

# Planning for Re-Opening 2020/21

August 18, 2021  
August 25, 2021  
September 1, 2021  
September 29, 2021  
October 13, 2021  
October 27, 2021  
November 10, 2021  
December 15, 2021  
January 12, 2022  
January 26, 2022  
February 9, 2022

**March 9, 2020**



# 2021/22 CONFIRMED COVID CASES (August 30, 2021 - June 30, 2022)

8/31: 9/1:	CHS	1 case	9/14	NHS	1 case	9/27	DMS	2 cases	10/12	HP	1 case		NL	1 case	SMS	1 case	
	HP	2 cases		HBR	1 case		HBR	2 cases		DMS	1 case	10/28	CHS	2 cases	DMS	6 cases	
	CHS	3 cases		CHS	2 cases		Stage	1 case	10/13	DMS	1 case		DMS	2 cases	NL	1 case	
9/2	NHS	1 case		Auer	1 case	9/28	Auer	3 cases		SMS	2 cases		Jericho	1 case	CHS	1 case	
	CHS	2 cases		NL	1 case		DMS	1 case		NHS	1 cases		NL	1 case	NCR	1 case	
	NCR	1 case	9/15	HBR	1 case		NL	1 case		HP	2 cases	10/29	CHS	1 case	NHS	1 case	
9/3	DMS	3 cases		District	1 case		NCR	1 case		NL	1 case		Jericho	2 cases	11/09	Auer	1 case
	Stage	1 case	9/16	NL	2 cases	9/29	CHS	2 cases		Auer	1 case		DMS	2 cases		DMS	2 cases
	CHS	1 case	9/17	NHS	1 case		DMS	1 case	10/14	NHS	3 cases	11/01	HBR	1 case		SMS	2 cases
	NHS	1 case		CHS	1 case		NL	1 case		SMS	1 case		BPS	1 case		HBR	2 cases
	SMS	1 case	9/18	Unity	1 case	9/30	CHS	1 case		Auer	1 case		Stage	1 case		Jericho	1 case
	DMS	1 case	9/19	CHS	1 case		DMS	2 cases	10/15	NHS	1 case		SMS	1 case	11/10	Unity	1 case
9/07	BPS	2 cases		NL	1 case	10/1	HBR	1 case		CHS	1 case		DMS	1 case		SMS	1 case
9/08	Auer	1 case	9/20	NHS	4 cases		CHS	1 case	10/17	Jericho	1 case	11/02	DMS	1 case		HBR	1 case
	BPS	1 case		SMS	1 case	10/4	DMS	1 case		District	1 case		NHS	1 case		CHS	1 case
9/09	NL	1 case		DMS	3 cases		CHS	3 cases	10/18	SMS	1 case		District	1 case		NHS	1 case
	Oxhead	1 case		Unity	2 cases		SMS	1 case	10/19	CHS	2 cases	11/03	SMS	1 case		DMS	3 cases
	CHS	1 case		CHS	1 case		NHS	1 case		SMS	1 case		DMS	2 cases	11/11	CHS	1 case
	DMS	1 case	9/21	NHS	1 case		NL	1 case		NHS	1 case		NHS	1 case	11/12	CHS	3 cases
	Jericho	1 case		District	1 case	10/6	Stage	1 case		HP	1 case	11/04	CHS	1 case		SMS	3 cases
	NHS	3 cases		SMS	1 case		HP	1 case		NL	1 case		Auer	3 cases		DMS	3 cases
9/10	NL	1 case	9/23	HP	1 case		NHS	1 case	10/22	District	1 case		NHS	1 case		Oxhead	1 case
	HP	2 cases		SMS	1 case		SMS	1 case		NHS	2 cases		Jericho	2 cases		BPS	1 case
	Oxhead	1 case		DMS	1 case	10/8	CHS	1 case		HBR	1 case	11/05	BPS	2 cases		Unity	1 case
	CHS	1 case		NHS	2 cases		DMS	1 case	10/23	Unity	1 case		NHS	2 cases		Jericho	1 case
	District	1 case		Unity	1 case		NCR	1 case	10/25	SMS	1 case		DMS	3 cases		Auer	2 cases
	SMS	1 case	9/24	SMS	1 case		BPS	1 case	10/26	DMS	2 cases		Auer	2 cases		NHS	3 cases
9/13	NHS	3 cases		CHS	1 case	10/11	HP	1 case	10/27	SMS	1 case		NL	1 case	11/15	DMS	3 cases
	Jericho	2 cases		HP	1 cases	10/12	CHS	1 case		DMS	4 cases	11/06	CHS	1 case		SMS	4 cases
	Unity	1 case	9/26	Auer	2 cases		Auer	1 case		NHS	1 case	11/07	District	1 case		Jericho	2 cases
	HBR	1 case	9/27	CHS	2 cases		NHS	1 case		CHS	1 case	11/08	Unity	3 cases		NHS	1 case



