

FEH BOCES COVID-19 Operational Plan 2021-2022

Introduction

The FEH BOCES COVID-19 Operational Plan 2021-2022 is modeled on the NY State Education Department's *Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year*, which was released in August, 2021. The NYSED plan was developed using the most recent K-12 school guidance from the Centers of Disease Control (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics. In addition to these resources, the FEH BOCES will continually work with representatives from the Franklin, Essex, and Hamilton counties' public health departments to inform best practices for operating our centers.

The essential elements of the FEH BOCES plan are listed below. These elements, along with the larger NYS Education Department's plan will serve as the foundation for how the FEH BOCES will safely and effectively operate during the 2021-22 school year and can be found on the FEHB website under the COVID Operational Plan link.

Masking

- All staff, students, and visitors inside all school buildings and buses
 - Exceptions only as necessary for legitimate medical tolerance issues
 - Not currently required when outside

Physical Distancing

- 3 feet whenever practical inside
 - Focus should be on in-person learning
 - Inability to provide physical distancing should not exclude students from in-person learning

Cafeteria/Meals

- 3 feet physical distancing at a minimum, 6 feet preferred
- Masks shall be always worn when not actually eating

COVID-19 Testing at school, isolation, and quarantine

- As provided by county health department/BOCES Testing Program
 - Regular screening testing will occur
 - On-site rapid testing of symptomatic individuals will be available

Daily Screening

- Not required when feeling well
- Completed at home by staff and students using screening app only when symptomatic
- Students and staff who are ill should remain home

Remote Instruction

- Will only be utilized when in-person instruction cannot occur due to infection rates/quarantine
- Not mandatory to be provided for individual students and will only be an option when medically/psychologically necessary for the instructional benefit of the student
- Will work with individual districts to determine student needs

Vaccinations

- All eligible students and staff are encouraged to be vaccinated
- Vaccinated individuals not currently subject to quarantine orders if not symptomatic

Visitors

- Visitors to the school will be by appointment only
- Visitors will complete a health screener before entering the building
- Visitors will be required to follow all health, masking, and physical distancing protocols

Operational Plan Changes

- The District Superintendent is authorized to modify this plan as needed in response to changing public health mandates, recommendations, and/or community transmission rates

Adopted, 8/26/2021