

Jericho School District  
School Re-opening Plan

August 2021

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# Jericho School District School Re-opening Plan August 2021

## **Introduction**

The district has made the following recommendations for the reopening of schools in August 2021:

## **General Guidelines**

- All students K-12 will be in school
- There will be no remote teaching or learning. All instruction will be in-person only. If a student is ill for an extended period of time, a doctor's note is required and home teaching will be provided
- Home schooling will be permitted when all of the NYS guidelines for home schooling are followed
- Daily health checks will be required for all students and staff who are not vaccinated
- Masks will be required for all students and staff
- Classrooms and other instructional areas will attempt to allow for social distancing (3 ft. when possible)
- Visitors to the schools will be limited and all visitors will be required to complete a temperature scan and a health check. Masks are required for all visitors
- Masks will be required for everyone riding a school bus
- Any instances of COVID infection will be reported to the Nassau County Department of Health and contact tracing will be conducted immediately. In addition, parents and staff will be notified when there is a confirmed case
- Lunch will take place outdoors and/or in classrooms, cafeterias and larger spaces which will allow for appropriate social distancing
- Assemblies, field trips and conferences will be placed on hold and reviewed on a monthly basis
- All athletics and school activities will resume in the fall

The district will:

- Maintain safety protocols established by the CDC, NYS Health Department, the NYS Governor's Office and the Nassau County Executive's Office
- Maintain communication with all local and state authorities
- Participate in contact tracing as required by state and local authorities
- Isolate and disinfect any impacted classrooms and spaces
- Continuously review procedures for meetings, assemblies, field trips and all large group gatherings

The following procedures will be established:

## **1. Communication/Family and Community Engagement**

The district remains committed to communicating all elements of reopening to students, parents and guardians, staff and visitors. The plan is available to all stakeholders via the district website at [www.jerichoschools.org](http://www.jerichoschools.org), and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances. The link to the plan appears on the website homepage. The procedure will be to present all options to all district stakeholders and post the plans on each building's website and/or the district website.

As part of its planning for the reopening of schools and the new academic year, the district has developed a plan for communicating all necessary information to district staff, students, parents/guardians, visitors and education partners and vendors. The district will use its existing communication channels as well as appropriate signage and training opportunities to support the dissemination of consistent messaging regarding new protocols and procedures, expectations, requirements and options related to school operations throughout the pandemic. All communication and signage will be in multiple languages.

The district is committed to establishing and maintaining regular channels of communication, has reviewed, and determined which methods have proven to be the most effective in communications with our school community. The district will rely on email, blast email, district website and robocalls to communicate news, requirements and updates related to reopening and in-person instruction, including social distancing requirements, proper wearing of face coverings and proper hand and respiratory hygiene. The information that we will share will be based on state guidance.

The district will use existing internal and external communications channels to notify staff, students and families/caregivers about changes and or developments in the district plan.

The district will follow its existing engagement and communication protocols with parents regarding the provision of special education services for their children.

In addition, the district will make every effort to ensure that communication to parents/legal guardians is in their preferred language and mode of communication.

The district is committed to ensuring that all of its students and their families are taught and re-taught new expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. As part of this continuous training, the district will assess the best approach to communicating the information for each students' age group and will provide frequent opportunities for students to review these policies and protocols. This targeted education will help ensure that all students and their families know what is expected of them as they successfully return to the school setting. These trainings will cover:

- Hand hygiene
- Proper face covering procedures (how to wear and remove)
- Social distancing
- Respiratory hygiene
- Identifying symptoms

## **2. School Closures**

The district is preparing for situations in which one or more school buildings need to close due to a significant number of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19 or a considerable regional increase in COVID-19 cases.

The district may choose to modify operations in one or more schools prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will consult the Department of Health when making such decisions.

School building administrators will communicate with each other regularly and, if needed, will consider closing school if absentee rates affect the ability of the school to operate safely.