## 2021/22 CONFIRMED COVID CASES (August 30, 2021 - June 30, 2022) - 2

11/15	CHS	1 case	11/24	Jericho	1 case		Unity	1 case		Auer	2 cases	12/10	CHS	1 case	12/16	DMS	2 cases
11/16	CHS	1 case		NCR	1 case		HBR	1 case		Oxhead	2 cases		BPS	1 case		SMS	3 cases
	NL	2 cases		Unity	2 case		Oxhead	1 case		SMS	4 cases		SMS	1 case		HP	1 case
	DMS	2 cases		DMS	1 case		NHS	2 cases		NHS	3 cases		NCR	1 case		CHS	1 case
	EA	1 case		Oxhead	1 case		DMS	1 case		NL	6 cases		Oxhead	2 cases		Stage	1 case
	HBR	1 case		Auer	1 case		NL	1 case		JE	2 cases		DMS	2 cases		NHS	3 cases
	JE	2 cases		NL	1 case	12/01	DMS	3 cases		HP	2 cases		NL	1 case		Unity	1 case
11/17	CHS	2 cases	11/26	Auer	1 case		Auer	1 case		HBR	1 case		HP	2 cases		NL	5 cases
	District	1 case		Unity	1 case		BPS	1 case		Unity	1 case	12/12	BPS	2 cases		NCR	2 cases
	SMS	1 case		BPS	1 case		CHS	4 cases		District	1 case	12/13	CHS	3 cases	12/17	CHS	3 cases
11/18	SMS	1 case	11/27	Unity	1 case		SMS	1 case	12/7	NHS	1 case		DMS	6 cases		DMS	2 cases
	DMS	2 cases		Auer	1 case		Unity	1 case		Unity	1 case		EA	5 cases		HBR	1 case
	NHS	1 case		NL	1 case		NL	2 cases		SMS	1 case		Oxhead	1 case		HP	2 cases
	District	1 case		District	1 case	12/2	CHS	2 cases		NL	1 case		NHS	1 case		NHS	1 case
	Stage	1 case		DMS	2 cases		SMS	4 cases		CHS	1 case		NCR	1 case		NL	2 cases
	CHS	2 cases	11/28	CHS	2 cases		Auer	3 cases		HBR	1 case		Jericho	2 cases		NCR	1 case
11/19	SMS	1 case		BPS	1 case		Stage	1 case		BPS	1 case		Unity	1 case		Stage	1 case
	DMS	1 case		Unity	1 case		DMS	1 case	12/8	Oxhead	1 case		SMS	1 case	12/18	Auer	1 case
	CHS	1 case	11/29	Auer	1 case		BPS	1 case		Unity	3 cases		NL	2 cases		Stage	2 cases
	Unity	3 cases		CHS	3 cases		HBR	2 cases		NHS	1 case		Stage	1 case	12/19	Stage	5 cases
	NL	1 case		NHS	3 cases	12/3	Stage	1 case		Auer	1 case	12/14	District	1 case		NL	1 case
11/20	DMS	1 case		SMS	2 cases		Auer	2 cases		BPS	1 case		CHS	2 cases	12/20	CHS	7 cases
	NL	1 case		NCR	1 case		BPS	1 case		District	2 cases		SMS	2 cases		SMS	6 cases
11/22	CHS	1 case		Unity	4 cases		CHS	1 case		NL	4 cases		Stage	1 case		Stage	2 cases
	SMS	1 case		Jericho	2 cases		DMS	2 cases	12/9	HBR	1 case		Jericho	1 case		DMS	4 cases
	Unity	1 case		BPS	1 case		NHS	1 case		Auer	1 case	12/15	Unity	2 cases		NHS	5 cases
	NHS	1 case		DMS	5 cases		NCR	1 case		NHS	1 case		DMS	3 cases		Unity	2 cases
	DMS	1 case		HP	2 cases		NL	1 case		SMS	2 cases		SMS	3 cases		Oxhead	3 cases
11/23	Auer	1 case		NL	4 cases	12/5	Stage	1 case		HP	2 cases		NHS	1 case		BPS	1 case
	Unity	1 case	11/30	CHS	2 cases	12/6	DMS	4 cases		CHS	1 case		NL	4 cases		HBR	3 cases
	DMS	1 case		Auer	1 case		CHS	4 cases		NCR	2 case		NCR	2 cases		District	1 case



