

2021-2022 Wainscott Common School District Reopening Plan

The Wainscott Common School School District has developed its reopening plan in accordance with the New York State Department of Education's guide based on the CDC's Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools and American Academy of Pediatrics' COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools.

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to keep students and staff healthy and safe, be responsive to student needs and maximize in-person teaching and learning.

The Wainscott Common School District will implement, in a layered approach, the multiple prevention strategies identified by the CDC to promote safer in-person learning and care. These strategies include, but are no limited to:

- Promoting vaccination
- Temperature checks
- 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

COVID-19 VACCINATION

The CDC states that "vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools return safely to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports." Furthermore, many schools serve children under age 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at the time this guide was published. Therefore, reflecting CDC guidance, this document emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors and other members of their households.

MASKS

The Wainscott Common School District concurs with the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics which urge universal mask wearing in schools. Per existing CDC guidance, all students, staff and visitors must wear masks indoors regardless of vaccination status. Mask wearing is not required outdoors.

TEMPERATURE CHECK

Out of an abundance of caution, the Wainscott School will continue to do temperature checks for students and staff. Students and staff will have their temperature taken prior to entering the school building. If a temperature of 100 degrees or more is read, the student and/or staff member will be isolated and sent home. We will encourage a follow up with that person's health care provider. Temperature checks will apply to all visitors to the school building as well.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

In accordance with CDC recommendations, the Wainscott Common School District will maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing, to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully reopen while maintaining these distances, it is important to layer other prevention strategies.

Good Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

The CDC recommends that covering coughs, and sneezes can help educators, staff and students from getting and spreading COVID-19 and other infectious illnesses. The CDC also recommends that educators and school leaders reinforce good etiquette in schools by:

- Encouraging adults and students to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Reminding everyone in school to wash their hands frequently and to assist young children with handwashing; and,
- When handwashing isn't possible, providing hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol for all adults and students who can safely use it.

STAYING HOME WHEN SICK AND GETTING TESTED

Amid the recovery from the pandemic, the CDC recommends that:

- Students and school personnel should stay home if they are showing signs and symptoms of infectious illness, including COVID-19 and get tested
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their child attending school each day
- Schools should encourage everyone in their school community to get tested when symptoms are compatible with COVID-19, as this will help with rapid contact tracing and prevent the spread of COVID-19 at school.

CONTACT TRACING

The CDC recommends school leaders continue to collaborate with local health departments to the extent allowable by privacy laws, such as the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19 in their school communities. Doing so makes it possible to identify which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 results should isolate, and which close contacts should quarantine. School leaders should, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, report new diagnoses of COVID-19 to their local health department as soon as they are informed. School leaders, also should, to the extent allowable, notify the teachers, staff and families of students who were close contacts as soon as possible after they are notified that someone in the school has tested positive.

The CDC guidance document defines a close contact as:

- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- **EXCEPTION:** In the **K-12 Indoor Classroom** setting the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff or other adults in the classroom setting.
- According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated do **NOT** need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get 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.

IMPROVING VENTILATION

Improved ventilation inside school buildings can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Some ventilation strategies include:

- Bringing fresh outdoor air into the building by opening multiple doors and windows (when this doesn't present a safety hazard)
- Using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

The CDC encourages cleaning the school building at least once a day to sufficiently remove any germs that may be on surfaces.

- Per the CDC, if your school building has someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, it is important to clean and disinfect the space as soon as possible