

# 2021-22 School Year Continuity of Learning Plan

**GOAL:** Maintaining full-time, in-person learning for all PreK – 12 students.

**MASKS:** Effective through March 1, 2022, all students and staff were required to wear masks when indoors and while on the bus, unless medically exempted with a doctor's note. Visitors to the district were also required to wear masks. Mask breaks were provided when needed.

Effective as of March 2, 2022, masking in school district buildings has become optional for students, faculty, staff, and visitors on school grounds. Masks are also now optional on school buses.

Masks are only mandated on days 6-10 when individuals are returning to school or work after being COVID-19 positive after undertaking the five (5) day isolation period. However, if individuals cannot wear a well-fitted mask after five days of isolation, they must not return to school or work until 10 days have elapsed since testing positive for COVID-19.

Masks are also strongly recommended, but not required for 10 days following exposure to a COVID-19 positive individual. In addition, it is recommended that persons exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual either participate in the District's "test to stay" program or otherwise undertake voluntary self-testing at home twice within the week following an exposure. An exposure is defined as a close contact with an individual with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status. A close contact is a person who was less than six feet away from an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 or more minutes over a 24-hour period.

Masks being optional shall in no way prevent individuals who choose to continue wearing masks inside school buildings or on school transportation from doing so. No individual should be discriminated against, harassed, or bullied for choosing either to wear a mask or not to wear a mask in the school setting. Acts of harassment and discrimination are subject to processing under the Dignity for All Students Act and other applicable anti-discrimination policies/laws.

These requirements will be subject to review and possible modification in the future based on numerous factors, including but not limited to: the virulence of current viral variant(s), community transmission statistics, and guidance from federal, state, and local health officials.

**CONTACT TRACING:** The District continues to notify those who have been exposed or are potentially exposed to COVID-19, but contact tracing as was previously done, has been discontinued. As of January 14, 2022, the District is no longer authorized to issue orders of quarantine on the County's behalf. Thus, the District has stopped quarantining those who were potentially exposed to COVID-19. Parents/guardians and staff will be notified via email when they have potentially been exposed to COVID-19. Families who do not have an email address will be contacted via phone.

## **ISOLATION:**

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for at least five (5) days *regardless* of vaccination status. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or,

for asymptomatic students, the day the COVID-19 test was performed. Per the CDC, isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

- Parents/Guardians should inform known close contacts and complete the [Affirmation of Isolation](#)
- Notify the school nurse.
- Students may attend school after the 5-day isolation provided:
  - Symptoms have improved
  - No vomiting, no diarrhea, and no fever for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication
  - A well-fitted mask must be worn in the school setting on days 6-10 following release from isolation in order to return to school.
    - Upon return, your child will need to eat lunch in a separate location for an additional five days (Days 6-10). When your child is done eating, they will rejoin their classmates for the remainder of the period.
  - If symptoms persist after day 5, further isolation will be required. Certain symptoms such as loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation.
  - NYS DOH Guidance: [New York State's Approach to Isolation and Quarantine | Department of Health](#)
- If asymptomatic students develop symptoms *after* testing positive, the 5-day isolation period starts over. Day 0 is the first day of symptoms.
- If they are unable to wear a mask well-fitting mask at all times when around others, they must continue isolation for a full 10 days.
- **Regardless of vaccination status, it is essential you and your child are looking out for symptoms including sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, fever, cough, body aches, and fatigue. If any symptoms develop, please isolate your child immediately and seek testing.**

**TEST TO STAY:** The District's Test to Stay (TTS) program is now purely voluntary and will not be a condition of continued attendance upon instruction. The following individuals may choose to participate in the District's TTS program:

- Unvaccinated, asymptomatic students if they have a close contact reported by the parent, or if the school becomes aware of a close contact.
- Vaccinated, asymptomatic students who are eligible for a booster but are not yet boosted if they have a close contact reported by the parent, or if the school becomes aware of a close contact.
- At-risk student and staff populations that have close contact at school.
- The District may utilize TTS in situations when an additional layer of mitigation may be warranted (i.e., a cluster of positive cases occurring in a school or classroom).

**INSTRUCTION: ISOLATION/QUARANTINE:** Students who must isolate/or who have chosen to self-quarantine (based upon parental decision making) in grades 3-12 are able to “audit” classes by logging on to a Google Hangout and listening to the lesson. Digital resources on Google Classroom are also available. Students in grades PreK-2 receive independent asynchronous instructional materials from their classroom teachers. This is a combination of digital resources on Seesaw or Google Classroom along with physical supplies that are sent home or picked up at the school. Individual classroom teachers reach out to families of students who must isolate/quarantined to coordinate specific asynchronous learning activities and expectations on a case-by-case basis.

Our staff across all school buildings communicate with families through phone and/or email for the duration of each student’s isolation/quarantine. Over the course of your child’s isolation/quarantine period, please feel free to reach out to their teachers to ensure that they are getting everything they need to stay on top of their academics.

**POSITIVE CASE NOTIFICATIONS:** Numbers of positive cases and close contacts in our schools are posted on our [COVID Information page](#). Parents/guardians of a student exposed (close contact - see definition above) to a COVID-positive person are notified via email. An exemption in the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) 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. If your child is deemed a close contact, you will be notified by email. Families who do not have an email address will be contacted via phone. District-wide notifications will continue to be sent.

**PERSONAL HYGIENE:** Handwashing and sanitizing protocols established in the 2020-21 school year continue.

**VENTILATION:** Maximizing airflow in buildings continues.

**CLEANING:** Cleaning protocols established in the 2020-21 school year continue.

**NUTRITION:** ALL students 18 and under will receive breakfast and lunch FREE OF CHARGE during the 2021-22 school year. Families eligible for the free and reduced lunch program are encouraged to complete those applications in order to receive other benefits. Additionally, district funding is improved based on these applications.

**LUNCH:** Students are socially distanced while eating to the maximum extent possible. The district encourages lunch outdoors, weather permitting.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Masks while on the bus are now optional. Social distancing is not guaranteed on our buses. Parents are encouraged to continue dropping off/picking up their child/ren if possible.

**SCHEDULES:** Normal schedules are in place. We DO NOT have hybrid or remote-only learning options for the 2021-22 school year.

**LOCKERS:** Students at the middle and high schools are issued a locker. Physical Education classes do not use lockers.

**REMOTE-ONLY FOR MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS:** The district is contracting with Dutchess County BOCES to provide fully remote-only instruction for those students who qualify. The application process for the BOCES K-12 Virtual Learning Academy requires a letter from a medical doctor and committee approval.

**TECHNOLOGY:** Teachers will utilize Google Classroom and/or SeeSaw. Students and teachers should be prepared to pivot to remote learning at any time.

**SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING:** School-based social workers, psychologists, and counselors are available to support all students.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION CLASSES:** Classes are conducted as much as possible outdoors, weather permitting. Social distancing is used during physical education classes.

**MUSIC:** Band, orchestra, and chorus have resumed. Students are socially distanced during these times. Instrument covers are provided as appropriate. Outdoor spaces are utilized.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The district continues to monitor guidance from the New York State Education Department, the state and county health departments, and the Governor's office. We will revise/update our plan accordingly and notify parents of those updates.

*Public Comment Welcomed*

*Anyone wishing to make comments regarding the MCSD Continuity of Learning Plan can do so by emailing their comments to Superintendent Mitchell - [LauraMitchell@Millbrookcsd.org](mailto:LauraMitchell@Millbrookcsd.org)*

*Please include your name and address*

*Thank you.*