

# UPDATED GUIDANCE: WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021-22



Beginning September 1, 2021, all students will attend school full-time, in-person 5 days per week. Recently, the [Erie County Department of Health \(ECDOH\)](#) released its [2021-22 school year guidance](#). Tonawanda City Schools will comply with all ECDOH requirements which are summarized in this document. This guidance is subject to change.

Updated 8/24/21

## MASKS

- **Masks will be required indoors for all students, staff, and visitors regardless of vaccination status.** This includes activities after school inside our buildings such as evening events, supply drop-offs, parent conferences/meetings, etc. Acceptable masks are cloth-based or surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Bandanas, gators, and clear face shields are not considered acceptable face coverings.
- Masking is strongly recommended for students, staff, and parents/spectators in outdoor settings. Maximized physical distancing should be utilized when in outdoor crowded settings.

## DISTANCING

- Our schools will provide for a physical distance of 3 feet between students in classroom and instructional settings, to the extent possible, regardless of vaccination status. We will maximize and prioritize distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- A minimum of 6 feet is strongly recommended, to the extent possible, between adults and when adults are among students regardless of vaccination status.

## MASK BREAKS

- Mask breaks will be provided for students and staff during the day. Teachers will coordinate mask breaks for students once every hour for approximately 5 minutes when needed. Students will be seated at their desks during the mask break. These times will be coordinated to ensure when students are participating in mask breaks they are seated six feet apart.

## BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- Students will be distanced as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors) without compromising the feasibility of daily in-person instruction. Assigned seating will be utilized whenever possible. Students and staff will wear a mask in the cafeteria areas whenever they are not actively consuming food/drink.

## DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

- Families and staff will be required to complete the daily health screening questionnaire at home each day. Students, families, and staff must stay home when sick. Students/staff observed to be demonstrating symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be isolated and sent home
- This process is required and **VERY important** to maintain safe schools that reduces the need for quarantines that complicate our instructional program and household activities/schedules.

## QUARANTINE

- Close contacts who need to quarantine are defined as any unvaccinated students regardless of mask usage within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For adults, this measurement is 6 feet.
- In the event that a student is quarantined, he/she will be provided asynchronous work from teachers. Work will be accessible on the student's device/Google platform. K-12 instruction will be virtual in the event that an entire class or school is shut down per consultation with ECDOH and will follow a regular school day schedule.

## **CLEANING & SANITIZING**

- Schools will continue the daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols in each building that have been employed during the pandemic period. Cleaning will be completed daily as per CDC guidance by our custodial staff.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

- Masks are required for all riders on the bus. Assigned seating will be utilized. Windows will be encouraged to be opened as weather allows. Increased distancing will be utilized, to the extent possible.

## **VENTILATION**

- The District's HVAC systems are designed to provide appropriate ventilation per applicable codes, using fresh air flow/transfers. As appropriate, opening windows/internal doors will be encouraged in classrooms and on school buses.
- Our ventilation filters have been replaced and meet pandemic standards.

## **ISOLATION ROOMS**

- Each school will continue to have an isolation room for symptomatic individuals. All isolation room protocols previously put in place shall continue for those who demonstrate symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Families will need to be prepared to make arrangements to bring their child home if sick when contacted by the school.

## **SCHOOL EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS**

- School events, extracurricular activities, internships, and field trips may proceed as long as they are able to follow all ECDOH guidelines including masking and distancing.

## **ATHLETICS**

- Spectators will be able to attend with social distancing. Masks will be required indoors for spectators but optional outdoors. Masks are required for coaches. Masks are required for athletes when not engaged in physical activity. ECDOH has established protocols for the pausing of a sport for 10 days in the event of positive cases of infection.

## **MUSIC & PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

- Students must be 6 feet distanced when signing, playing a wind instrument, or involved in a physical/PE/aerobic activity. During these times, a student may remove their mask when it cannot be tolerated.
- All performers and athletes need to be 6 feet away from the audience at concerts/events.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

- All ECDOH contact tracing protocols will be followed. Students shall be assigned seats in all classrooms, lunchrooms, on the school bus, etc. to assist ECDOH with contact tracing and quarantine decisions.
- Please call our COVID Coordinator, Mary Beth Scullion, at 694-7688 with any questions.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

- K-12 students will each be assigned a district owned device and case. Teachers will ensure all students are set up on Google Classroom to access classroom instruction/materials throughout the school year and can access all accounts within the first full week of school.

## **RETURN-TO-SCHOOL**

- If sick, regardless of vaccination status: A negative COVID PCR test (at-home tests are not eligible), OR a note from a doctor, OR 10 days since the onset of symptoms.
- If tested positive: Ten+ days after symptoms or the 1st positive test, AND fever-free for 24 hours without medication, AND symptoms are improving.