



2021-2022 COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols

The Schenectady City School District planning for a full return to school in September. To responsibly mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while providing in-person teaching and learning, the district will use a tiered mitigation approach. This will include requiring facemasks, social distancing, facility cleaning and disinfecting, and a set of protocols as response to illness, contact tracing and quarantining. The following is based on guidelines and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Schenectady County Department of Health, and the New York State Education Department (NYSED).

The following continuum of protections will be implemented based on the [community transmission rate](#), ranging from low to high. The following strategies have proven to be successful in creating a safe school environment. Our strategy is fluid and can change depending on circumstances. We will continue to review and update as needed.

Per Board Policy 5691: Communicable Diseases - The Superintendent will ensure that there are regulations and procedures for dealing with communicable diseases, including but not limited to pandemic flu, in ways that protect the health of both students and staff while minimizing the disruption of the education process.

CDC Levels of Community Transmission

Indicator: If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
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 ¹ that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

CDCs Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

By Order of the CDC, students and staff must wear masks at all times while on school buses. Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>

Schenectady City School District

Mitigation Protocols

Mitigation Protocol		Low Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
1	COVID-19 Vaccines	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
2	COVID-19 Testing	No Surveillance Testing	No Surveillance Testing	Surveillance Testing at 10% per week	Surveillance Testing at 20% per week
3	Facemasks (Indoors)	Encouraged for all when 3 feet distancing cannot be met Required for unvaccinated adults	Recommended for all when 3 feet distancing cannot be consistently met	Required by all when 3 feet cannot be met Regular Mask Breaks	Required by all at all times Regular Mask Breaks
4	Monitoring Community and School-Based Transmission	Ongoing	Ongoing Weekly benchmark	Ongoing Weekly benchmark	Ongoing Weekly benchmark
5	Social Distancing (indoors) Physical distancing should be implemented to the extent possible but should not exclude students from in-person learning to meet a minimum distance requirement.	3 feet distancing encouraged	3 feet distancing required, or masks required when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	3 feet distancing, or masks required when 3 feet distancing cannot be met	3 feet distancing <u>and</u> masks required
6	School Visitors	No Restrictions	Minimal Restrictions	Moderate Restrictions No unnecessary visitors Limited "outside group" use of school facilities	Strict Restrictions No visitors No "outside group" use of school facilities
7	Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Encouraged and Expected	Encouraged and Expected	Strongly Encouraged and Expected	Strongly Encouraged and Expected
8	Contact Tracing and Quarantine District shall engage in contact tracing with DOH and follow	3-6 feet close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes For Fully	3-6 feet close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes For Fully	3-6 feet close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes For Fully	3-6 feet close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes For Fully

	<p>applicable DOH protocols</p>	<p>Vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive do not need to quarantine. They can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. <p>For Unvaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive should be isolated/quarantined. <p>Consult with Schenectady County DOH</p>	<p>Vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive do not need to quarantine. They can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. <p>For Unvaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive should be isolated/quarantined. <p>Consult with Schenectady County DOH</p>	<p>Vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive do not need to quarantine. They can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. <p>For Unvaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive should be isolated/quarantined. <p>Consult with Schenectady County DOH</p>	<p>Vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinated, asymptomatic individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive do not need to quarantine. They can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities. Fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure, regardless of whether they have symptoms. <p>For Unvaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 positive should be isolated/quarantined. <p>Consult with Schenectady County DOH</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Staying Home When Sick (Staff and Students)</p>	<p>All staff and students are instructed to stay home when any signs of illness</p>	<p>All staff and students are instructed to stay home when any signs of illness</p>	<p>All staff and students are instructed to stay home when any signs of illness</p>	<p>All staff and students are instructed to stay home when any signs of illness</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Return to School/Work Protocols (following illness)</p>	<p>Following illness, student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:</p> <p>10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND</p>	<p>Following illness, student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:</p> <p>10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND</p>	<p>Following illness, student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:</p> <p>10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND</p>	<p>Following illness, student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met:</p> <p>10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND</p>