## 2021/22 CONFIRMED COVID CASES (August 30, 2021 - June 30, 2022) - 3

12/20	HP	2 cases	12/24	STG	2 cases		SMS	4 cases	Oxhead	15 cases	Unity	4 cases	STG	3 case
	NCR	1 case	12/26	NL	1 case	1/2	NL	6 cases	SMS	31 cases	HP	4 cases	Unity	5 cases
12/21	CHS	2 cases	12/27	District	3 cases		HBR	4 cases	SC	9 cases	NCR	3 cases	HP	1 case
	NHS	10 cases		NL	1 case		Auer	9 cases	Unity	8 cases	District	1 case	EA	2 cases
	DMS	4 cases		Unity	1 case		STG	5 cases	District	1 case	Unity	3 cases	HBR	4 cases
	Unity	2 cases		CHS	8 cases		DMS	4 cases	BPS	5 cases	BPS	1 case	BPS	2 cases
	NCR	1 case	12/28	District	2 cases		Unity	4 cases	HP	7 cases	NL	10 cases	NCR	3 case
	HBR	3 cases		NL	1 case		SMS	5 cases	NL	5 case	HBR	7 cases	District	1 case
	NL	2 cases		CHS	1 case		District	1 case	HBR	20 cases	Unity	1 case	CHS	8 cases
	SMS	2 cases	12/29	NHS	1 case		CHS	12 cases	CHS	24 cases	NL	1 case	EA	2 cases
	Auer	1 case		DMS	3 cases		NCR	4 cases	NHS	24 cases	CHS	3 cases	JER	1 case
	Stage	4 cases		District	2 cases		NHS	2 cases	Oxhead	3 cases	STG	1 case	NCR	4 case
	HP	1 case		BPS	2 cases	1/3	HBR	25 cases	SMS	14 cases	District	1 case	NHS	13 cases
12/22	CHS	7 case		Unity	1 case		NHS	74 cases	District	2 cases	CHS	22 cases	NL	5 cases
	DMS	3 cases		HBR	2 cases		NL	23 cases	HP	4 cases	DMS	19 cases	Oxhead	1 case
	UNITY	2 cases		NHR	1 case		CHS	55 cases	STG	5 cases	EA	9 cases	SMS	12 cases
	BPS	1 case	12/30	STG	3 cases		District	2 cases	BPS	12 cases	NCR	11 cases	HP	4 cases
	HBR	1 case		DMS	4 cases		Auer	7 cases	EA	5 cases	NHS	21 cases	Unity	3 cases
	NHS	4 cases		DAO	1 case		Unity	12 cases	DMS	20 cases	NL	6 cases	BPS	2 cases
	STG	5 cases		CHS	4 cases		SMS	23 cases	JE	1 case	Oxhead	5 cases	CHS	8 cases
	SMS	3 cases		NHS	4 cases		STG	10 cases	NCR	6 cases	SMS	11 cases	DMS	4 cases
	Auer	2 case		SMS	4 cases		BPS	22 cases	NL	14 cases	STG	3 cases	HP	3 cases
	NL	2 cases		NL	1 case		Oxhead	18 cases	Unity	10 cases	Unity	5 cases	NHS	7 cases
	HP	2 cases		STG	1 case		HP	16 cases	CHS	19 cases	HP	5 cases	Oxhead	3 cases
12/23	CHS	14 cases		Unity	4 cases		NCR	23 cases	EA	2 cases	HBR	3 cases	SMS	5 cases
	DMS	3 cases	12/31	District	1 case		DMS	48 cases	NHS	13 cases	BPS	7 cases	STG	4 cases
	NHS	12 cases		NL	3 cases		JER	16 cases	NL	4 cases	CHS	10 cases	Unity	2 cases
	Auer	3 cases		Unity	1 case	1/4	CHS	33 cases	Oxhead	3 cases	DMS	9 cases	HBR	2 cases
	Unity	1 case		NHS	3 cases		DMS	29 cases	SMS	7 cases	JE	3 cases	NCR	2 cases
	HP	2 cases		CHS	8 cases		Auer	6 cases	DMS	7 cases	NHS	4 cases	CHS	3 cases
	SMS	2 cases		STG	2 cases		JER	1 case	BPS	4 cases	NL	11 cases	EA	1 case
	STG	6 cases	1/1	Unity	2 cases		NCR	7 cases	STG	2 cases	Oxhead	3 cases	HBR	2 cases
	HBR	1 case		NHS	8 cases		NHS	38 cases	District	1 case	SMS	7 cases	JER	2 cases



