



## 2022-23 COVID-19 Management Plan August 31, 2022

### Overview

This document is our “one-stop resource” for how the District will manage COVID-19 during the 2022-23 school year. It will be updated as needed and in accordance with changes in New York State guidance and District practices.

Please note that the **COVID-19 Management Document** covers the District-wide approaches for managing COVID-19. School-specific requirements and guidelines will be issued by each school, as necessary.

Please understand that COVID-19 and how we manage it requires flexibility and patience with periodic changes in approaches and plans. Our commitment is to promptly communicate any changes to our plans.

On August 11, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a nationwide update on [guidance for K-12 schools, early and education programs regarding COVID-19](#). The District will always follow the guidance from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The most recent guidance from the respective State agencies can be [found here](#).

### An Overarching Framework for Decisions

COVID-19 is a public health and medical concern, requiring educators to work within the expertise provided by Federal, national, state and county public health and medical authorities. We are dependent on state and county requirements and guidance, which is informed by recommendations and guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The NYSDOH and the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) regularly provide updated guidance and requirements, which is integrated within the District’s COVID-19 management plan. Please understand that media reports of guidance and requirements will not be the basis of our decision-making.

The Irvington UFSD collaborates with other Westchester County school districts and especially with the Quad Village School Districts to coordinate its plans for addressing COVID-19. We will align with the state and county guidance. In turn, the

District's leadership team works within the state, county and regional frameworks to develop final plans and is careful to confer with teacher and staff leaders.

## Current Procedures

### 1. IUFSD is Fully In-Person

Student learning/attendance will be fully in-person for all students, grades K-12, all day, every day.

### 2. No Remote Option

The District will not provide a Hybrid or Remote Learning option. Each school is committed to supporting student learning when they are out sick. Traditional means of communication regarding missed school work will apply during any COVID-19-related absences. This includes instructional resources being posted in Google Classroom and/or other means of communication as established by the schools.

### 3. Masks

Effective March 2, 2022, mask-use became optional for all staff and students K-12. However, individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 will have a required period of mask-use as follows:

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate for a period of five (5) days, with day "0" being the first day of symptoms or the positive test. Individuals may return to school/work following the five-day isolation if their symptoms have lessened and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours. Upon returning to school, individuals should wear masks during Days 6 – 10 of their isolation period. This will be an honor system; we will not track the individual mask-use.

Those who are more comfortable wearing masks are encouraged to do so. The school community respects each individual's decision to wear, or not wear, masks. To this end, school community members are expected to respect the decisions of others. Those who do not respect the choices of others and fail to act responsibly will be subject to the consequences as outlined in the Code of Conduct.

### 4. Vaccinations for Students

The NYSDOH encourages vaccinations for all eligible students and staff members. In 2021-22 vaccinations were seen as a critical tool towards ensuring sustained, in-person schooling. In Irvington, a very high percentage of age-eligible students are fully vaccinated. Similarly, NYSDOH encourages boosters for eligible students and staff members.

Fully vaccinated is defined as having the full COVID-19 vaccine regime (either one or two doses, based on the type of vaccine) and, if age-eligible, having received a booster. "Unvaccinated" is defined as either (1) not receiving the full COVID-19 vaccine regime (either one or two doses, based on the type of

vaccine); or, (2) having received the full vaccine regimen, but not yet boosted if age-eligible.

5. Vaccinations or Mandated Testing for Employees

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) no longer requires employees of school districts to demonstrate their vaccination status or participate in mandated weekly COVID-19 testing.

6. Physical Distancing & Contact Tracing

Formerly known as social distancing, physical distancing within classrooms, lunchrooms and other internal spaces is no longer mandated by the NYSDOH.

7. COVID-19 Optional Surveillance Testing

In 2021-22, the Irvington UFSD partnered with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) to facilitate surveillance testing. Participation in this program was optional. However, the District will not facilitate surveillance testing during the 2022-23 school year due to the high vaccination rates, lower prevalence of the virus, and lack of County and State funding to operate the program. Should conditions warrant the determination being reconsidered, the community will be appropriately notified.

