

COVID-19 Re-Opening Protocols



The safety protocols listed below reflect the most up-to-date “best practice” guidance recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the New York State Education Department, the New York State Department of Health, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. These practices include input from the COVID-19 District Advisory Committee, and are approved by our Interim Medical Director, Dr. Louis Corsaro.

The internal COVID team continues to monitor local infection and vaccination levels in New Rochelle and will revise protocols and practices on a monthly basis as health data changes.

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Daily Health Screening	Screening: The Centers for Disease Control no longer requires daily health screening in communities with low to moderate COVID-19 transmission rates.	<p>Screening: Students and staff will participate in a daily health screening that includes a “symptoms, temperature, and COVID contact” checklist.</p> <p>Required by the Centers for Disease Control, Districts in “high” viral-spread areas employ daily health screening as an important protective layer <i>before</i> a student enters a school. The school nurse will monitor student compliance; the District's Human Resource Department will follow up with staff.</p> <p>Individuals not employed by the District must complete a screening questionnaire to enter any District building, including the Board of Education at City Hall.</p>
Masks	Indoors: Universal mask wearing for all students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.	Indoors: Students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks indoors with the exception of:

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	<p>Outdoors: Mask wearing is optional. The Centers for Disease Control recommends persons who are not fully vaccinated to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings. ● During activities that involve prolonged close contact with other people. <p>Per the guidance, schools requiring persons to wear a mask should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The possibility of accommodation for individuals who are not fully vaccinated and/or who are unable to wear, or have difficulty wearing, masks because of a disability. <p>From the New York State Education Department: Effective immediately, in accordance with the Commissioner's Determination issued pursuant to 10 New York Commissioner's Regulations 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times in all school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>People do not need to wear masks when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Eating. ● Drinking. ● Singing. ● Playing a wind instrument. <p>Individuals must be spaced 6 feet apart. All mask requirements must be applied consistently with any state and federal law (e.g.: the Americans with Disabilities Act).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lunch, where 6 feet of physical distancing must be maintained. <p>The District's masking mandate applies to school visitors, parents, contractors, vendors, students and staff before, during and after school, during special programming on weekends and in summer ESY (Extended School Year) programs.</p> <p>Outdoors: Mask-wearing is optional for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals as long as 6 feet of social distancing is maintained. Mask wearing is a must for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals when they are less than 6 feet apart.</p> <p>Individuals who are vaccinated and not fully vaccinated should wear a mask, especially in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve prolonged close contact.</p>
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Mask Break	No Guidance Offered	<p>Mask Breaks: As approved by the Principal, indoor mask breaks of 60 to 90 seconds are permitted for individual students and staff provided 6 feet of physical distance is maintained. Breaks should be taken by an open window, or teachers can transition classes outside where possible. Air-filtration systems that exchange air a minimum of four times per hour provide safe indoor air quality.</p> <p>*The District will institute an open-window policy, requiring that windows and doors always be kept open in naturally ventilated indoor spaces, unless there is a safety, security, privacy, health, or other significant reason for closing them.</p>
Physical Distancing	<p>Classroom, Lunch, Music and Physical Education: Maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, physical education. Music not involving singing or wind instruments will maintain 3 feet of distance. For students in chorus or playing a wind instrument, at least 6 feet of distance between students are recommended. In physical education, ensure any contact between activities is quick and not for extended periods of time. When outdoors, schools should encourage activities that allow for distancing and reduced contact. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.</p> <p>When outdoors, schools should encourage activities that allow for distancing and reduced contact. A distance of at least 6 feet</p>	<p>Within Classrooms: Maintain 3 feet of physical separation in classrooms where feasible and programmatically appropriate.</p> <p>Lunch: Students must be seated 6 feet apart during the lunch period.</p> <p>Music: Vocal music and wind instrument playing must occur with 6 feet of physical distance and masks are required. String-playing can take place at 3 feet of physical distance. Masks are required.</p> <p>Physical Education</p> <p>Outdoor Physical Education does not require 6 feet of physical distance or masks.</p> <p>Indoor Physical Education: Staff and students must wear face masks and maintain 6 feet of physical distance where feasible. Indoor physical education classes will emphasize:</p>

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	is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Light activity. ● Have floor markers indicating 6-foot intervals.