## 2021/22 CONFIRMED COVID CASES (August 30, 2021 - June 30, 2022) - 4

1/14	NHS	4 cases	1/20	BPS	3 cases		DMS	2 cases	2/1	HBR	2 cases		Unity	1 case		SC	1 case
	NL	4 cases		CHS	5 cases		NCR	2 cases		NHS	3 cases		EA	1 case		SMS	1 case
	SMS	2 cases		District	1 case		NHS	3 cases		SMS	3 cases	2/9	CHS	1 case	3/4	NCR	1 case
	Unity	2 cases		EA	1 case		Oxhead	1 case	2/2	CHS	1 case		HP	2 case	3/7	District	1 case
	DMS	1 case		HBR	4 cases		SMS	1 case		DMS	1 case		NHS	1 case	3/8	NHS	1 case
	Oxhead	1 case		HP	1 case		STG	1 case		HP	1 case		Unity	1 case		SMS	1 case
1/15	BPS	3 cases		NHS	4 cases		Unity	1 case		NHS	2 cases	2/10	HP	1 case	3/9	Auer	1 case
1/16	NL	4 cases		NL	3 cases		NL	1 case		NL	2 cases		SMS	1 case		HBR	1 case
1/17	STG	1 case		SMS	4 cases	1/26	CHS	4 cases		Oxhead	1 case	2/11	SC	1 case		NHS	1 case
	NL	1 case		Unity	2 case		DMS	1 case		NCR	1 case		NL	1 case	3/10	EA	1 case
1/18	BPS	1 case		DMS	5 cases		NHS	4 cases	2/3	CHS	1 case	2/14	CHS	2 cases		DMS	1 case
	CHS	11 cases		NCR	1 case		Oxhead	1 case		EA	1 case		NHS	1 case		CHS	1 case
	DMS	11 cases	1/21	BPS	4 cases		SMS	2 cases		NHS	1 case		SMS	6 cases	3/11	CHS	1 case
	EA	2 cases		CHS	4 cases	1/27	CHS	1 case		SMS	1 case		Unity	1 case	3/14	SMS	1 case
	HP	1 case		DMS	4 cases		DMS	3 cases		NCE	1 case		Oxhead	1 case	3/15	JER	1 case
	JE	6 cases		HBR	2 cases		HBR	1 case	2/4	DMS	1 case	2/15	SMS	3 cases		HP	1 case
	NCR	7 cases		HP	2 case		HP	2 case		EA	1 case		NL	2 cases	3/17	CHS	1 case
	NHS	11 cases	J	ER	1 case		NCR	2 cases		Oxhead	1 case	2/16	DMS	1 case	3/21	NHS	1 case
	NL	8 cases		NHS	5 cases		SMS	4 cases		SMS	1 case		SMS	4 cases		SMS	2 cases
	SMS	10 cases		NL	14 cases		STG	1 case		SC	1 case		SC	1 case		BPS	3 cases
	STG	1 case		SMS	2 cases		Unity	2 cases	2/06	UNITY	1 case	2/17	CHS	2 cases		CHS	1 case
	Unity	4 cases		STG	1 case	1/28	CHS	3 cases		NL	1 case		HBR	1 case	3/22	NL	1 case
1/19	BPS	3 cases	1/24	BPS	4 cases		DMS	1 case		NCR	1 case		NHS	4 cases		EA	1 case
	CHS	5 cases		CHS	3 cases		JER	1 case	2/07	DMS	1 case		SMS	3 cases		NHS	1 case
	District	1 case		EA	1 case		SMS	3 cases		EA	1 case	2/28	CHS	1 case			
	DMS	8 cases		HP	3 cases		Unity	2 cases		HP	1 case		SMS	7 cases			
	EA	2 cases		NHS	8 cases		NHS	1 case		JER	1 case		Unity	1 case			
	HP	1 case		Oxhead	2 cases		BPS	1 case		NHS	2 cases		District	1 case			
	JER	1 case		Unity	1 case	1/31	BPS	1 case		Oxhead	1 case	3/1	CHS	1 case			
	NHS	4 cases		JER	3 cases		CHS	1 case		SMS	1 case		NL	1 case			
	Oxhead	2 cases		HBR	3 cases		EA	2 case	2/8	CHS	1 case	3/2	CHS	1 case			
	SMS	7 cases		SMS	7 cases		Oxhead	2 case		DMS	3 cases		DMS	1 case			
	STG	2 cases		NL	3 cases		NHS	1 case		HP	1 case		NL	1 case			
	Unity	1 case	1/25	CHS	3 cases		SMS	2 case		SMS	3 cases	3/3	SMS	1 case			

Running Total: 2449



# MIDDLE COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

8 43<sup>RD</sup> STREET • CENTEREACH, NY 11720  
631-285-8005 • 631-738-2719 (fax) • [www.mccsd.net](http://www.mccsd.net)

*Roberta A. Gerold, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*  
*Francine McMahon, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction*  
*Beth Rella, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
*James G. Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*

Dear Governor Andrew M. Cuomo  
Senator Mario R. Mattera  
Senator Alexis Weik  
Assemblyman Joseph P. DeStefano  
Assemblyman Steve Englebright  
Assemblyman Douglas M. Smith