8. Test-to-Stay (TTS) Program

With quarantines no longer required, the District no longer operates a Test-to-Stay (TTS) program. Rather, the District will provide families and staff members home COVID-19 test kits, *to the extent the District has supplies*, to those experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms or unvaccinated individuals determined to be, or believe to have been, close contacts to a confirmed case of the virus. It is recommended that individuals who experience symptoms or those who are close contacts, participate in daily testing for a period of five (5) days after the last exposure.

9. Quarantine & Isolation Requirements

Quarantine – Per the NYSDOH, the District is no longer quarantining exposed students or staff. Exposed, asymptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status, may remain in school. It is recommended that such individuals appropriately wear a well-fitted mask and undergo recommended testing. These individuals may participate in school-based extracurricular activities and may also continue to ride the school bus.

Isolation – Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 are required to self-isolate for a period of five (5) days, with day “0” being the first day of symptoms or the positive test. Individuals may return to school/work following the five-day isolation if their symptoms have lessened and they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medication for at least 24 hours. Upon returning to school, individuals should wear masks during Days 6 – 10 of their isolation period. This will be an honor system; the District will not track the individual mask-use.

10. Testing Requirements If Out With COVID-19 Symptoms

Individuals who are ill should always stay home. Home testing or testing at a medical facility is encouraged at the onset of symptoms and the individual

should remain home when symptomatic. They may return to school the following day if their symptoms have improved and the parent/guardian has communicated with the school nurse about negative home COVID-19 test results. Home antigen COVID-19 tests are currently accepted to document a negative result. Free test kits are available in each school's health office to the extent supplies are available.

11. Lunchroom & Meal Times

Traditional lunch operations will resume in each school and students at the elementary schools will be provided snack time in accordance with the respective school practices. No physical distancing will be required and barriers will not be utilized in cafeterias.

12. Athletics

Student athletes who are diagnosed with COVID-19 are no longer required to receive medical clearance to return to competition. Previously a cardiac clearance was required after a COVID-19 diagnosis and while it is no longer a requirement, it is recommended that individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 communicate this to their primary care doctor and monitor for any cardiac symptoms as they return to normalized activity.

13. Barriers

Barriers will not be installed on desks or in classrooms other than when necessitated by individual circumstances. Barriers may continue to be used in public-facing spaces, such as at the security desks and in building and central offices.

14. Transportation/Busing Procedures

Mask use is optional on all school buses. Windows on school buses will be kept for additional air flow. Please provide proper outer clothing based on weather conditions to ensure your child's comfort.

15. Ventilation and Facility Cleaning/Disinfection

The District will continue to ensure air quality through the ongoing use of the upgraded ventilation systems. Additionally, the custodial staff will continue the additional cleaning and disinfection practices instituted last year, throughout each building multiple times each day.

16. Parent/Family Visitors and Meetings

The District will resume pre-COVID-19 visitor practices that enable visitors to attend permissible school events, scheduled meetings, etc. In the spirit of security and safety, family and visitors must schedule an appointment ahead of time with specific teachers or administrators prior to reporting to the school. When in the building, visitors will need to go to the specific classroom or office only. Once in the school, visitors must wear a guest badge at all times. To support safe school operations, the District is not able to have visitors in the schools unannounced and unescorted. The following is a list of the District's procedures regarding visitors::

- a. Family/visitor schedules a visit with the specific teacher or administrator in advance;
- b. Family/visitor checks in at the school's security desk for the scheduled visit;
- c. If unscheduled, an administrator will be called by the security guard, and the parent/visitor waits at the security desk until greeted;
- d. Family/visitor is met by the teacher/administrator at the security desk and escorted to the meeting/gathering location;
- e. When done, the family/visitor is escorted back to the school's main entrance.

Group events and activities for families during the school day will be announced by each principal.

After-School – Full access is provided for audiences and spectators to after-school extracurricular events and programs. Physical distancing at events is encouraged and masks may be worn by any individual who chooses to do so.

17. Spectators/Audiences

Spectators and audiences are allowed at athletic, musical and theater events (indoor and outdoor).