		<p>Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND</p> <p>Symptoms have improved.</p> <p>Return to school according to Schenectady County DOH or from the school physician.</p>	<p>Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND</p> <p>Symptoms have improved.</p> <p>Return to school according to Schenectady County DOH or from the school physician..</p>	<p>Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND</p> <p>Symptoms have improved.</p> <p>Return to school according to Schenectady County DOH or from the school physician..</p>	<p>Fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND</p> <p>Symptoms have improved.</p> <p>Return to school according to Schenectady County DOH or from the school physician.</p>
12	Cleaning and Disinfection	Daily Routine Cleaning	<p>Daily Routine Cleaning</p> <p>Enhanced Disinfection of High-Touch Surfaces</p>	<p>Daily Routine Cleaning</p> <p>Enhanced Disinfection of Moderate & High-Touch Surfaces</p>	Daily Routine Cleaning
13	Cafeteria	<p>3 feet social distancing encouraged</p> <p>Mask encouraged when 3 feet cannot be met and not eating</p>	<p>3 feet social distancing where feasible</p> <p>Mask recommended when 3 feet cannot be met and not eating</p> <p>Food service staff must wear masks at all times during meal preparation and serving</p>	<p>Mask required when not eating</p> <p>When masks are removed for eating or drinking, to the extent possible, 6 feet spacing is recommended.</p> <p>Additional spaces will be used as much as possible.</p> <p>Food service staff must wear masks at all times during meal preparation and serving</p>	<p>Mask required when not eating</p> <p>When masks are removed for eating or drinking, to the extent possible, 6 feet spacing is recommended.</p> <p>Additional spaces will be used as much as possible.</p> <p>Food service staff must wear masks at all times during meal preparation and serving</p>
14	Recess and Physical Education (Outdoors)	<p>3 feet distancing encouraged</p> <p>Mask encouraged</p> <p>Cohorting whenever possible</p>	<p>3 feet distancing encouraged</p> <p>Mask encouraged</p> <p>Cohorting whenever possible</p>	<p>Mask encouraged in crowded setting when 3 feet distancing cannot be met</p> <p>Cohorting whenever possible</p> <p>Unvaccinated should wear mask in crowded settings</p>	<p>Mask encouraged in crowded setting when 3 feet distancing cannot be met</p> <p>Cohorting whenever possible</p> <p>Unvaccinated should wear mask in crowded settings</p>
15	Ventilation and Air Quality	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)

16	Bus Transportation	Mask required at all times Bus windows cracked open or open	Mask required at all times Bus windows cracked open or open	Mask required at all times Bus windows cracked open or open	Mask required at all times Bus windows cracked open or open
17	High Risk Activities Indoors	No Restrictions	Mask recommended when 3 feet distancing cannot be met 3 feet social distancing when feasible Limited spectators Weekly Surveillance Rapid (10%) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports	Masks for participants and spectators 3' social distancing for spectators 4 spectators per participant Weekly Surveillance Rapid (20%) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports	Masks for participants and spectators 3' social distancing 4 spectators per participant. Weekly Surveillance Rapid (all) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports
18	High Risk Outdoors	No Restrictions	Mask recommended when 3 feet social distancing cannot be met when not actively participating 3 feet distancing whenever feasible Weekly Surveillance Rapid (10%) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports	Masks encouraged for participants and spectators 3' social distancing for spectators Limited spectators Weekly Surveillance Rapid (20%) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports	4 spectators per participants 3' social distancing for spectators unless they are in the same family. Weekly Surveillance Rapid (all) Testing for unvaccinated students in high-risk sports
19	Music	No Restrictions	Mask recommended when 3 feet social distancing cannot be met when not actively participating 3-feet social distancing whenever feasible Safeguards such as bell covers and/or bags or woodwinds and brass	Mask required at all times 3-feet distancing 2 spectators per participant Activities will take place outdoor whenever possible Safeguards such as bell covers and/or bags or woodwinds and brass	Mask must be worn at all times including instrument masks while playing 6-feet distancing will be maintained during activities such as singing, band and during any activity when increased exhalation occurs Activities will take place outdoor whenever possible Healthy hygiene practice including handwashing, sanitizing and preventing

					<p>uncontrolled spit valve release</p> <p>Bell covers and/or bags will be used for woodwinds and brass</p>
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