July 29, 2021

## July 29 Letter

We are writing today on behalf of the Middle Country Central School District to ask for your assistance and support as we plan for the start of school in September. Over the past year and a half, we learned a great deal as the science and best practices on controlling and mitigating the transmission of COVID evolved. We found, fairly quickly, that schools are safe centers for students and staff. It was clear that school districts are skilled at ensuring safe environments for learning. Equally clear is how responsive school districts are to guidelines and how important local control is in designing structures and responses to implementation of plans. As a matter of fact and interest, the practices Middle Country studied and implemented throughout the past school year and this July continue to be highly effective, as evidenced by our summer programs in which pre-k through seniors are enrolled. As of this writing, we have had just one positive case and no in-district transmissions. The importance of this piece of information is that the wearing of face masks is optional for students in summer programs and we have seen no negative impact as a result of that flexibility. Had we experienced the opposite, we would have exercised our local control over masking and required universal wearing.

Middle Country, like every other school district in New York, needs to have clear direction in regard to the protocols that will be required when our school buildings re-open for instruction on September 2, 2021, just five weeks from today. We ask that you support local control over re-opening decisions, under the guidance of the New York State Department of Health. We ask that you continue to allow us local control over whether masks are optional, as long as our positive case rates remain low. We also urge you to keep the COVID-19 vaccination as an option for students, not as a mandate.

We thank you for your consideration and support as we plan for a safe re-opening of school in September.  
Sincerely,

Karen J. Lessler, Ed.D.  
Board of Education President

Dawn Sharrock  
Board of Education 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President  
Chair of the Middle Country  
Legislative/Community Outreach Committee



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*Roberta A. Gerold, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools*  
*Francine McMahon, Deputy Superintendent for Instruction*  
*Beth Rella, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent for Business*  
*James G. Donovan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources*

November 10, 2021

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

We would like to thank you for your commitment to New York State as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times. Your very clear intent to keep our schools open was most welcomed as we share your belief that students learn best when they are in person.

The Middle Country Central School District serves about 9300 students, pre-k through grade 12. From the start of school a year ago this September, we followed re-opening guidelines very carefully, paying special attention to masking, social distancing and contact tracing, to help ensure that our schools remained safe – and open. As we shared in our July 29, 2021, letter to the Governor's office, our students and our staff have been safe in our schools. We have seen almost no spread of the virus in our schools, even with the reduced social distancing that we now have in place.

As we enter week ten of the 2021-2022 school year, we ask that you work with our local health department to provide us with clear data about how the universal mask mandate is faring in Suffolk County schools. To date, there appears to be negligible instances of classroom spread throughout Suffolk County. We also would like to know specifically what metrics we need to achieve so that we can take the next steps in returning safely to a more "normal" instructional setting, including a careful transition to the optional wearing of masks.

We would also like to express our concerns about recent conversations mandating the COVID-19 vaccination for children. The addition of the COVID-19 vaccine to the New York State required vaccination schedule for school attendance will cause many families to make difficult decisions about their children's education. It is completely understandable that parents/guardians will be hesitant to give a newly approved vaccine to their children. We believe that the decision to vaccinate children should remain a choice.

The health and well-being of our students, faculty, staff and community members is our priority. The Middle Country Central School District has carefully followed the protocol that has been set forth by both the New York State Department of Health and the Suffolk County Department of Health. Our track record is tried and

proven and has been successful in mitigating the transmission of COVID-19 within our schools both before and after vaccines.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in the coming months to ensure the continuing safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Karen J. Lessler, Ed.D.  
Board of Education President

Dawn Sharrock  
Board of Education 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Chair of the Middle Country  
Legislative/Community Outreach Committee

Roberta A. Gerold, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

cc:

Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner, New York State Department of Health  
Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive  
Dr. Gregson H. Pigott Commissioner, Suffolk County Department of Health Services  
Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., Director, NIAID Office of Communications and Government Relations

## Letter sent on November 13, 2021



**For Immediate Release: 8/5/2021**

**GOVERNOR ANDREW M. CUOMO**

**STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH COMMISSIONER DR. HOWARD ZUCKER**

"With the end of the state disaster emergency on June 25, 2021, school districts are reestablished as the controlling entity for schools. Schools and school districts should develop plans to open in-person in the fall as safely as possible, and I recommend following guidance from the CDC and local health departments."



