



Reopening Irvington:

The 2021-22 School Year

The IUFSD Plan for the Mitigation of
COVID-19 in its Schools

August 31, 2021

Updated September 3, 2021

Updated content noted in blue

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I. Board of Education

Brian Friedman, President
David Graeber, 1st Vice President
Beth Propper, 2nd Vice President
Maura Gedid, Trustee
Erin Bernstein, Trustee
Jayne Wissner, Trustee
Susan Brunenavs, Trustee

II. Administration

District Administration

Kristopher Harrison, Superintendent
Carol Stein, Asst. Supt. for Business and Operations
Gail Duffy, Asst. Supt. for Instruction & Human Resources
Gary Knowles, Director of Facilities
Celia Strino, Director of Pupil Personnel Services
Michele O'Bryan, Assistant Director of Pupil Personnel Services
John Buonamano, Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics
Jason Strumwasser, Director of Technology

School Administration

Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski, IHS Principal
Michelleann DeFilippis, IHS Assistant Principal
David Sottile, IMS Principal
Allyson Daley, IMS Assistant Principal
Joyce Chapnick, MSS Principal
Andrea Kantor, DL Principal
Liza Wishney, DL Assistant Principal

III. Superintendent's Message

Dear Irvington School Community,

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, we as a community came together to provide for the safe education of our students. This was achieved by the establishment of necessary changes to the school experience; wherein, many mitigating strategies were implemented and student attendance structures altered to protect the health of our students and staff members. As a result of these efforts and our shared commitment to provide for healthy school environments, we enjoyed a successful school year wherein the number of cases of COVID-19 were minimal.

Unfortunately, as we head into the 2021-22 school year, we continue to face concerns regarding the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic. While the introduction of vaccines has had a great impact in the fight against the virus, COVID-19 continues to be a serious concern that we will contend with for the months ahead. As a result, the Irvington UFSD will implement numerous measures to provide for the health and safety of the school community. These efforts will include all New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) requirements, while employing many recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Additionally, as in the last two school years, the District consulted its Reopening Steering Committee to establish its Reopening Plan for the 2021-22 school year. The Committee is composed of a dedicated and representative group of school community members inclusive of teachers, school nurses, support staff, facilities staff, administrators, parents, Board of Education Trustees, representatives of the Irvington Police Department and the School Medical Director. The plan that is outlined in the following pages reflects the guidance and requirements that are currently available at this time. However, as a school community we must understand that the plan will evolve and the District will respond to changes in guidance and other environmental factors that will inform how we are able to educate our students. In any circumstance, we will continue to communicate with the parent community and provide as much notice as possible for changes that will impact you.

As always, we appreciate your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristopher Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

IV. Reopening Planning Process

To develop a plan for the reopening of school, the sub-committees had the responsibility of identifying steps or strategies to support the delivery of instruction, set up District and school operations that are consistent with 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) and serve additional local needs identified within the school community. The Reopening Steering Committee that was established in 2020 to develop the District's initial plans was called to service again to inform and vet the plans for the 2021-22 school year.

V. Reopening Plan Overview/Introduction

The Irvington UFSD is committed to providing a safe environment for our students to grow and learn in and for our staff members to work in. To achieve this goal, the District will follow all applicable health and safety guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department. To further provide the safest school environments possible, the District may take additional steps where appropriate. The District is also dedicated to providing the optimal learning experience for every student, every day. Therefore, regardless of the model of instruction that is delivered or the location from which students are learning, we will strive to provide a dynamic learning experience that will prepare students to achieve their personal best.

The 2021-22 Irvington UFSD Reopening Plan outlines many aspects of school and District operations, while identifying adjustments to practices and procedures to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading illness.

As the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic is ever-evolving, it is expected that guidance will be modified and that local conditions may warrant alterations to this plan. Therefore, this plan is intended to be a framework for the District and the school community to follow with the understanding that changes to the details outlined herein are likely to be adjusted.

VI. Summary of Plan Provisions

Health and Safety

Focused on preventive actions, schools and districts will be required to perform health checks and screenings, per DOH guidance, and recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff; create plans to maximize social distancing and to manage and isolate ill persons until they can be sent home; instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene and wearing of appropriate face coverings; and institute cleaning and disinfection procedures in accordance with CDC and DOH guidance.

Facilities

Promote social distancing while maintaining existing safety requirements designed to protect students. Provide adequate ventilation in school facilities. Continue to conduct mandatory fire and lockdown drills according to the existing statutory requirements, but with necessary social distancing at exits and gathering points outside the building, while still preparing students to respond in emergencies.

Nutrition

Provide all enrolled students with access to free school meals each school day whether school is in-person or remote; address all applicable health and safety guidelines; ensure compliance with Child Nutrition Program requirements; and communicate with families through multiple means.