In the event a person becomes ill with COVID-19 like symptoms while at school, the following procedure will be followed:

- Staff will be provided with training on how to identify signs of illness in students and staff and the procedure to send symptomatic persons to the school nurse or other designated personnel in each building
- The person will be moved to a predetermined isolation room or area to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-19 like symptoms
- Transportation arrangements will be made to transport the sick person home or to a healthcare facility
- Areas used by a sick person will be closed off and not used before cleaning and disinfection
- When possible, custodial staff will wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before cleaning and disinfecting the area
- Persons who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will be advised to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms and to follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not have symptoms, they will be instructed to follow appropriate CDC guidance for home isolation
- Sick staff members and children will be advised not to return until they have met Department of Health criteria, which include documentation from a health care provider following evaluation, negative COVID-19 diagnostic test result, symptoms resolution and/or release from isolation
- The District will consult with the local health department when making decisions on school closures

In the event that the school is notified that an employee or student has been exposed to COVID-19 and are quarantined or if a family member has been diagnosed with or presumed to have COVID-19 and/or is being isolated, the following procedure will be followed:

- Personnel and students with known exposure to someone with diagnosed or presumed COVID-19 will be instructed to self-quarantine at home for 14 days
- If a student is excluded from school due to COVID-19 symptoms or has had a positive COVID-19 test, his or her siblings or other students living in the same household will be questioned, and if they exhibit symptoms, they will also be excluded from school. If they do not exhibit symptoms, they may still be excluded from school and asked to self-quarantine
- The custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers, and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected. If the school is not open when notification occurs, the custodial

staff will wait 24 hours or as long as possible prior to disinfecting and instead will block off the area so that others do not have contact. However, if that is not possible or school is in session, the cleaning will occur immediately

The following procedure will be followed for allowing persons to return to school following illness or diagnosis of a confirmed case of COVID-19 or following quarantine.

Once a student or employee is excluded from the school environment, they may return if they satisfy the recommendations of the CDC and their return is coordinated with the local health department.

Students may also return if the student's health care provider approves them to do so in writing.

### **3. Health & Hygiene**

- Staff will be directed to stay home if they are sick and parents will be encouraged to keep sick children at home
- Parents and/or guardians will certify that they will self-monitor their children and report if they show any COVID-19 symptoms or if they have had close contact with anyone with a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case
- All unvaccinated employees will be required to fill out a daily health check
- All students will be required to fill out a daily health check, unless proof of vaccination is provided
- Several members of the district's nursing staff have been trained in the Coursera class, "COVID-19 Contact Tracing" given by Johns Hopkins University
- Service providers, contractors, vendors and all other visitors will fill out a mandatory health screening and have a temperature check before they enter a school. Visitors to schools will be required to complete a mandatory health screening before they enter a school
- Attendance of employees and students will be monitored daily (AESOP and PowerSchool programs are in place)
- The school nurse will evaluate employees and students, who show symptoms of COVID-19 while in school. If the nurse determines that the employee or student has symptoms of COVID-19, the employee or student will be isolated until they can be transported home
- If an employee or a student has a confirmed case of COVID-19, the district will report the case to the County Health Department and the district will follow all the protocols established by the County Health Department
- The procedures for returning to school after a confirmed case of COVID-19 will follow the protocols established by the County Health Department
- If the district has a confirmed case of COVID-19, contact tracing will be conducted according to the guidelines established by the County Health Department
- General hygiene procedures: hand washing and sanitizing stations will be reviewed with each employee, parent and student
- All employees, students, service providers, contractors and visitors will be required to wear masks in school
- All employees and students shall practice social distancing
- The district will identify persons at risk and inform individuals of appropriate procedures to provide reasonable accommodations in schools

The following healthy hygiene practices will be in place at all district buildings:

- Alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing 60% or more alcohol for areas where handwashing is not available/practical, including throughout common areas of all school buildings
- Signage will be installed near hand sanitizer stations indicating, "Visibly soiled hands should be washed with soap and water" as hand sanitizer is not effective on visibly soiled hands
- Employees, students, and visitors will be required to perform hand hygiene as follows:
  - Arrival at the building
  - Departure from the building
  - Before and after eating or handling food
  - Before and after administering medication
  - After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
  - After coming in contact with bodily fluid
  - After playing outdoors or in sand
  - After handling garbage
- Posters describing handwashing steps will be installed near sinks
- Additional receptacles will be placed around the facility for the disposal of soiled items including PPE

The following procedures regarding face coverings will be in place at all district buildings:

- Face coverings must be worn at all times
- Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings (e.g., homemade sewn, quick cut, bandana), and surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Face shields worn without other face coverings are not considered adequate protection or source control against COVID-19 and should not be used
- Cloth-based face coverings or disposable masks shall not be considered acceptable face coverings for workplace activities that require a higher degree of protection for PPE due to the nature of the work. For those types of activities, N-95 respirators or other PPE used under existing industry standards should continue to be used, in accordance with OSHA guidelines
- The district will obtain and maintain adequate supplies of cloth face coverings for school staff, students who forget their masks, and PPE for use by school health professionals
- Face coverings must be cleaned or replaced after use or when damaged or soiled, may not be shared, and should be properly stored or discarded
- Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health will not be subject to the required use of a face covering
- Each school in the district will instruct staff to provide mask breaks as needed
- The district will train all students, faculty, and staff on how to adequately put on, take off, clean (as applicable), and discard PPE, including but not limited to, appropriate face coverings. This training will be extended to contractors and vendors, if the district will be supplying the contractors and vendors with PPE

#### **4. Signage**

The district will install signage at multiple locations around each school building to:

- Instruct building occupants on the proper way to wash hands
- How to use an acceptable face covering when unable to maintain social distancing
- How to put on, take off and properly wear, discard and store PPE
- How to engage in good daily hygiene measure
- To stay home if they feel sick
- How to report symptoms of exposure to COVID-19

The district will create and deploy signage throughout the district to address public health protections surrounding COVID-19. Signage will address protocols and recommendations in the following areas:

- Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Acceptable face coverings and requirements related to their wear
- Hand washing
- Adherence to social distancing instructions
- Symptoms/prevention/reporting of COVID-19

In addition to signage, the district will encourage all students, faculty, staff and visitors through verbal and written communication to adhere to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE through additional means.

The district is committed to creating a learning environment that protects student and staff health, safety and privacy. Our district will operate under a standard procedure for addressing situations in which an individual has tested positive for COVID-19 or appears symptomatic. These procedures are outlined in the Health & Safety section and School Closure section of our reopening plan.

In the event that a student or staff member is sick or symptomatic, notification to exposed individuals will occur pursuant to the state's contact tracing protocols as implemented by the local health department.

#### **5. Transportation**

- All bus occupants will be required to wear masks
- Parents will be encouraged to place masks on elementary students before the students board the bus
- Students will be required to wash their hands before they board the bus
- Signage about COVID-19 prevention will be displayed on every bus
- Every bus will have PPE supplies available
- Drivers will sanitize touch points after each bus trip
- HVAC filters on buses will be replaced frequently
- When possible, bus windows will be kept open
- Buses will be loaded back to front
- Specific procedures for special needs students on buses will be developed
- Buses will be sanitized before they are parked for the night



- Drivers will maintain a passenger log for each run
- School buses will not be equipped with hand sanitizer due to its combustible composition and potential liability to the carrier or district. School bus drivers, monitors and attendants must not carry personal bottles of hand sanitizer with them on school buses
- Siblings may sit together to increase capacity on the bus
- Field trips and other extracurricular activities requiring bus use will be reviewed
- Drivers will be required to complete a checklist after each cleaning, which should be forwarded to the district's Director of Transportation
- Drivers will maintain a passenger log for each run to assist with contact tracing when needed
- Whenever possible, a single driver will be assigned to the same bus and same routes to minimize mixing
- The district will communicate with parents and students regarding the need to minimize the mixing of children from different households at bus stops and adhere to proper distancing when boarding school buses

## **6. Arrival & Dismissal**

When possible,

- Stagger times for student arrivals and dismissals
- Use multiple entrances and exits for student arrivals and dismissals
- Identify specific locations for parents to drop off and pick up students

## **7. Visitor Management**

A modified visitor management process will be utilized at all school buildings as follows:

- Only essential visitors, including parents, will be permitted into the school buildings
- Essential visits consist of:
  - Pre-scheduled meetings that cannot be handled virtually. Parents will be provided the opportunity to meet with school personnel virtually via Google Meet or Zoom including parent/teacher conferences, which should be limited to virtual meetings
  - Picking up of sick persons
  - Other visits deemed essential by the school administration
- Visitors will be asked to pre-register their visit by calling the school for an appointment
- Advise the visitor they will be required to wear a face mask prior to being permitted entry into the building as well as hand cleaning steps
- Greeters will contact visitors prior to their scheduled appointment
- All persons entering the building will be required to wear face masks prior to being permitted entry into the building
- Visitors will be required to clean their hands with sanitizer prior to the check-in process
- "Stand Here" signage and floor markers will be installed to designate places where visitors should wait to be checked in
- Note: plexiglass barriers are not permissible as they violate fire code
- Visitors will be required to answer mandatory screening questions and have a temperature check, and access declined when indicated

