

# School Opening- BCSD 21-22

September 1, 2021

# Goals for Tonight

Discuss any updates or clarifications to our plans for the 21-22 School year in regards to COVID-19 mitigation in regards to CDC guidance

Answer questions

We are planning for an amazing year!



# CDC COVID -19 Mitigation Measures

Indoor Masking

Vaccinations

Ventilation

Screening

Physical Distancing

COVID-19 Testing



# An Important Emphasis from CDC Guidance

*“Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.”*



# Update on Masking and Mask Breaks

**Universal Masking is now required by the state for staff and students in schools.**

Mask breaks will either be outside or when students are separated from other individuals by 6 feet and under the guidance of a staff member for a brief amount of time.



# Vaccine Update

Governor Hochul is preparing to announce a vaccine or testing requirement for all school staff. I am hearing that this will be announced in the next few days. If it becomes law, all unvaccinated staff will be required to undergo weekly testing.



# Ventilation

Each classroom uses a MERV-13 filter in its air handler unit

Each classroom has a portable HEPA filter

Both are high quality air filtration tools



# Health Screening

We are going to continue with using the daily health screener, it might be a slightly different format this year- staying home when sick is extremely important

We are discontinuing the use of temperature screening before the school year. Very few districts used it last year and there is a growing consensus that it is not an effective way to screen COVID-19.





# Distancing and a Lunch Update

CDC recommends three feet distancing in schools with mask wearing

Every school has prepared lunch plans to maximize distancing to every extent possible. This includes some students in eating in the classrooms, some students eating in alternate locations, some students eating outside under tents, and some students



# COVID-19 Testing

It looks like COVID-19 testing will be required by the state in the coming days for unvaccinated staff.

COVID-19 testing for students will be voluntary and require parent permission.



# Contact Tracing

Contact Tracing: the CDC and Dutchess County now define a close contact to be one who was at a distance of less than 3 feet to a confirmed positive case for K-12 students and less than 6 feet for an adult. Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals will not be identified as exposed and defined as a close contact. Asymptomatic masked students who are seated at a distance of greater than 3 feet from other students would not be close contacts.



# Remote Education

NYSED (state education department) is not requiring districts to provide remote education to students but has asked districts to be ready to move a school or district to temporary remote learning for all students if needed.

The priority is placed on in-person instruction for this school year for all students

Families with students with significant medical issues that may required remote education through BOCES should go through the 504 process by contacting Assistant Superintendent Sagrario Rudicendo-O'Neill at [rudicendo-oneill.s@beaconk12.org](mailto:rudicendo-oneill.s@beaconk12.org).



# Final Thoughts

We will continue our communication efforts for this month and during the school year in the form of email, robo-call, and zoom town halls.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Matt

