



**Irvington Union Free School District**  
**2021-22 COVID-19 Mitigation Requirements**  
**Quick Reference Guide**

**Updated September 3, 2021**

The Irvington UFSD is committed to providing safe school environments for its students and staff. To this end, the District will apply all official guidance from the [New York State Department of Health](#) (NYSDOH), Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH), [New York State Education Department](#) (SED) and the [Center for Disease Control](#) (CDC) as well as additional local needs identified within the school community.

To provide for the health and safety of all students and staff members the following measures will be implemented in all Irvington UFSD schools:

**Mode of Student Attendance**

The Irvington schools will operate with in-person learning for all students daily. No hybrid or remote learning will be implemented or offered at this time.

**Face Masks**

In accordance with the Commissioner's determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors must wear masks at all times indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Outdoor mask breaks will be provided for all. People do not need to wear masks when eating, drinking, singing, or playing a wind instrument; when masks are removed for these purposes, individuals must be spaced six feet apart to the extent possible.

**Social Distancing**

Social distancing in all school spaces will be three (3) feet when possible. [Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures, consistent with the following, but should not exclude students from in-person learning in order to meet a minimum distance requirement.](#)

**Transportation**

While riding in school buses all occupants will wear face masks and windows will be open to maximize ventilation. Students are reminded to bring a sweatshirt or jacket to school as the weather cools to ensure their comfort on the school bus.

## **Daily Health Screening**

The use of a daily health screener is no longer recommended and, therefore, will not be used at the start of the 2021-22 school year. All school community members are reminded that their diligence in monitoring their health, staying home when sick or displaying symptoms and seeking medical care, and communicating with the District/schools with transparency and honesty are essential in supporting the District's efforts to maintain healthy school environments and ensuring that the schools will remain open for in-person learning.

## **Contact Tracing and Quarantine/Isolation Requirements**

The Irvington UFSD will employ all NYSDOH and WCDOH quarantine requirements. While new guidelines have yet to be published, it is expected that revised protocols will be introduced for the 2021-22 school year, such as those outlined by the NYSED below, that will lessen the number of individuals who will need to quarantine when a positive case of COVID-19 is identified. This shift in practice is the result of the known benefits of vaccination and mask wearing.

Current guidance from the NYSED provides the following:

*"The CDC guidance document defines a close contact as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).*

*Exception: 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 the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.*

*According to the CDC, people 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 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative."*

Students who are required to quarantine, will continue to have access to learning via the following models, which will be implemented following a 24 hour period to coordinate all necessary arrangements:

### **Elementary Schools**

One teacher will be designated in each school to support student learning remotely through the use of Google Meet. Classroom teachers will provide all necessary assignments and the remote learning teacher will provide direct learning support for the students who are in quarantine or isolation.

### **Secondary Schools**

Students will be able to view a live stream of classroom instruction. All assignments and learning resources will be posted in Google Classroom for students to access while in quarantine or isolation.

### **Medically Fragile Individuals**

Any members of the school community, students or staff members, whose medical needs may necessitate accommodations must present documentation from their treating physician. This documentation will be reviewed by the appropriate District personnel and the District Medical Director to evaluate any necessary accommodations.

### **Surveillance Testing**

The District will collaborate with the WCDOH to implement on-going surveillance testing for approximately 20% of students and staff weekly. The surveillance testing program will utilize a saliva-based PCR test. Consent forms will be distributed by the District to each staff member and student's parents/guardians for necessary authorization prior to any testing being conducted. Specific details on the surveillance testing program will be communicated to the school community prior to implementation.

### **Desk Barriers**

Desk barriers will not be used in any classrooms, K-12. However three (3) feet of social distancing will be followed where possible. Barriers will continue to be used in common spaces such as on security desks and in school offices.

### **Hallways and Stairwells**

Hallways and stairwells will not be laned for one-way traffic. However, students and staff members will still be expected to maintain social distancing as much as possible as they move about these spaces.

### **Lunch and Snack Periods**

Cafeteria, lunch and snack plans (elementary schools) will comply with all NYSDOH and WCDOH guidelines. School-specific plans will be communicated by each school principal.

### **Athletics, Recess, Music, Drama, Physical Education, and Extracurricular Programs**

The District plans to provide all traditional programs and experiences for its students. Program or event-specific requirements may be implemented based on the nature of the activity and in compliance with all applicable guidelines.

Outdoor recess will be facilitated as in the past, without masks. However, students will be encouraged to maintain three (3) feet of distance between themselves when possible. Indoor recess will introduce the need to wear masks and modify activity. [The CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals wear masks during recess and physical education classes.](#)

## **Large Group Indoor Gatherings**

Events will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they can be facilitated safely. In cases where three (3) feet of social distancing cannot be provided, events will be held virtually or reformatted to reduce attendance.

## **School Visitors and Special Events**

The District will limit visitors to schools for indoor activities. Visitors who are permitted to enter the building for necessary business may be required to provide information for contact tracing purposes.

It has been determined that the annual school Open House events and the fall elementary school parent-teacher conferences will be held virtually.

## **Field Trips**

Outdoor field trips will be permitted and walking trips to explore the many historical and natural resources in the community will be encouraged. Field trips that would take place at an indoor venue will not be permitted this fall and will be reevaluated in January 2022.

## **Facility Cleaning and School Ventilation**

The District will continue to implement stringent cleaning and sanitization practices in each school. Cleaning of common spaces and high-contact items such as door handles will be performed throughout each school day. Quality air circulation will continue in each classroom. Please be reminded that the District has installed the recommended MERV13 filters where applicable.

## **Vaccinations**

As you know, vaccinations are highly recommended by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). It remains a personal choice as to whether one is vaccinated. However, should one be vaccinated, in accordance with the soon-to-be-released WCDOH guidelines, they will be far less likely to be quarantined in the event of a close contact with an individual who has contracted COVID-19. The District will continue to partner with WCDOH to facilitate vaccination clinics for those who are interested.

*\*\*The mitigation strategies outlined above are not all-inclusive, will continue to be updated as new guidance is released and will be vetted with the District's Medical Director and the Reopening Committee.\*\**