# Breaking News - August 12, 2021

**Hochul wants masks in NY's schools** *"NBC News"*

**"My view is people and children and everyone in a school in environment will be wearing masks," Hochul said on NBC's "Today Show," adding that she doesn't currently have the authority to make that decision.**

**Incoming N.Y. Governor Says She Wants a Mask Mandate in Schools** *"Bloomberg"*

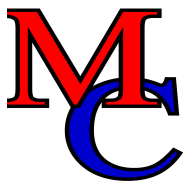
**Kathy Hochul Expects New York School Mask Mandate** *"Newsweek"*

**Hochul wants masks in NY's schools, says she plans to run in 2022** *"Newsday"*

**Hochul said she would enforce masks because she thinks it's the only way to ensure schools can open full-time safely, and she wants to end remote learning.** *"Dailymail.com"*

# Masks mandatory for students, staff at schools throughout New York, Hochul says

<https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/masking-in-schools-hochul-required-1.50342645>



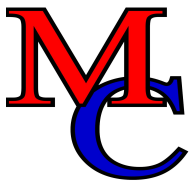
## Mask Mandate - Review\*

**Notification of Mandate: August 27, 2021:** Department of Health e-mailed directive which read, in part: *Effective immediately, in accordance with the Commissioner's Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.*

**Regulation 2.60 defines “Face Coverings for COVID-19 Prevention”:** *(e) For purposes of this section face-coverings shall include, but are not limited to, cloth masks, surgical masks, and N-95 respirators that are worn to completely cover a person’s nose and mouth.*

**Legal Basis of Mandate:** *The DOH is authorized by New York Public Health Law Section 201 to control and promote the control of communicable diseases. Sections 206 and 225 of that law provide broad authority to the Commissioner of Health in regard to matters of public health and the transmission of communicable diseases. Based upon those statutory provisions, the DOH is authorized to issue regulations to address public health concerns in connection with, among other things, communicable disease. New Regulation 2.60 Face Coverings for Covid 19 Prevention is premised upon those statutory provisions.*

\*Source: Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC; August 30, 2021



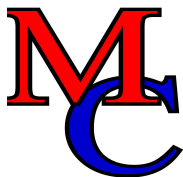
## Mask Mandate - Review\*

**The mask mandate is law:** *it is fashioned as a regulation, and promulgated according to the statutory authority bestowed upon the DOH Commissioner. This is similar, in concept, to the authority of the Commissioner of Education to issue regulations pursuant to the Education Law. Districts are governed, for example, by Part 100 Regulations regarding topics such as residency determinations, DASA training, codes of conduct, APPR, and diploma requirements.*

*Some confusion has arisen in the field regarding the language of 2.60, which indicates individuals “may be required to cover their nose and mouth with a mask or face-covering ... in certain settings as determined by the Commissioner, which may include schools.” Use of the word “may” should not be construed by districts as making masks optional, as the word “may” pertains to the authority of the DOH Commissioner to impose such a requirement, which he has now explicitly done.*

**To Whom Does the Mandate Apply?** *The language of the DOH Commissioner’s directive applies to “teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools over age two ... regardless of vaccination status.” The only stated exception is for those who are unable “to medically tolerate a face covering/mask.” Everyone else must comply.*

**Where Does It Apply?** *This directive does not make any specific distinction as between indoor and outdoor settings. However, reference to the “CDC recommendations for face coverings/masks in school settings” would indicate that this is limited to indoor settings, as that is the extent to which the CDC recommends masks. We recommend this mandate be implemented, effective immediately, for all indoor activities in the schools, including indoor sports, Board of Education meetings, etc, except “when eating, drinking, singing, or playing a wind instrument.”*



## Mask Mandate - Review\*

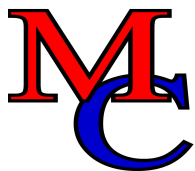
**DOH Penalties:** *Regulation 2.60 contains a penalty provision which subjects “individuals or entities that violate this Section ... to a maximum fine of \$1000 for each violation.” Reference to individuals and entities should be construed as applying to the school district, individual officers, and employees responsible for district operations, as well as parents, students, community members, and vendors who fail to abide by this regulation when at school.*

**State Penalties/Financial\*\*:** *Total anticipated state aid for for the 2021/22 school year is \$103,076,124, which represents 38.3% of the budget. Losing state aid would require a 70.7% increase to maintain current programs from pre-k through grade 12.*

**District Enforcement/Students:** *Out of school suspension would seem to be the only appropriate disciplinary sanction for continued refusal since any other discipline would allow a student to be on school grounds without a mask. Grouping non-compliant students together (any longer than is necessary for someone to pick up the students) would be to allow a de facto exemption for the objectors and we would counsel against that. Should discipline be necessary, the usual disciplinary process must be followed, which means a suspension of up to five days can be issued by a Principal and, beyond that, a Superintendent’s Hearing pursuant to Education Law Section 3214 would be required. Families that continue to send their children to school and advise their children to refuse the mask mandate, can be referred to the Department of Social Services for educational neglect.*

\* Source: Volz & Vigliotta, PLLC; August 30, 2021

\*\* Source: Middle Country CSD; NYSED



# SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation

## 1. PHYSICAL DISTANCING

**SCDOH:** Maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, physical education, and music. If students are engaged in singing or playing a wind instrument, at least six feet of distance between students is recommended. In physical education, ensure any contact due to activities is quick and not for extended periods of time.

