

Updated Reopening Plan 2021-2022

The North Greenbush Common School District has created its school opening plan based on the NYS Education Department Back to School Health and Safety Guide, the CDC Guidance (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), the AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) and in coordination with Questar III BOCES and other regional school districts. Any additional state or county guidance, as we move forward through the school year, will be incorporated/updated into our District Plan.

Multi-Layered Mitigation Strategies

Many of the Health and Safety guidelines put into place last year will continue to support the safety of our Little Red students, families and staff.

These guidelines include:

*Temperature checks upon entry of school

*Face coverings

*Regular cleaning and disinfecting of school buildings and buses

*Improved ventilation in the school building

*Wash hands often with soap and water or hand sanitizer

*Respiratory etiquette

*Remain home when sick

****We strongly encourage families to be mindful of when students or someone in their household are exhibiting COVID symptoms. In either case, students should not come to school.**

*Potential surveillance and point of care testing of students and staff in schools.

Face Coverings

In accordance with CDC and NYSED recommendations, face mask covering both the mouth and nose will be required for all students, staff and visitors inside school and on school buses regardless of vaccination status. Masks will be optional when outdoors on school property.

**Students will be provided mask breaks when seated in class and socially distanced.

**Should someone find themselves in need of a mask, one will be provided to them when they enter our school district.

Social Distancing

Schools will maintain at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students within the classroom.

Music will maintain 6 feet social distancing of students during instruction.

Physical Education will maintain 6 feet social distancing during instruction when indoors. Physical Education teacher will prioritize outdoor activities as weather permits.

Transportation

All students and staff must wear face masks while riding on a school bus regardless of vaccination status. CDC guidelines permits buses to operate at full capacity. A seating chart will be provided. Windows and roof hatches will be open to increase ventilation on the bus. Cleaning and disinfecting will continue following each bus run daily.

Classroom Daily Cleaning

In accordance with CDC recommendations, in general, cleaning once a day is sufficient to remove potential viruses that may be on surfaces. Daily disinfecting removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduce any risk of spreading infection. Daily cleaning and disinfecting protocols as

well as deep disinfection of **all areas of the school district** will be conducted daily

Contact Tracing in Combination with Quarantine and Isolation

When made aware of a positive COVID case in the school, we will notify our families and staff immediately about their exposure and the need to quarantine. We will inform the Rensselaer County Department of Health about the case and work with them to ensure proper contact tracing is carried out in our school community.

If the District is notified of a student/staff member/family member who have tested positive for COVID-19 by the Rensselaer County Department of Health, we will continue notifying the school community of the details to the level of specificity that does not infringe upon the privacy of anyone involved.

As an added mitigation strategy, we are currently working with Questar III BOCES and Rensselaer County Department of Health to provide screening test that will help identify infected people, both with or without exhibiting symptoms, who may be contagious. For example, the District may randomly test 10% of students and/or staff weekly depending on the level of community transmission. Testing is anticipated to be non-invasive. Parental consent of the test is required, in accordance with FERPA (Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act).

Learning During a Quarantine Period

Should students need to quarantine due to possible COVID exposure, the District is still responsible to provide appropriate education while they are not physically attending school. Our teaching staff will utilize various instructional models based on the length of the quarantine.

We will continue to follow guidance, best practices and data and remain flexible and adaptive as conditions change. As always, we will keep our families apprised of any new guidance.