Suffern Central School District
Start of School

2021 - 2022

Dr. P. Erik Gundersen
Superintendent of Schools

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October, 2021; updated based on NYSDOH guidance 09.02.21
Dear Suffern Central School District Community:

The 2021 - 2022 school year is underway and we are excited to witness the return of students and staff to in-person learning. District officials have been working closely with our health advisors as we strive to keep our practices and procedures consistent with New York State and CDC guidelines. Our goal is to maximize in-person teaching and learning, to keep our students and staff healthy and safe, and to be responsive to the needs of our community. To do this, we will continue to implement the appropriate health measures and ensure everyone is following proper procedures.

Below you will find the latest details on masking, health screenings, quarantine protocols and more. We invite you to familiarize yourselves with these guidelines. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at egundersen@sufferncentral.org or 845-357-7783.

Sincerely,

Dr. P. Erik Gundersen
Superintendent of Schools
**Masking Requirements**

- Universal indoor masking will be required for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status in K-12 schools as per the Commissioner’s Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60.
- Any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear a mask at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status.
- Individuals with medical or developmental conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask may be exempted from mask requirements, as documented by a medical provider.
- Individuals do not need to wear masks when eating, drinking, or during mask breaks.
- Individuals who are singing will wear masks; those playing a wind instrument will wear masks provided by SCSD and individuals must be spaced, at a minimum, 3 feet apart.
- Mask requirements will be applied consistently with any state and federal law (e.g., Americans with Disabilities Act).
- Masks will be worn on school buses.

**Physical Distancing**

- Students will be asked to keep appropriate distance when moving through hallways.
- Students will be spaced, to the extent possible, at a desk distance of 3 feet or more in their classrooms.
- Students who are singing and/or playing a wind instrument will distance 3 feet when possible when performing indoors. Students will be masked for singing and playing an instrument.
- Physical education classes will be held outside when possible.
- There is no distancing requirement on school buses; masks must be worn at all times.
- Locker rooms will be used by secondary students with masking and appropriate distancing.

Clarifying guidance from the CDC states:

*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.*

**Breakfast/Lunch/Snacks**

- Students will be encouraged to eat outdoors when possible.
- When students are eating indoors they will be distanced at 3 ft. or more.
- Recess/Playground equipment will be disinfected throughout the day.

**Sports**

- Protocols have been developed specific to sports. They are linked here: Fall Sports 2021 COVID-19 Parent Info
Individuals Presenting as Ill on School Premises

- Students and staff are to remain home when ill or experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms.
- Students who present with COVID-19 or other communicable or infectious disease symptoms will be sent home immediately as per Education Law 906.
- CDC Flowchart will be followed for students becoming ill or reporting a new COVID-19 Diagnosis at school. [CDC Flowchart for Students](#)

Isolation

- Students who are COVID-19 positive or who exhibit COVID-19 related symptoms should remain home in isolation.
- Families should alert the school nurse if their child is experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

Quarantine Procedures for School Exposure

Individuals who have had direct exposure to an individual who is COVID-19 positive are considered direct contacts and will be quarantined as per Department of Health protocols.

Direct exposure: an individual is within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period.

One exception that NYS has made to this rule: Students who are spaced at a distance of 3 feet or more in their classrooms and who have properly fitted masks are not considered a direct contact if a positive student is also wearing a properly fitted mask. This exception does not apply to adults in the educational environment. This exception only applies to students when they are in their classroom.
# Current Guidelines for Quarantine due to School Related Direct Exposure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccinated Students and Staff, Asymptomatic</th>
<th>Vaccinated/Unvaccinated Students and Staff, Symptomatic</th>
<th>Unvaccinated or Incomplete Vaccination Students and Staff, Asymptomatic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarantine is not required.</td>
<td>● Treated as a positive case.</td>
<td>10-day quarantine from their last point of exposure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Diagnostic test for COVID-19 required</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Quarantine for a minimum of 10 calendar days from the start of symptoms.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● May return after at least 10 days:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ if symptoms have improved</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever reducing medicines</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ and show proof of a negative test result</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Diagnostic test negative and symptoms have improved:</td>
<td>Can return, if symptom free, after 10 days. Must wear a mask for 4 more days.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ mask indoors for 14 days;</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ no quarantine required.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ must provide a copy of the negative PCR test result or note from the healthcare provider indicating negative PCR test result.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Diagnostic test Positive</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>○ isolate for a minimum of 10 days;</td>
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<td>○ may return after 10 days if</td>
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<td>○ symptoms improve and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>○ fever-free for at least 24 hours.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A diagnostic COVID test after exposure is recommended, but not required.</td>
<td>● Diagnostic COVID test is required if symptomatic.</td>
<td>The quarantine period cannot be shortened with a negative test.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>● Proof of a negative test is required to return to school.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ Exceptions:</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ pre-existing medical condition causing symptoms that are not new</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>○ healthcare provider diagnosis chronic condition with unchanged symptoms or confirmed acute illness</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Vaccination**
Governor Hochul will be requiring all K-12 teachers and staff to get vaccinated against COVID-19 or face weekly testing. We have not received the official guidelines from NYS yet and will develop our protocols/procedures when we receive guidance.

- **Temperature/Operoo Daily Screening** We are no longer required to do temperature checks or daily screening questionnaires

**COVID-19 Screening Testing (Pursuant to 10NYCCR 2.62)**
- Weekly testing is required for all staff, as long as SCSD is in low, moderate, high or substantial transmission area
- Staff who provide documentation of full vaccination status are exempt from mandatory weekly testing

**Handwashing/Respiratory Etiquette**
- Students and staff are reminded to stay at home if they are ill and/or experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Handwashing and proper hygiene will be required and encouraged throughout the day.
- Signage will be displayed throughout the building
- Students will be educated on proper handwashing techniques.
- The CDC recommends covering coughs and sneezes; students will be reminded to do so.
- One flow of traffic in hallways will be encouraged when possible.
- Bathrooms will be sanitized periodically throughout the school day.

**Facilities**
- Increased disinfection protocols will be practiced, particularly in high-traffic areas.
- Disinfection wipes are available for all classrooms.
- Deep cleaning will be done in all areas where an infected individual was located.

**Remote Instruction**
- Our priority is to maximize in-person learning.
- There is no voluntary remote option for students.
- Educating students who can’t attend school in person short term:
  - Student who is ill with symptomatic COVID or other illness
    - Stay at home; traditional sick day.
  - Short term medical / disciplinary absence
    - Staff instructs the individual student as per home instruction guidelines.
  - Isolation due to asymptomatic COVID-19 positive diagnosis
- Live stream instruction from the classroom (set up within two days).
  - Quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure
    - Students required to quarantine will be notified by SCSD staff
    - SCSD respects student quarantine imposed by other agencies
      - Documentation regarding quarantine imposed by an agency other than SCSD should be provided to your child’s building school nurse
  - Live stream instruction from the classroom (set up within two days).
  - Awaiting Diagnostic COVID 19 PCR Test Results
    - Provide documentation from medical provider
    - Provide documentation of results
    - Live stream instruction from the classroom (set up within two days).
- Educating students who can’t attend school in person long term:
  - Please contact your child’s guidance counselor/building administrator
- Hot Spots are available for wifi access