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Contact Tracing Quarantine	<p>Contact Tracing and Quarantine: School districts must continue to report positive cases to the Westchester County Department of Health via the Department’s portal. Only those who are required to quarantine must be reported. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from the date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.</p> <p>In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close-contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both students correctly and consistently wear well-fitting masks the entire time. This exemption does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.</p> <p>According to the Centers for Disease Control, staff and students 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 three to five days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask in doors in public for 14 days following exposure or until the test result is negative. It is recommended that schools continue to contact-trace and notify families of potential exposure to a monitor for symptoms closely 14 days from the date of the last exposure. Any students who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and seek testing.</p>	<p>Contact Tracing and Quarantine: The District will report positive cases of COVID-19 to the Westchester County Department of Health.</p> <p>Individuals who test positive must remain in quarantine for 10 days from the date of onset of symptoms or the test date if asymptomatic.</p> <p>If a fully vaccinated student has had direct contact within 6 feet of a COVID-positive person for 10 cumulative minutes and is asymptomatic, the student will not be quarantined and can remain in school. The student must be Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-tested three to five following exposure.</p> <p>If an unvaccinated student has had direct contact within 6 feet of a COVID-positive person for 10 cumulative minutes regardless of whether the student is asymptomatic or symptomatic, the student, not the whole class, will quarantine for 10 days and must be Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-tested without possibility of waiver.</p> <p>The District will continue to contact-trace and notify families of potential exposure, following the guidelines of the Westchester County Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control.</p>
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Vaccinations	<p>No Westchester County Department of Health requirement for vaccinations. Vaccination requirements for staff may be decided by the individual school districts. Centers for Disease Control recommends encouraging COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members as the most critical strategy to help schools safely resume full operations.</p> <p>The New York State Education Department recommends that the protocol to collect, secure, use, and further disclose this information should comply with relevant and statutory and regulatory requirements, including Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).</p>	<p>Vaccinations: The District, the Federation of United School Employees & the Administrative & Supervisors Association have agreed to require vaccinations for all school personnel, with an option for employees who are not vaccinated to COVID-test weekly.</p> <p>The District will continue to partner with the Westchester County Department of Health to establish vaccination clinics for eligible students and staff. Staff and students have regularly been provided information on where they can obtain a vaccine.</p> <p>Upcoming Clinics: Information To Be Posted on the District Website</p> <p>Albert Leonard Middle School: Sept. 22 (first dose) and Oct. 13 (second dose) 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>Isaac E. Young Middle School: Oct. 16 (first dose) Nov. 6 (second dose) 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>The District Human Resources Department will request staff to provide COVID-19 status in compliance with relevant District agreements and regulatory requirements, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.</p>
Testing	<p>Screening testing is a prevention strategy recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.</p>	<p>Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Saliva Testing: The District, in partnership with Westchester County Department of Health, will provide weekly Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) saliva testing for students and staff who volunteer and give consent.</p>
Remote Instruction	<p>Remote Instruction: According to the State Education Department, as long as it is followed by public health officials, school should be open for in-person teaching and</p>	<p>Remote Instruction: The District will provide full five-day a week, in-person instruction. The District is fully prepared to pivot to a remote-</p>

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	<p>learning, and students should be in school. In cases of school closures due to a declared a public health emergency, schools should be prepared to provide remote instruction.</p> <p>The State Education Department does not require schools that are open for full-time in-person instruction to provide online or remote instruction. Districts may work with students and families to offer remote options if it is deemed to be in the best educational interest of the student.</p>	<p>instruction model in the event of a quarantine or public-health emergency.</p> <p>The District will not offering a remote-learning option due to COVID during the 2021-2022 school year, absent a public-health emergency. Students with doctor-documented medical needs, reviewed by the school physician, that precludes in-person school attendance, will be provided tutoring as per the District’s home-instruction policy. Parents who wish to homeschool should contact the Home School Office.</p>
<p>Sports and Extra-curricular Activities</p>	<p>Both the Centers for Disease Control and the State Education Department recognize that school-sponsored sports and extracurricular activities provide students with enrichment opportunities that can help them learn and achieve and support their social, emotional, and mental health.</p> <p>To ensure the health and safety of the students during these activities, the Centers for Disease Control recommends the following:</p> <p>Due to increased exhalation that occurs during physical activity, some sports can put players, coaches, trainers, and others at increased risk for getting and spreading COVID-19. Close contact sports and indoor sports are particularly risky. The New York State Education Department recommends vaccinations for high-risk sports in high-spread areas. Similar risks might exist for extracurricular activities such as band, choir, and school clubs that meet indoors. Prevention strategies during these activities remain important. At minimum, students</p>	<p>Athletics, Interscholastic Sports, Extracurricular: The District concurs about the value of athletics and extracurricular activities and has implemented the following safety protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visiting and home-team students will not be allowed use of locker rooms. ● Students must be masked and maintain 6 feet of physical distance when not participating in an activity. ● Indoor facilities must have enhanced ventilation including open doors, windows, cross ventilation, HVAC fresh-air exchange four times per hour. ● Athletics in high contact sports must be Polymerase Chain Reaction-tested weekly. ● Students in high-contact sports or in extracurricular activities when indoors (choir, band, theater, competitive cheerleading or dance) who are less than 6 feet of physical distance from a COVID positive individual must follow District quarantine protocol. ● Persons who are fully vaccinated can refrain from quarantine following a known exposure

