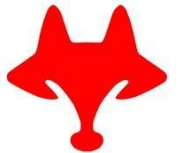


Additional COVID Mitigation Strategies: (cont'd)



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- **Contact Tracing** - We are still required to report positive cases to the WCDOH and conduct contact tracing
- **Quarantine** - Students and staff who are masked and within 3-6 feet of a positive COVID-19 individual, who is also masked, WILL NOT be required to quarantine.
- **Stay Home if Symptomatic** - Students and school personnel should stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19 symptoms, and get tested.



COVID-19 Testing



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- Westchester County is offering a uniform testing package to all public K-12 schools.
- Districts are encouraged to OPT IN to this County program.
- There will be no cost to the district, schools, or individuals for testing.
- Each participating district and school within the district must appoint a liaison to coordinate program specifics with the WCDOH and the testing vendor.
- The program will consist of one-time gateway testing of all students and staff the first week of school. (parental consent required)

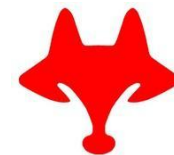


COVID-19 Testing (cont'd)



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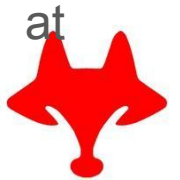
- Weekly surveillance/screening testing will continue through the start of the winter break, testing 20% of all students and staff (consent required).
- The test is a saliva-based PCR test. Tests would be sent home with students and returned to school for collection and transport to the appropriate lab.
- Results would be provided in 24 hours.
- Positive cases are identified, isolated and undergo contact tracing.
- Participation is voluntary.



Transportation



- Pursuant to CDC's order, **physical distancing is NOT required** on school buses.
- Passengers and drivers must **wear a mask** on school buses regardless of vaccination status.
- **Seating charts** of students on buses will be maintained. Children from the same household will be encouraged to share seats on bus.
- Transportation letters will be sent home prior to opening of school.
- All after-school programs will resume and late buses will be resume at FLMS and FLHS.
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of school buses will continue.



Layered Prevention Strategies



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- **Ventilation:** MERV-13 filters will continue to be used & replaced regularly in all classrooms
- Routine **cleaning and disinfection**
- Consistent and correct use of **masks**
- **Social distancing** to the greatest extent possible
- **Handwashing** and respiratory etiquette enforced
- Weekly email reminders to **stay home when sick**
 - **NOTE:** Daily health screeners will NOT be required
- **Contact tracing** in combination with isolation and quarantine will continue as we did in the spring 2021



Layered Prevention Strategies



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Food Service:

- Students will maintain at least 6 feet while eating wherever possible.
- If less than 6-feet, barriers will be used to mitigate transmission.
- Students will wear masks in the cafeteria when not eating.
- Weather permitting, eating outdoors will be encouraged.
- Hand hygiene procedures will be in place
- Breakfast and lunch will be available to all students



Still Planning...



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- Back to School Night - virtual or in-person
- Parent meetings - virtual or in-person
- Notification process to BCSD Community if there is a positive case
- Attendance and protocols at large outdoor and indoor events
- Accommodation of visitors to our schools
- Support for students absent from school due to quarantine and/or positive cases
- Field Trips
- Transportation related issues, i.e. playdates



Opportunities to Connect



Superintendent Update to Community - July 27, 2021

Meeting with Parent Presidents - August 17, 2021

BOE Presentation - August 18, 2021

BCSD Virtual Town Hall Meetings:

- Parent Town Halls - August 26, 2021 - 9:30 AM; 7:00 PM
- Staff Town Hall - August 26, 2021- 3:00 PM

Principal Meetings - Dates TBD

Fall Sports Parent Town Hall - Date TBD

2021-22 School Year BEGINS In-Person



August 23: Fall Sports Season Begins

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August 23 - 24: BCSD Leadership Retreat

August 25 - 26: New Teacher Orientation

August 30 - 31: Superintendent's Conference Days

August 31, 2021: Kindergarten Meet and Greet

September 1, 2021: Grades 6 and 9 Orientation (AM)

September 1, 2021: Welcome Back to All, K-12