- Visitors will display their license to school personnel who will verify the name with the appointment log and ask the visitor to affix the disposable visitor badge to their outermost garment
  - Badges will be printed prior to the visitors' arrival
  - Lanyards will not be used
  - Stickers should be discarded by visitor upon exiting
- Only disposable sticker badges, no sharing of lanyards
- Visitors will be required to clean their hands with hand sanitizer upon completion of the check in process
- Contractors shall be required to wear PPE when moving through the building and where 6' distancing is not possible
- Drop off procedures will be modified as follows:
- Most drop-offs will be prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from building administrator
- Drop off bins will be eliminated
- Medication drop-offs should be coordinated with the school health office
- Forgotten lunch drop-offs will be prohibited with the exception of students who may have a food allergy and cannot safely be provided a school lunch
- A designated drop off area will be established for all deliveries (e.g., FedEx, UPS) to prevent delivery persons from entering the building

## **8. Food Services**

In accordance with existing law and regulation as well as guidance we have received from the NYS Educational Department and the NYS Department of Health, Jericho Public Schools are committed to meeting our requirements to provide all enrolled students with access to school meals each school day. Specifically, we will make every effort to meet and exceed all applicable health and safety guidelines with respect to the preparation and delivery of food. We continue to make sure that we comply with all Child Nutrition Program requirements including the quality and quantity of food we serve. We will make every effort to communicate with our families through multiple means, in the languages spoken by those families, including by phone, email, text messages and printed materials.

The district will:

- Provide bag lunches for students
- Establish pre-paid system for all purchases
- Limit the occupancy in the cafeterias
- Consider other areas where students can eat their lunch
- When possible, lunches can be delivered to classrooms
- Self-serve food items, self-serving station, communal spaces for dinnerware and drinkware and communal condiments will be eliminated
- All kitchen areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily
- Coffee machines, handles, and faucets must be cleaned 3x/day
- All silverware and dinnerware should be cleaned in a dishwasher

## **9. Classrooms**

The district will:

- Provide sanitizing supplies in each classroom
- Post signage for handwashing, distancing recommendations, wearing of masks, and avoid sharing of supplies, toys, and/or manipulatives
- Use alternative spaces to accommodate larger instructional groups
- Specialist teachers deliver instruction in classrooms – limit cohort movement
- Physical Education – encourage activities that allow for social distancing and limit use of locker rooms
- Use outdoor spaces for instruction
- Review large group assemblies, guest speakers and class trips
- Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each night
- Develop a storage plan to store and clean children's belongings
- Develop a checklist to clean and sanitize toys and manipulatives
- Discourage the sharing of supplies
- Require handwashing at regular intervals

### **Classrooms – Grade K-6 Students**

- Mixing of class groups and large group gatherings will be reviewed and monitored to meet the latest guidelines from state and local authorities
- Toys will not be shared between groups of children unless they have been washed and disinfected
- Toys or instruments that can be put in the mouth should be cleaned and disinfected frequently and before being shared with another child. Set aside toys that need to be disinfected; washing with soapy water is the ideal method of cleaning. Toys that cannot be cleaned or disinfected should not be used. Rotate toys/ games throughout the day for disinfecting
- Children will be restricted from bringing toys from home
- Children's books and other paper-based materials are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection

## **10. Teaching and Learning**

As we enter the new school year, teachers will be encouraged to spend time building relationships, supporting students with the transition back to school, and teaching social distancing etiquette at developmentally appropriate levels.

Assessing student learning gaps or areas of need will also be of critical importance. We will be using assessments at the beginning of the year to determine the needs students have. Formative assessment before a unit of instruction to assess student understanding of pre-requisite skills will also be common practice.

Acknowledging that the typical content in a given grade level or course may need to be adjusted, content will be prioritized to ensure that students receive instruction for the prioritized learning standards, key understandings, and skills necessary for students' success in future study.

Grading practices will follow a standards-based framework designed to provide direct feedback regarding students' mastery of course content.

Every teacher will have a valid NYS teaching certification appropriate for his or her teaching assignment.

Every aspect of the district's APPR plan will be followed.