Transportation

The school bus is an extension of the classroom and services should be provided to all students with consistency and equity. Irvington UFSD will: perform regular school bus disinfection measures; train students and school bus staff regarding social distancing on the bus, at stops, and at unloading times; and train students and staff regarding the wearing of masks. Both students and drivers will wear masks and social distance when possible on the bus. Irvington UFSD will continue to provide transportation to homeless students, students in foster care, those who attend religious, independent or charter schools – and those with disabilities – in accordance with District policy, IEP provision and applicable statutes and regulations as they apply.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

As school and district personnel adapt to the on-going challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring intentional and meaningful inclusion of social-emotional learning (SEL) across all aspects of operating strategies is critical to support the well-being and success of students, staff, and families. Along with physical health and well-being, schools and districts must also prioritize social-emotional well-being – not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning and growth to occur.

School Schedules

The Irvington UFSD has developed a comprehensive plan for a schedule that prioritizes in-person instruction, while also being prepared for remote instruction (distance learning) and a hybrid of both in-person and remote instruction **if needed**. To adhere to state and local health and safety guidelines and ensure social distancing practices, the District may modify its plans and schedules as needed. However, in such cases the District shall endeavor to collaborate with District stakeholders when considering alternate schedules. Plans will be clearly communicated, as practicable, to students, families and staff.

Attendance and Chronic Absenteeism

Daily student attendance is essential to each student's success and individual growth. Therefore, the District and each school shall closely monitor daily attendance and will employ interventions when attendance is not satisfactory.

Technology and Connectivity

Adequate access to a computing device and high-speed broadband is essential for educational equity. The Irvington UFSD will ensure that all students and staff have access to the appropriate technology to support the mode of learning that is being employed at the time. This may include the distribution of personal Chromebooks to each student. Furthermore, if students are in need of internet access in their homes, the District will provide devices to ensure equity of access to learning and school programming. Families seeking this support may contact the school social worker, school counselor or building administration.

Teaching and Learning

Mandatory teaching and learning requirements include providing clear opportunities for equitable experiences for all students regardless of the instructional model used. The District will demonstrate flexibility in its approach to achieving curricular goals to ensure that all students receive a thorough and developmentally appropriate education.

Special Education and English as New Language (ENL)

The District will provide: a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) consistent with the need to protect the health and safety of students with disabilities and those providing Special Education programs and services; meaningful parental engagement regarding the provision of services to their child; collaboration between the Committee on Preschool Special Education/Committee on Special Education (CPSE/CSE) and program providers representing the variety of settings where students are served; access to the necessary instructional and technological supports to meet the unique needs of students; and documentation of programs, services and communications with parents. ENL services shall continue to be provided to all students who are eligible.

VII. Communication: Family and Community Engagement

The Irvington UFSD is committed to frequent, on-going communication between the District, schools, students' families and the broader Irvington community. Community engagement, now more than ever, is essential to support student learning and community health needs. During the summer of 2021, the District and schools sent frequent communications providing the school community with updates on developments associated with the reopening of school and engaged a representative group of stakeholders to inform its operational plans for the 2021-22 school year.

The District will maintain a comprehensive, informative website that inventory numerous resources for the school community. The District will also provide details on instructional experiences, social and emotional supports, community services, health and safety updates, and COVID-19 resources. Additionally, the District will utilize email, text messages and pre-recorded audio messages to convey important information. The Superintendent of Schools will facilitate regular Facebook Live broadcasts to provide regular updates to the school community.

Website Resources: The District will maintain a centralized webpage for all District-level plans, resources and archived communications.

[Irvington UFSD Resource Page](#)

Social Media Resources: The District also uses Facebook and Instagram to communicate with the school community. However, the above referenced web pages should be considered the primary resources for official District and school communications. The District social media pages are:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IrvingtonUFSD/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/irvingtonufsd/>

Should any member of the school community experience difficulties in receiving District or school communications, please send an email to: Donna.Friedlander@IrvingtonSchools.org.

VIII. Health and Safety

Site Safety Managers

The District will establish a District-wide Safety Manager that will oversee continuous compliance with all aspects of this plan. Each District building will designate a Site Safety Monitor who will ensure compliance with this plan in their respective buildings and report directly to the District-wide Safety Manager.

School Name	Site Monitor Name	Phone	Email
District Manager	Carol Stein	914-269-5052	Carol.Stein@IrvingtonSchools.org
High School	Juliet Gevargis-Mizimakoski	914-269-5412	Juliet.Gevargis-Mizimakoski@IrvingtonSchools.org
Middle School	David Sottile	914-269-5312	David.Sottile@IrvingtonSchools.org
Main Street School	Joyce Chapnick	914-269-5212	Joyce.Chapnick@IrvingtonSchools.org
Dows Lane E. S.	Andrea Kantor	914-269-5112	Andrea.Kantor@IrvingtonSchools.org

Screening and Monitoring

Students, staff members and visitors will not be required to complete a pre-entry health screening process as they had in the past. However, if individuals are experiencing any symptoms of illness, especially those associated with COVID-19 (listed below), they are required to stay home and seek medical care.

