



**Core Principles and Minimum Requirements for
COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines
for 2021-2022 School Year**

Please Check 'Yes' or 'No' for the following.

School Opening Protocols and Procedures for September 2021-2022 school operations including students, faculty, and staff for in-person instruction.		YES	NO
Identify the Responsible Parties	Schools should identify the Responsible Parties who are responsible for developing the plan, affirming to having read and adhere to this guidance, and meeting the standards set forth therein. The Responsible Party maintains the plan policies and protocols for students, faculty and staff. For private and charter schools, the head of school, or another party as may be designated by the head of school, is the Responsible Parties. The designated party can be an individual or group of individuals responsible for the operations of the school or schools.	X	
Vaccination	All Administration, Faculty and Staff eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated.	X	
Facility Capacity	Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction is a priority. Schools should plan for the return of all students to in-person instruction.	X	
Social Distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Schools in classroom settings should implement a social distance of three feet only if it does not exclude students from in-person learning to keep the minimum distance. ● Anywhere outside of the classroom setting schools will implement a social distance of six feet. ● Hallways and Stairways should maintain single direction. ● All classroom desks should face in one direction ● Students may change classrooms while maintaining a social distance of six feet. ● Schools will Implement the layering of preventive strategies 	X	

<p style="text-align: center;">PPE and Face Coverings</p>	<p>Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.</p> <p>All adults and children are required to wear face masks while indoors on school property regardless of vaccination status.</p> <p>Per the CDC guidance, mask requirements should consider exceptions for the following categories of people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of reasonable accommodation with staff who are not fully vaccinated who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability. ● A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations. <p>Outdoors: Face Masks are not required when outdoors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised. ● The CDC recommends that that schools should have a sufficient supply of masks for students and staff who forget their own or need a replacement, including on buses. provide masks 	X	
<p style="text-align: center;">Stay Home if you are Sick</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as influenza (flu) or COVID-19, should stay home and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. Staying home when sick with COVID-19 is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others. ● Schools will educate teachers, staff, and families about when they and their children should stay home and when they can return to school. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is 	X	

	<p>essential that parents keep children home if they are showing signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and get them tested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any individual who exhibits COVID-19 or flu like symptoms must have medical clearance from a healthcare provider indicating they can safely return to school. • Schools do not make recommendations on testing; testing recommendations should be made in coordination and the advisement of the individual and a healthcare provider. 		
Hand and Respiratory Etiquettes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All school community members should practice handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19. Schools can monitor and reinforce these behaviors and provide adequate handwashing supplies. • Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. • Remind everyone in the facility to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing. • If handwashing is not possible, use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers should be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age. 	X	
Recess and Physical Education	As per the CDC August 5: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities). (Please refer to Sports and Extracurriculars for additional guidance)	X	
Operational Activity	<p>Schools should determine how classes, shared spaces, and activities may be adapted in various phases of learning and operations to allow a social distance of three feet (classroom setting) six feet (all non-classroom settings) while not excluding students to keep that minimum distance.</p> <p>Cohorts/Pods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty, Staff and Students should maintain cohorts/pods during the school day. • Faculty and Staff may move among cohorts while maintaining a social distance of three feet or the layering of preventive strategies. <p>Visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools should limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations, if not necessary to maintain daily operational school activities. 	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools should not limit access for direct service providers, but can ensure compliance with school visitor policies. Schools should continue to emphasize the importance of staying home when sick. Anyone, including visitors, who have symptoms of infectious illness, such as flu or COVID-19, should stay home and seek testing and care, regardless of vaccination status. <p>Congregate Settings: Individuals should follow the safety and health protocols for large group settings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain cohorts Maintain Social Distance between cohorts Face Masks Ventilation Hand and Respiratory Hygiene Implement the layering of preventive strategies 		
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September 2021 OPERATIONS		YES	NO
Protocols and Procedures for September 2021-2022 to safely open facilities and grounds, such as cleaning and disinfection, and restarting building ventilation, water systems, and other key facility components, as applicable.			
Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection	<p>Protocols and procedures for school-wide cleaning and disinfection of classrooms, restrooms, cafeterias, libraries, playgrounds, school buses, and all other school facilities, as well as training and promotion of hand and respiratory hygiene among all individuals in school facilities and on school grounds.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All schools will continue with the daily cleaning and nightly disinfecting of the school building and property. All schools will continue to promote healthy hand and respiratory hygiene for all members of the school community. All schools will implement the layering of preventive strategies 	X	
Ventilation	<p>Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air bringing fresh outdoor air into a building helps keep virus particles from concentrating inside. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems.</p>	X	