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Sports and Extra-curricular Activities continued	<p>and adults should follow the same school-day policies and procedures during athletic and extracurricular activities. Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. Schools are strongly encouraged to use COVID-19 screening testing for student-athletes; students participating in extracurricular activities or other activities with elevated risk (such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, and exercise leading to increase exhalation and pressure); and in adults, (for coaches, teachers, advisers) not fully vaccinated and participate in or support these activities. The goal is to facilitate safe participation and reduce risk of transmission and avoid jeopardizing in-person education due to outbreaks.</p>	<p>if they are asymptomatic, and have been Polymerase Chain Reaction-tested within three to five days after the exposure, facilitating continued participation in in-person learning, sports, and extracurricular activities.</p>
Spectators	<p>The New York State Department of Health Sport & Recreation Guidance has provided social-gathering limits for indoor and outdoor sports and recreation as follows: The outdoor sports and recreation limit is 500 persons; the indoor limit is 250 persons.</p>	<p>Spectators: The District will permit spectators at both indoor and outdoor competitions. Spectators attending indoor competitions will be required to wear a mask and maintain 3 to 6 feet of physical distancing. The event is limited to 250 persons. At outdoor sports and recreation events, the District will encourage distancing of 6 feet and reduced contact between spectators. Spectators may be masked or unmasked. The outdoor spectator limit is 500.</p>
Outside Visitors	<p>No guidance has been provided.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-employees must complete a screening questionnaire to enter any District school or building, including the Board of Education at City Hall. In addition, visitors must be masked at all times while in any District school or building, including City Hall, regardless of vaccination status. • All buildings require visitors to sign in. A

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		<p>log will be maintained by Security with the date, time, contact information and places visited to help with contact tracing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All contractors and visitors are required to complete a COVID-19 questionnaire before gaining entry to any District building, including City Hall. • No facilities use for groups not associated with or serving the City School District of New Rochelle students in an approved district program. • School events and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings may take place virtually. <p>Principals can schedule appointments during the school day at their discretion.</p>
School Field Trips	No guidance has been provided.	Field Trips: The District will permit field trips, provided the location to be visited is open to the public and does not require disclosing vaccination status.
Use of School Building	No guidance has been provided.	Building Use: Use of facilities is limited to groups serving District students in approved after-school partnership programs. District health and safety protocols must be diligently followed by the public.
Cleaning and Disinfection	The New York State Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control recommend cleaning school buildings and school buses at least once a day to sufficiently remove any germs that may be on surfaces. The New York State Education Department and the Centers for Disease Control state that if a school building has someone who tested positive for COVID-19	<p>Cleaning and Disinfection: The District will comply with these recommendations.</p> <p>In addition to the cleaning protocols in place including MERV-13 filters, cleaning air ducts, using surface cleaning products, the District is completing installation of an indoor air purification technology to provide active and</p>

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	within the last 24 hours, it is important to clean and disinfect the space as soon as possible.	continuous disinfection of the air within each school.
Ventilation	<p>State Education Department Guidance: Improved ventilation inside schools can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. Some ventilation strategies that schools can consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bringing in fresh air into the building by opening multiple doors and windows. ● Retrofitting HVAC systems to improve air filtration. ● Using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows. ● During transportation, open windows on buses and other forms of transportation, if doing so does not pose a safety risk. 	Ventilation is an essential health and safety protocol that supports all school activities in the District. In classrooms, music areas, gyms and auditoriums, enhanced HVAC systems exchange fresh air four times per hour, ensuring indoor air quality that meets or exceeds State Education Department and ASHRAE standards. These systems are supplemented, where appropriate, by natural ventilation provided by open windows and open doors.