## **11. Instruction**

All instruction will continue to be aligned to the New York State Learning Standards.

Special-area subjects (e.g. art, music, physical education) may be pushed into the classroom. Whenever possible students will utilize outside space for physical education instruction.

To the extent possible, students will remain in small cohorts if/when leaving the classroom, such as for recess or any necessary transition, so as to reduce their exposure to additional students.

## **12. Social Emotional Well-Being**

We recognize that the social emotional well-being of our students and staff during these challenging times is critically important. The district has made available resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral, and emotional needs of students, faculty, and staff when school reopens for in-person instruction.

In addition, the district has:

- Established child-study teams in each building to identify and monitor students who may be at risk
- Created protocols for all PPS staff for communication with students and parents
- Provided staff development for staff members in order to provide support to students, parents, faculty and staff

## **13. Academic Intervention Services (AIS)**

Students in grades 3-8, including students with disabilities and English Language Learners, who are at risk of not achieving State Learning Standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and or Science are entitled to receive Academic Intervention Services in accordance with Commissioner's Regulations section 100.2(ee). As the New York State Assessments in grades 3-8 were not administered in the 2019-20 school year, the district will use a district-developed procedure to be applied uniformly at each grade level for determining which students are entitled to such services. The district will consider students' scores on multiple measures of student performance, which include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following measures:

- Developmental reading assessment
- Benchmark and lesson embedded assessments
- Common formative assessments
- Unit and lesson assessments
- Results of psychoeducational evaluations
- Diagnostic screening for vision, hearing, and physical disabilities as well as screening for possible disabilities pursuant to Commissioners Regulations Part 117

## **14. Special Education**

The district's reopening plan will ensure that:

- There will be meaningful parent engagement in the parent's preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision for services to his/her child to meet the requirements of the IDEA
- There will be access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services, and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of students
- There will be documentation of all the programs and services offered and provided to students with disabilities as well as communications with parents, in their preferred language or mode of communication
- To the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's IEP
- Teachers and service providers must continue to collect data, whether in-person or remotely, and use these data to monitor each student's progress toward the annual goals and to evaluate the effectiveness of the student's special education services
- Determining student progress is necessary for understanding the student's present levels of academic achievement and functional performance, and for determining whether, and to what extent, the school closures may have disrupted the student's learning
- Reports of progress to parents may be made via telephone or other electronic means if progress-reporting procedures specified in the student's IEP cannot be met with reasonable efforts
- Formative assessment and ongoing monitoring of student progress will be documented and maintained and that documentation will be available to the CPSE/CSE and parents, in their preferred language or mode of communication

### **Considerations for Reopening Plans**

- The school reopening plan encourages CPSEs/CSEs to prepare contingency plans to address students' learning needs in the event of potential future intermittent or extended school closures
- The school reopening plan considers in-person services a priority for high-needs students and preschool students with disabilities whenever possible

### **IEP Implementation**

Until schools return to normal operating conditions, the same flexibility with respect to IEP implementation for delivery of services during school closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak continues to apply to the programs and services whether delivered in-person and/or remotely (e.g., flexibility with respect to the mode and/or manner; group or individual sessions; specific group size for related services, frequency, duration and location of related services, and special class size ratio etc.).

## **IEP Implementation Documentation**

- The district will process and maintain the additional documentation regarding changing student needs due to the period of remote instruction and a return to a traditional classroom environment after a lengthy period away from in-person instruction
- The district will determine how documentation will be maintained on the instruction and services that were provided to each student so that it may be communicated to the CPSE/CSE for consideration when making any individualized determinations of subsequent student needs, including transition services
- The district will maintain documentation of collaboration with parents to develop any contingency remote learning plans that may be implemented during a school closure
- The district will document the ongoing provision of compensatory services to individual students upon the reopening of schools. Documentation will then be available to parents, CPSE/CSE and other relevant parties, in their preferred language or mode of communication

### **15. Hallways & Lavatories**

- Traffic patterns will be reviewed to promote distancing in hallways
- Staggered times for class changes will be considered
- The number of people in restrooms will be restricted
- Signage about washing hands will be posted in restrooms
- No touch trash cans will be placed by restroom doors
- Face masks must be worn by everyone who is in the hallways
- Frequent cleaning of bathrooms will be done throughout the day