Important health reminders:

- Encourage staff to stay home if they are sick.
- Encourage parents to keep sick children home.
- Distribute a written protocol to instruct parents/guardians to be aware of signs of illness in their child that require them to stay home from school.
 - Rapid or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity)
 - Flushed cheeks
 - Fatigue, and/or irritability; and
 - Frequent use of the bathroom
- All employees, parents, and regular contractors will be required to assess their health on a daily basis. This may include a temperature check, prior to departing for school. All members of the school community should monitor their health for the following symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Fever or chills (100°F or greater);
 - Cough;
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;
 - Fatigue;
 - Muscle or body aches;
 - Headache;
 - New loss of taste or smell;
 - Sore throat;
 - Congestion or runny nose;
 - Nausea or vomiting; and/or
 - Diarrhea

If they have had a positive COVID-19 test or have been directed to quarantine due to being a close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19, they must stay home and immediately advise:

- For students: the school nurse and school principal and
- For employees: their immediate supervisor.

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.

Self-Reporting Exposures and Infections

Employees and families who are alerted that they have come into close or proximate contact with a person with COVID-19 or have been alerted via tracing, tracking or another mechanism, are required to self-report to their employer or school at the time of the alert and shall not be permitted to remain or return to the building until they have completed quarantine

In the event **a student or District employee reports testing positive for COVID-19 or is exposed to a person who tests positive for COVID-19:**

- The student or District employee should immediately notify the District by contacting:
 - For students, the nurse's office at the school which they attend or
 - For employees, their supervisor
 - If not assigned to any one school building, the employee should contact: Lisa Tortora in the District Office at (914) 269-5060
- If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the District will immediately notify state and local health departments and cooperate with contact tracing efforts, including notification of potential contacts, such as workers or visitors who had close contact with the individual, while maintaining confidentiality required by state and federal law and regulations.

Management of Sick Persons

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

- Staff will be trained on how to identify signs of illness in students and staff and on the procedure for sending 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-like symptoms.
- The person will be assessed by a registered nurse at the school.
- 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 again before cleaning and disinfection.
- When possible, custodial staff will wait 24 hours (or as long as possible) before cleaning and disinfecting the area in accordance with procedures contained in this plan. If it is not possible to wait 24 hours, wait as long as possible.

- Persons who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 may 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 CDC [criteria to discontinue home isolation](#).
- The District will consult with the local health department regarding the current COVID-19 positivity rate and [Local Hospital Capacity](#) 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 the period of time designated by the NYSDOH or WCDOH. Note: those who are fully vaccinated may not have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.
- 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.

These protocols will be updated as any shifts in guidance are provided by NYSDOH, WCDOH, and NYSED.

Contact Tracing

Contact Tracing assessing and informing those with potential exposure is a fundamental control strategy for minimizing spread within a group population. The NYSDOH and WCDOH will provide guidelines that the IUFSD will employ. In all cases, the school and District will communicate with individuals deemed to be close contacts and shall report their names and contact information to the NYSDOH. 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."

Healthy Hygiene Practices

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

- Signage will be installed in each school or office to provide direction on how to best wash or sanitize hands.
- Hand sanitizer containing 60% alcohol will be readily available in common areas of all school buildings.
- Elementary students will be brought to hand washing locations prior to eating or handling food.
- Posters describing handwashing steps have been installed near sinks.
- Water fountains will be only operable as guided by NYSDOH and WCDOH guidelines.
- The District will ensure all students are trained on how to follow new COVID-19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, the proper use of face coverings, social distancing, and respiratory hygiene.

Face Coverings

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

- [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.](#)
- Staff in personal/individual offices or classrooms will not have to wear masks so long as they are not in the company of others, adhering to social distancing requirements and practicing proper hygiene.
- Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include but are not limited to cloth-based face coverings, 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. Additionally, “gaiters” and face masks with valves are not permitted.

- The District will obtain and maintain adequate supplies of disposable 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.
- Face shields and smocks will be utilized by staff when required to be in close contact with students and when there is a high risk of transmission of bodily fluids
- 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. In these cases, medical documentation must be provided to the school health office.

Arrival and Dismissal

To reduce close contact of persons entering and exiting the building, the District will:

- Stagger arrival times of both buses and parent transportation to reduce density
- Establish designated areas for student drop-off and pick-up,
- Limit contact and entry of parents/guardians into the building, to the greatest extent possible.
- Utilize multiple supervised points of entry into each school building to reduce bottlenecks, close contact and hallway travel to classrooms.
- Require face masks to be worn by students, staff, and parents during the arrival and dismissal process.
- Install hand sanitizer dispensers at all entrances to the facility.

