



GREENBURGH-NORTH CASTLE UFSD

"Your Future Starts Here"

Updated September 22, 2021

GNC August 2021 Updates to COVID-19 Reopening Plan August 2021

Greenburgh North Castle's (GNC) updated reopening plan is extracted from the New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) September 2021 Interim Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-2022 Academic Year and the New York State Education Department's (NYSED) August 2021 Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year, which are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

Mitigation Strategies

The CDC recommends a layered approach to mitigation strategies in schools, such as wearing masks, COVID-19 screening testing, improved ventilation, handwashing and covering coughs and sneezes, staying home when sick with symptoms of infectious illness including COVID-19, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

GNC will continue to employ multiple strategies to combat the spread of COVID-19, including:

- Promoting vaccination
- Consistent and correct use of masks
- Physical distancing
- Screening testing to quickly identify cases
- 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

Vaccination

GNC will continue to offer vaccination compensation time to its employees in accordance with the NYS Department of Labor guidelines

GNC will work with the local departments of health to offer on-site vaccination

GNC will comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including those related to privacy, in the use of documentation of COVID-19 vaccination status.

Masks

GNC requires universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels.

Masks are required on school busses and public transportation.

Proper use of masks will continue to be monitored and enforced. Students who struggle with wearing masks will be provided with accommodations and supports to promote safety.

Physical Distancing

GNC will implement physical distancing to the greatest extent possible consistent with the following guidelines:

- Physical distancing indoors will be maximized to the greatest extent possible, particularly when eating and/or drinking; however, a minimum of 3 feet between students is required.
- A distance of at least 6 feet between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated is required.
- Six feet of physical distancing is required between students engaged in active physical education activities.
- Physical distancing when moving around the building will be maximized.
- Physical distancing is not required on school busses.

COVID-19 Testing

Screening testing – According to the Commissioner, unvaccinated teachers and staff working in a school setting must get tested once per week when a school is operating in a geographic area identified by the CDC as having low, moderate, substantial or high transmission rates. Additionally, schools are required to offer screening testing to unvaccinated students once per week, with parent and guardian consent for minors, when a school is operating in a geographic area identified by the CDC as having moderate, substantial or high transmission rates.

GNC will provide all unvaccinated teachers and staff screening testing once a week. Alternatively, unvaccinated teachers and staff can provide the school weekly with a negative test result (test must be FDA approved).

GNC will offer screening testing to unvaccinated students once per week, with parent and guardian consent for minors (under age 18), when transmission rates are moderate or higher.

Diagnostic testing: – The Commissioner requires that schools have the capacity, either directly or via referral, to provide diagnostic testing for students, teachers and staff regardless of vaccination status and level of community transmission.

GNC will provide symptomatic students and staff as well as those determined to be a close contact to a COVID positive person with a referral for diagnostic testing.

COVID-19 Data Tracker

<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>

COVID-19 Test Site Finder

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>

Ventilation

GNC UFSD has improved the indoor air quality to the greatest extent possible in accordance with the most recent State, DOH and CDC guidance. The District recognizes that bringing fresh outdoor air into the building and/or utilizing portable air cleaners when mechanical systems are not present are effective ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. Other strategies used by the District include but are not limited to:

- Ongoing evaluation of HVAC systems to ensure they are working properly
- Communicate the importance of not obstructing vents with cabinets, books, or other materials
- Maintain routine maintenance schedule
- Replace filters in accordance with manufacturer recommendations
- Utilize the highest MERV rated filter compatible with the equipment as recommended by the manufacturer & or HVAC technician
- Open windows & doors to maximize air flow when safe & appropriate
- Use window fans when appropriate
- When using window air conditioners set the unit to the outdoor air setting
- Use portable air filters/cleaners in classrooms that do not have mechanical systems
- Clean, check or replace air filters regularly in all stand-alone devices; air conditioners, air filters/cleaners, window fans, uni-vents, etc...

Close Contact

A close contact is anyone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Exception: in the P-12 indoor classroom setting, students who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were consistently and correctly wearing well-fitting masks are not considered close contacts – This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the P-12 classroom setting.

Individuals who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. Fully vaccinated people should be tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Remote Instruction

So long as allowed by public health officials, schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school. GNC, in accordance with the September 2, 2021 DOH Guidance for Classroom Instruction, is committed to the implementation of multiple mitigation strategies that support in-person learning. Students who are directly impacted by a medical condition that impedes the viability of in-person learning should present the school with medical documentation attesting to the situation. This information will then be reviewed with the CSE to determine the need for the provision of an alternative form of support and services in accordance with the IEP.

In case of school closures due to a declared public health emergency, schools must be prepared to provide remote instruction.

GNC will provide remote instruction during emergency school closures (when conditions allow).

GNC will provide remote instruction for students during a quarantine period determined by public health officials.

Symptomatic Individuals

According to the CDC, people with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms – ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

According to the Commissioner, all students*, teachers and staff with new or worsening symptoms must be excluded from school, regardless of vaccination status and either:

- Provide a negative COVID test result
- Remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset
- If symptoms are improving and an individual is fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, they may return to school with either a note from a healthcare provider reporting the negative test result or a copy of the negative test result.

***Note:* Symptomatic students are placed separately in a designated area and must be picked up by parent or guardian.**

Exceptions to the testing requirement set forth above include:

- Individuals with symptoms that are attributable to pre-existing medical conditions (e.g., migraines, allergies) and are not new or worsening do not require school exclusion; or
- If the healthcare provider provides a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (examples: laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) AND COVID-19 is not suspected, then a note signed by the health care provider explaining the alternate diagnosis is required before a student, teacher or staff member may be allowed to return to school. Such individuals may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.

Routine Cleaning & Sanitizing Stations

The district will adhere to hygiene, cleaning and disinfection requirements as advised by the CDC and DOH. Cleaning and disinfection logs are maintained that include the dates of cleaning and disinfecting.

Examples of facility types where cleaning and disinfection frequency is distinguished include

- Bathrooms
- Isolation rooms
- Offices
- Breakrooms
- Cafeterias/Kitchens
- Computer labs
- Science labs
- Classrooms
- Large meeting areas (auditoriums, gymnasiums, music rooms)
- Outdoor seating areas (plastic or metal)
- Frequently touched surfaces in common areas (door handles, elevator buttons, copy machine keypads, etc.)

The district will provide and maintain hand hygiene stations around the school, as follows:

- For hand sanitizing: an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol for areas where handwashing facilities may not be available or practical
- Accommodations for students who cannot use hand sanitizer will be made.

Electrostatic Cleaning:

- The District will routinely electrostatically clean the buildings weekly or more frequently
- The District will ensure that all areas with symptomatic or positive individuals will be electrostatically cleaned upon this information being discovered.