	Schools should implement either or both mechanical and non-mechanical ways to increase ventilation.		
Sports and Extracurriculars	<p>For school sponsored sports and extracurricular activities where cohorts/pods or same household may not be possible, schools should implement the layering of preventive strategies: a social distance of three- six feet for these activities, use of Face Masks and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.</p> <p>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. 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. Similar risks might exist for other extracurricular activities, such as band, choir, theater, and school clubs that meet indoors.</p> <p>Prevention strategies in these activities remain important and should comply with school day policies and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Setting of the sporting event or activity. In general, the risk of COVID-19 transmission is lower when playing outdoors than in indoor settings. Consider the ability to keep physical distancing in various settings at the sporting event (i.e., fields, benches/team areas, locker rooms, spectator viewing areas, spectator facilities/restrooms, etc.). ● Physical closeness. Spread of COVID-19 is more likely to occur in sports that require sustained close contact (such as wrestling, hockey, football). ● Number of people. Risk of spread of COVID-19 increases with increasing numbers of athletes, spectators, teachers, and staff. ● Level of intensity of activity. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases with the intensity of the sport. ● Duration of time. The risk of COVID-19 spread increases the more time athletes, coaches, teachers, staff and spectators spend in proximity or in indoor group settings. This includes time spent traveling to/from sporting events, meetings, meals, and other settings related to the event. ● Presence of people more likely to develop severe illness. People at increased risk of severe illness might need to take extra precautions. <p>Prevention strategies during these activities remain important and should comply with school-day policies and procedures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should refrain from these activities when they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and should be tested. 	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools are strongly encouraged to use screening testing for student athletes and adults (e.g., coaches, teachers, advisors) who are not fully vaccinated who participate in and support these activities to facilitate safe participation and reduce risk of transmission – and avoid jeopardizing in-person education due to outbreaks. See the CDC screening testing recommendations for K-12 schools by level of community transmission table 1 here. High-risk sports and extracurricular activities should be virtual or canceled in areas of high community transmission unless all participants are fully vaccinated. 		
Before and Aftercare	Before or Aftercare where cohorts/pods or same household may not be possible, schools should implement a layering of preventive strategies: cohorts, a social distance of three- six feet for these activities, use of Face Masks and cleaning and disinfecting protocols.	X	
Remote Learning	<p>Schools should have plans in place for remote learning in instances of school closures and mandated COVID quarantine.</p> <p>The offering of Remote Learning in any other instance is a local school decision.</p> <p>The St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Online Academy is a Catholic online Academy within the Diocese of Brooklyn available for students whose parents/guardians may opt for remote learning. Registration information can be found at https://stthomasaquinasbq.org/</p>	X	
Transportation	Consistent with State-issued public transit guidance, protocols and procedures which include that individuals must always wear acceptable face coverings on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated), and that individuals should maintain appropriate social distancing, unless they are members of the same household. Schools will follow all NYC DOE health and safety requirements for Yellow School Bus Service.	X	
Food Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools should implement the layering of preventive strategies Schools should where possible maintain a social distance of six feet during lunchtime or the minimum social distance of three feet. Schools should use creative scheduling, staggering lunchtimes to meet the social distance requirement. 	X	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to provide measures to protect students with food allergies. ● Cleaning should take place between groups. ● Staff should wear masks at all times during meal preparation and service, and during breaks except when eating or drinking. ● Students should wear masks when moving through the food service line. ● Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors). Using additional spaces outside of the cafeteria for mealtime seating such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating can help facilitate distancing. Students should not be excluded from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement, including during mealtimes. ● Given very low risk of transmission from surfaces and shared objects, there is no need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals. ● Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals. ● Promote hand washing before, after, and during shifts, before and after eating, after using the toilet, and after handling garbage, dirty dishes, or removing gloves. ● Improve ventilation in food preparation, service, and seating areas ● Schools should have available areas for students to perform hand hygiene before and after meals. ● Sharing of food and beverages among students should be discouraged. 		
<p style="text-align: center;">Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and programs</p>	<p>Schools should utilize available resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students, faculty, and staff when school opens in September (e.g., how they will identify and support students having difficulty with transitioning back into the school setting, especially given the changed school environment). Any training for faculty and staff on how to talk with, and support, students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as information on developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff.</p>	X	
<p style="text-align: center;">Communication</p>	<p>Schools will communicate with Faculty, Staff, Students, Parents/Guardians and Visitors plans for all the COVID-19 safety and health guidelines.</p>	X	