When outdoors, schools should encourage activities that allow for distancing and reduced contact

**District Implementation:** District is implementing physical social distancing of three feet in classrooms, in most circumstances. Six feet of social distancing will be in place as appropriate. When outdoors, activities that allow for distancing and reduced contact will be encouraged.

**Update - 9/13:** Social distancing in cafeterias being revised to expand distancing between students as best can be done; tightest areas are in middle schools

# SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation (2)

**10/13/21:** Secondary Schools (Late October/November): Parent-Teacher conferences will be virtual because of the number of parents/guardians who may attend and the number of classrooms that would be opened; social distancing guidelines would not be able to be maintained.

Elementary Schools (December): Parents/guardians will be surveyed re interest in virtual or in-person conferences. In person conferences will be limited to one parent/guardian per student and masks are required.

10/25: Very small response rate to two separate surveys, but results skewed slightly towards in-person. A hybrid model will be offered for parent/teacher conferences, grades pre k - 5.

Fall/Early Winter Theatre Presentations (November and December): Drama productions will be in-person. Audience size will be limited; additional productions will be added as required by anticipated attendance. No tickets will be sold at the door; presales only. Tickets must be purchased according to advertised timelines so that seating groupings can be established (families/friends will be grouped together; spacing between groups will facilitate social distancing).

Fall/Athletic Awards (November): In-person Athletic Awards will be for Varsity Teams only; Teams will be grouped/divided into two sessions to facilitate social distancing. Each athlete may have two parent/guardians present. Face masks are required.

Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips: Four trips are under consideration - NYSSMA (Fall/two students), Athletics (Early Spring); Music (Mid-Late Spring). Participation is optional. Parents/guardians may face loss of deposits and other costs if trips are cancelled because of COVID and/or if their child tests positive and cannot attend.

# SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation (3)

**12/13/21:** Masking required for all events, including meetings. Mask break practices will continue.

**12/15/21:** Music Events: Secondary school concerts resumed in-person; concert structures were/will be modified to limit density. Elementary concerts will resume in January.

**1/12/22:** Concerts scheduled for January will be moved to February (the Selden Chorus performance scheduled for Monday, 1/31/22, will stay as is); the Course Expo for next year's ninth graders will be virtual; early spring overnight athletic competitions - district participation canceled.

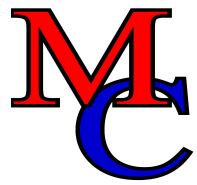
Approximately 8000 COVID Tests were distributed to parents/guardians of district educated students on 1/04 and 1/05. The remaining kits were distributed amongst the schools and provided to parents/guardians of students who displayed symptoms while in school. Kits were also made available for in-school use by symptomatic staff.

Updated quarantine guidance and "Test to Stay" plan presented to the Board of Education.

**1/26/22:** Rescheduled December/January concerts that were moved to February will take place as rescheduled.

Kits will be made available to parents/guardians to symptomatic students and staff as well individuals placed on school based quarantine.





# SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation

## 2. MASKS

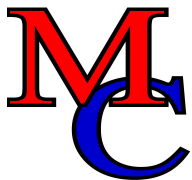
**SCDOH:** Mask guidance remains unchanged from the end of the prior school year in June 2021 consistent with CDC recommendations. Per existing CDC guidance, all students, staff, and visitors must wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Mask wearing is not required outdoors.

**District Implementation:** Masking will not be required when activities are outdoors.

Indoor masking: The following structure will be evaluated regularly and, dependent upon state and/or county directives, positivity rates in the community, and positivity rates in the schools, may be revised with immediate implementation.

Masking is required in all school buildings. Mask breaks will be provided.

Visitors will have very limited access to schools and when they are in the buildings, will be required to wear masks.



# SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation (1)

## 3. CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE

**SCDOH:** School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to SCDHS. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.

Consistent with CDC guidance, students in the K-12 indoor classroom who are within at least three feet of an infected student with masking are excluded from the definition of close contact and not required to quarantine. SCDHS concurs with CDC guidance which recommends that fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure.

Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 which do not fall in the exception detailed below must quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms through the 14th day. Below is the CDC exemption for K-12 students in indoor classroom setting:

Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three to six feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both students correctly and consistently wore well fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. It is recommended that schools continue to contact trace and notify families of potential exposure so they may monitor for symptoms closely 14 days from date of last exposure. Any students who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and seek testing. SCDHS recommends for any activities not in the classroom – recess, lunch, support services, etc. –schools keep records of seating charts and cohort students as possible to reduce exposure and assist with contact tracing.