### **16. Building Cleaning**

- Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected each evening and in the am/pm model, the MS/HS will be cleaned midday as well
- High touch areas of the buildings will be cleaned and disinfected frequently each day. These areas include: door handles, rails, counters, tabletops, bathroom fixtures, trash cans, water fountains, cash register
- Cleaning logs will be kept to record date of cleaning, time of cleaning and scope of cleaning
- Staff will be required to use applicable PPE to perform cleaning and disinfecting
- Cleaning and disinfecting training will be provided to all custodial employees
- Cleaning chemicals used in the workplace will follow all OSHA standards

### **17. Office Spaces**

The district will take the following safety actions to conform with the above CDC guideline:

- Workers will be discouraged from using other workers' phones, desks, offices, or other work tools and equipment, when possible
- Hand sanitizer dispensers and disinfecting wipes will be available near shared equipment
- No-touch trash cans will be utilized

- Large work-related meetings or gatherings can only occur in-person in accordance with state and local regulations and guidance
- When videoconferencing or teleconferencing is not possible, meetings will be held in open, well-ventilated spaces continuing to maintain a distance of 6 feet apart and wear cloth face coverings
- Conference rooms that are used will be disinfected on a daily basis at a minimum
  - Disinfectant wipes or spray should be left in each conference room, and employees should be encouraged to wipe down all surfaces and equipment (e.g., mouse, keyboard, phone) touched during conference room meetings

## **18. Building Systems**

The district will take a series of steps to ensure the operations of mechanical systems, water systems, elevators, and HVAC systems. The objective is to test and ensure systems are safe that may have been used infrequently during the prolonged closure.

### **Heating and Cooling**

- The percentage of outdoor air will be increased where possible
- Total airflow supply to occupied spaces will be increased, where possible
- Natural ventilation will be increased by opening windows if possible and safe to do so to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air when environmental conditions allow
- Building ventilation systems will be run during unoccupied times to maximize dilution ventilation

### **Fire Protection Systems**

- The fire protection system will be tested to ensure all devices are working
- Fire inspection records will be verified they are up to date

### **Plumbing**

The district will follow steps recommended in the CDC's "Guidance for Building Water Systems" including:

- Inspect flushing of hot water at plumbing fixtures
- Raise hot water temperature to at least 120 degrees if possible.
- Flush hot water at all sinks (run for 5-15 minutes)
- Check water for pH and disinfectant levels

## **19. Building Safety Drills**

### **NYSED Safety Drill Requirements**

Education Law § 807 requires that schools conduct 8 evacuation and 4 lockdown drills each school year. When planning drills, consideration should be given to how a school may modify their drill procedures to minimize risk of spreading infection. Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency, however, steps should be taken to minimize the risk of

spreading infection while conducting drills. As such, it may be necessary for schools to conduct drills in the 2021-22 school year using protocols that are different than they are used to.

Regardless of the modification used when conducting a drill, students will be instructed that if it was an actual emergency that required evacuation or lockdown, the most imminent concern is to get to safety; maintaining social distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

Modifications to evacuation drill protocols may include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting drills on a “staggered” schedule, where classrooms evacuate separately rather than all at once, and appropriate distance is kept between students to the evacuation site. Staggering by the classroom minimizes contact of students in hallways, stairwells, and at the evacuation site. If conducting drills using a modified procedure, it is required that the drill be conducted with all students in the school building on that school day, it may be necessary to do so during a class period that is extended for this purpose; and
- All schools will ensure that all students are receiving instruction in emergency procedures, and participating in drills while they are in attendance in-person
- All schools will conduct the state mandated fire drills

## **20. Technology**

- Professional development training will be provided for all staff in the use of Technology for school in a virtual environment
- Building level communication with parents using email, video and live webinars in multiple languages will be enhanced
- Chromebooks will be distributed to all students before the start of the year and provide training for students and parents and provide schedules to parents and students for remote learning

## **21. Athletics, Clubs, Activities**

- The status of athletics for the 2021-22 school year will be defined by local and NYS guidelines
- Issues which will be considered include transportation of teams, use of locker rooms, the use of masks, the use and care of equipment and the planning for large events with multiple schools
- Meeting size for clubs and activities will be reviewed
- The district will review all field trips for clubs and activities
- The district will monitor clubs and activities which interact with outside agencies and or facilities

## **22. Group Meetings, Large Group Instruction**

- All large group meetings and instructional groups will meet all requirements of local and state authorities