	Schools will continue with signage regarding the “Core Four”, Social Distance, One Way directions etc.... Schools will implement the layering of preventive strategies.		
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<u>MONITORING</u>		YES	NO
Protocols and Procedures for September 2021-2022 to track health conditions at schools.			
Screening	Schools will continue to require all Faculty, Staff, Visitors and Parents/Guardians on behalf of their children to complete the Daily Health Screening.	X	
Testing Protocols	If or when the city or state government requires mandatory testing all schools will follow all the government requirements on testing.	X	
Testing Responsibilities	If or when the city or state government requires mandatory testing all schools will follow all the government requirements on testing.	X	
Early Warning Signs	All schools will use the City and State Defined metrics that will serve as early warning signs that positive COVID-19 cases may be increasing beyond an acceptable level, as established by state and local health departments; define and deploy method(s) to monitor against such metrics. CDC July 2021- Levels of community transmission defined as total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days (low, 0-9; moderate 10-49; substantial, 50-99, high, ≥100) and percentage of positive tests in the past 7 days (low, <5%; moderate, 5-7.9%; substantial, 8-9.9%; high, ≥10%.)	X	

<u>CONTAINMENT</u>		YES	NO
Protocols and Procedures for September 2021-2022 for how to respond to positive or presumed-positive cases, as well as preventative practices.			
School Health Offices	Protocols for safely caring for a student, faculty, or staff member if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day. All schools will continue to follow all policies and procedures regarding isolation and quarantine as provided by the local health department as outlined in the 2020-2021 School Re-Opening Plan.	X	

Isolation	Schools will continue the 2020-2021 School Re-Opening Plan Isolation procedures and protocols to isolate individuals who screen positive upon arrival, or symptomatic individuals should they become symptomatic while at school, providing appropriate PPE for school health office staff caring for the symptomatic individual. Protocols for safe transportation, including pick-up arrangements, if applicable, for symptomatic students, faculty, and staff	X	
Collection	Schools will continue health and safety protocols for how parents or legal guardians should pick up their student with instructions that the student must be seen by a health care provider and can not return to school without medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider to safely return to school.	X	
Infected Individuals	In coordination and under the direction of the local health agencies persons having tested positive for COVID-19 cannot return to school until they have completed isolation, have recovered and have medical clearance from a licensed healthcare provider to safely return to in school.	X	
Exposed Individuals	In coordination and under the direction of the local health agencies individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus must complete quarantine, show no symptoms before returning to school. Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.	X	
Hygiene, Cleaning and Disinfecting	Schools will Adhere to, and promotion of, hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection guidance set forth by DOH and CDC, including strategies for cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas and appropriate notification to occupants of such areas.	X	
Contact Tracing	Schools will continue the protocols for the reporting of positive COVID-19 cases and the exposure to COVID-19. This includes contacting the Office of the Superintendent and completing the COVID-19 report. Schools will assist in supporting local health departments in contact tracing efforts using the protocols, training, and tools provided through the New York State Contact Tracing Program –an initiative between the Department of Health, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Vital Strategies.	X	
Communication	Schools will have available upon request the protocols and safety measures taken by the school with all relevant parties including parents/legal guardians, faculty, staff, students and the local community.	X	

<u>CLOSURE</u> Protocols and Procedures for September 2021-2022 for Contingency plans for decreasing the scale or scope of in-person education, and/or closing the school.		YES	NO
Closure Triggers	Identification of the conditions that may warrant reducing in-person education or closing the school, will be made in consultation with state and local health departments. School closure decisions will be conducted in coordination with the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, School Leadership and the local health agency.	X	
Operational Activity	Determination of which operations will be decreased or ceased, and which operations will be conducted remotely; will be made in consultation with state and local health departments. Operational activity closure decisions will be conducted in coordination with the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, School Leadership and the local health agency.	X	
Communication	Schools should have a plan to communicate internally and externally throughout the closure process with all members of the school community.	X	

Please Note: These guidelines will be monitored and are subject to change based on rate of transmission, and as city and state guidance continues to evolve.