**District Implementation:** Guidance will be implemented

## **SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation (2)**

### **3. CONTACT TRACING AND QUARANTINE**

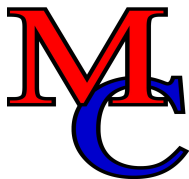
SCDOH (1/05/22; 1/06/22): School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to SCDHS. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 5 days from date of symptom onset if symptoms are gone or improving or test date if asymptomatic.

For students and staff who have been a close contact of a positive case and are quarantining, the quarantine period depends on vaccination status. - If the student/staff is fully vaccinated (boosted, or completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months or completed the primary series of J&J vaccine within the last 2 months, they do NOT need to quarantine. - If the student/staff is not fully vaccinated (see above), the quarantine period has been reduced from 10 days to 5 days.

Test to Stay (Students Only): Plan presented to BOE for adoption on 1/12/22.

2/09: Three main revisions: Test to Stay now applies to in-school and out-of-school contacts; Testing table has been reduced to accommodate 5 calendar day quarantine; Participants in Test to Stay may participate in MCCSD only extracurricular activities (students and staff may not be involved in activities that include students from other school districts). Test to Stay will be implemented Monday, February 28, 2022.

**District Implementation:** Guidance will be implemented



## SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation

### 4. SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

**SCDOH:** School districts must continue to report positive cases to SCDHS via the SCDHS portal. Only those who are required to quarantine must be reported. Those exempt from the definition of close contact(as described above and in the CDC guidance) should be informed of exposure and should be monitored closely for symptoms for 14 days from date of last exposure

**District Implementation:** Guidance will be implemented

### 5. VACCINATIONS

**SCDOH:** No SCDHS requirement for vaccination. Vaccination requirements for staff may be decided by the individual school districts.

**District Implementation:** Guidance will be implemented



## SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation

**SCDOH:** At this time, periodic COVID-19 testing is not required by SCDHS. SCDHS will monitor community transmission and revisit if warranted. Screening testing is a prevention strategy recommended by the CDC.

**District Implementation:** Contacted SCDOH (via survey response) re interest to conduct testing

9/29 Update: Testing of staff is required weekly; procedures being developed in partnership with NYDOH and SCDOH. Staff who are vaccinated may opt out of weekly testing. We have applied for LSL licensing which will permit testing on site by our school nurses.

10/12: District received LSL approval; awaiting receipt of test kits. In the interim, an outside agency will be used to conduct approximately 400 tests a week.

11/10: The District received 1000 tests. In-district testing is scheduled to begin on November 29. In the interim, an outside agency will continue to test. Once in-district testing begins, students - with parent permission, will have access to testing.

12/13: District provided testing resource initiated; Student testing on Mondays; Staff testing on Thursdays. 1/10: Staff added to Monday District testing participants.

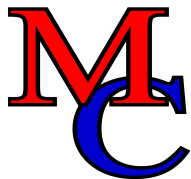
Week of 1/03: Approximately 9200 kits were provided by NYS; about 8000 kits were distributed to parents/guardians of students enrolled in district programs

Week of 1/10: Remaining kits distributed to schools; kits will be provided to symptomatic students if wanted by parents/guardians who pick up their children. Testing will also be made available to symptomatic staff. This opportunity will conclude when test supplies are exhausted.

## 7. TESTING RESOURCES

**SCDOH:** SCDHS has accepted State/Federal funding to aid schools in the establishment of COVID-19 screening testing programs to support and maintain in-person learning. SCDHS will issue a list of approved vendors schools may work with to conduct screening testing. This program is dependent upon available funding. Contact Ryan Attard at [Ryan.Attard@suffolkcountynyny.gov](mailto:Ryan.Attard@suffolkcountynyny.gov) for more information.

**District Implementation:** Contacted SCDOH (via survey response) re interest to conduct testing



## SCDOH Guidance/District Implementation

### 8. BUSSES

**SCDOH:** SCDHS concurs with existing CDC guidance that all students and adults must wear well-fitting masks while inside a bus, regardless of vaccination status.

At least three feet of physical distancing between non-household members should be maintained as much as possible on a school bus. Ventilation, loading from the rear forward, and alternate window/aisle seating can also help reduce risk of transmission.

**District Implementation:** Guidance will be implemented as required by DOT.

# Updated Guidance: March 2, 2022

Masks are Optional

Contact Tracing will be continued so that notifications of exposures are current

Tests To Stay recommended for exposed individuals

Testing kits are available for parents, guardians, staff and community organizations