



**Tonawanda City School District**

*Welcome to Warrior Nation*

## **NYS Department of Health**

### **Updated Guidance UPK to Grade 12 Schools**

**Riverview Elementary (PreK-3): Claudia Panaro, Principal**

**Mullen Elementary (K-3): Diana Nigro, Principal**

**Fletcher Elementary (4th & 5th): Michelle Siebert, Principal**



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## **New Guidance**

- To ensure equity in education, Responsible Parties should prioritize efforts to return all students to in-person instruction
- Responsible Parties should “cohort” students, to the extent practicable, to limit potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus
- Cohorts are self-contained, pre-assigned groups of students with reasonable group size limits set forth by the Responsible Parties in their plans



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## New Guidance

- Responsible Parties must ensure that appropriate physical distancing is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds, inclusive of students, faculty, and staff, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., instruction, moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household
- Responsible Parties may reduce physical distancing requirements to a minimum of **three feet between students in classroom settings**, subject to adherence to certain mitigation measures herein



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## **New Guidance**

- Due to evidence that transmission risk ranges by the age of the student, the CDC recommends that physical distancing requirements differ by grade level and community transmission risk
- The CDC no longer recommends physical barriers for mitigation where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Evidence indicates that there is lower susceptibility and incidence of COVID-19 among younger children than compared to teenagers; therefore, in-person instruction represents less risk of on-site transmission in elementary schools compared to middle and high schools



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## **New Guidance**

- CDC has developed four levels of indicators and threshold for community transmission of COVID-19
- These recommendations are summarized below and are required to be adhered to by any responsible parties when implementing physical distancing of less than six feet in classrooms
- In counties with high risk of transmission, elementary schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and the use of cohorts is recommended when possible
- The middle and high school cannot maintain cohorts; therefore, they must maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between students in classrooms



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## New Guidance

### **Exceptions Where A Minimum of Six Feet of Distance Must be Maintained**

- Six feet is always the required distancing between adults (teachers, staff, visitors) and between students and adults
- Six feet of distance is required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or other times masks must be removed
- Individuals participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument must be six feet apart and there must be six feet of distance between the performers and the staff during performances and concerts
- Six feet of physical distance must be maintained in common areas and outside of classrooms (e.g. lobbies, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways), where possible



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## **New Guidance**

- **Fletcher, Mullen, and Riverview Elementary Schools**

- Students will be welcomed back to a traditional five day per week schedule on **Monday, April 26, 2021**
- Students that are in the Remote Warrior instructional model may continue their fully remote program

- **Middle and High School**

- All students will remain in the hybrid or Remote Warrior instructional models
- Changes in our county transmission rate, based on the CDC and NYSDOH indicators and thresholds for community transmission of COVID-19, may allow us to transition to a five day per week schedule in the future



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## **School Procedures**

- **Arrival/Dismissal**

- Fletcher: Doors open 8:20 a.m., second bell 8:30 a.m., dismissal 2:55 p.m.
- Mullen/Riverview: Doors open 8:50 a.m., first bell 9:00 a.m., dismissal 3:10 p.m.
- There will be multiple doors of entry/exit for arrival and dismissal





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## **Food Service**

**Cafeteria setup:** Students will be seated 6 feet apart at tables or desks

**Breakfast:** Students K-5 will eat breakfast in the classroom

**Lunch:** Most students will have an opportunity to eat in the cafeteria or outside the classroom at some point based on a staggered lunch schedule to maintain social distancing

All elementary students will receive a free breakfast and lunch no matter the instructional plan they participate in on regular school days



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## **Transportation**

Masks must be worn at all times

Buses will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Drivers will wipe down high touch surfaces between bus runs

Students will be individually seated at every opportunity

Students that live in the same household may sit next to one another in the same bench seat



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## **Health and Safety**

- **Masks/face coverings**

- Masks must be worn at all times
- Please make sure your child has a mask each day and consider sending them to school with an additional mask should one become damaged, soiled, or unusable
- Health and safety will be enforced and practiced through classroom and building procedures
- We have been dedicated to educating students on the importance of wearing masks and social distancing and will continue this work
- Exceptions will be reviewed for students who have medical conditions, a disability impact or other health or safety factors as defined by a physician
- Masks breaks will be allowed when organized by an instructional staff member as to not have any two students, when less than six feet apart, without masks on



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- **Daily Health Screenings/Temperature Checks**
  - We will not perform temperature checks on site at school
  - Parents/guardians should conduct the personal health screening of symptoms, which includes a temperature check, before leaving your residence
- **Daily illness/sickness**
  - The school nurse will handle daily incidents as they occur and follow regular procedures for communicating with families about health concerns
- **Positive Covid-19 case**
  - In the case of a positive test, the District will contact the Department of Health, who will provide guidance and recommendations that we will be required to follow



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- **Cleaning**

- Students will have their own desk every day. Desks/chairs will be cleaned nightly. Materials can be kept inside of the desk.
- Bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned numerous times throughout the day
  - Students will sanitize their hands before and after bathroom usage and the consumption of food, along with proper handwashing
  - Students will learn and practice proper procedures for using shared bathrooms

- **Lockers/Cubbies**

- Students will not be sharing lockers
- Student materials may be stored in the bottom of their locker at the end of the day



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- **Ventilation and Filtration**

- Evaluation of systems met established criteria
- Routine maintenance and inspection
- Systems running more hours to increase air flow and transfer
- Open windows and fans encouraged to be used properly to transition air flow



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- **Return To School**

**There has been very little evidence of virus transmission in schools. This is due, in large part, to the effective implementation of safety precautions. There are huge benefits socially, emotionally, and academically to bringing back students to the classrooms** (Dr. Thomas Russo, the chief of infectious diseases at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences).

**Our plan has been reviewed and supported by our school physician, in consultation with the Erie County Department of Health, and with careful alignment of the updated guidance from the NYS Department of Health and the Governor's Office.**