Visitor Management and the Drop-Off of Items

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, with ill students being escorted out of the building to meet their parent/guardian.

- Other visits deemed essential by the school administration.
- All persons entering the building will be required to wear face masks prior to being permitted entry into the building. Disposable masks will be provided to visitors as needed.
- Touchless hand sanitizer dispensers will be installed at building entrances, check-in locations and any delivery locations, such as loading docks.
- Drop-off procedures of “forgotten student items” has been modified as follows:
 - Most drop-offs will be prohibited unless prior approval is obtained from the 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.

IX. Social Distancing and Facilities

Social Distancing

All building occupants will be required to maintain social distancing of at least three (3) feet from one another wherever possible.

In order to accommodate social distancing in each school building, the District will take the following general actions:

- Some large common areas such as auditoriums and gymnasiums, may be repurposed as instructional spaces to accommodate a larger number of students in the same class.
- Furnishings may be removed from rooms to maximize capacity.
- Desks will be arranged to allow for three (3) feet of distancing where possible.
- Outdoor or off-site spaces may be utilized as appropriate.
- Specific isolation rooms will be designated in each school health office.

The NYSDOH’s guidance of September 3, 2021 specifically states the following:

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.

- A distance of at least 3 feet is strongly recommended between all students.
- A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- Universal masking is required according to the Commissioner's masking determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60 for indoor settings. Should there be a time when the determination for universal masking in schools is lifted, masking must occur when physical distance cannot be maintained.
- Maximize physical distance as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors).
- 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.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

The District will adhere to hygiene, cleaning, and disinfection requirements from the CDC and the DOH. The custodial staff of each building will perform frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the school day and will use registered disinfectants identified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as effective against COVID 19. The following additional measures will be taken:

- Classroom, office spaces and conference rooms will be provided with appropriate disinfectant wipes (as available) for employee self-cleaning of shared and frequently touched surfaces as practical.
- Every 60-70 days, we will apply BioProtect to most surfaces in our buildings. BioProtect is a durable, bound antimicrobial technology that protects surfaces for up to 90 days without reapplication. It creates a non-receptive surface for incoming microbes which physically disrupts and inhibits the growth of a large array of bacteria, molds, mildew, fungi and algae. Extensive third-party testing has conclusively proven that it also destroys MRSA, C. Diff. and H1N1. Testing is ongoing for COVID-19.

Heating and Cooling

- The percentage of outdoor air will be increased where possible (e.g., using economizer modes of HVAC operations and discouraging use of room air conditioners).
- 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 periodically be run during unoccupied times to maximize dilution ventilation.
- Where possible, air filters have been upgraded to MERV 13.

- Portable air purifiers with HEPA filters will be added in spaces where masks may be removed such as cafeterias and music rooms or in high risk areas such as our nurse offices.

Emergency Drills

Education Law § 807 requires that schools conduct eight (8) evacuation and four (4) lockdown drills each school year. When planning drills, the District, in consultation with our security consultant, may modify the drill procedures to minimize risk of spreading infection. Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency. As such, it may be necessary for the District to conduct drills in the 2021-22 school year using protocols that are different from past years.

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. If schools re-open with a hybrid in-person model, such as one where students attend school on alternate days to reduce the occupancy of the school building, schools will ensure that all students are receiving instruction in emergency procedures, and participating in drills while they are in attendance in-person.

X. Child Nutrition

The District/school will provide all students enrolled with access to school meals each school day. This includes students in attendance at school and students learning remotely due to quarantine or isolation. Our program will address all applicable health and safety guidelines and comply with Child Nutrition Program guidelines. Cafeteria, dining and snack procedures may be modified to comply with NYSDOH and WCDOH guidelines. Specific protocols will be communicated by each school. At this time, standard meals (not inclusive of ala carte items) will continue to be free of charge for the 2021-22 school year.

XI. Transportation

The District will conduct transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. These guidelines state that students and school staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated) and should maintain appropriate social distancing to the extent practicable.

Students who are able, will be required to wear masks to the extent practicable; however, students whose physical or mental health would be impaired are not required to wear a face covering, and will be appropriately socially distanced.

Members of the same household may be seated in the same seat. To the extent possible, seating will be arranged to provide social distance on the bus.

All students are entitled to transportation by the District to the extent required by law and District policy. Transportation departments do not have the ability or the right to deny transportation for children who are in foster care, homeless or attend private or charter schools. Parents who may have missed the due date to request out of district transportation due to a reasonable excuse may file a 310 appeal with the Commissioner of Education.

School Bus Staff

School bus drivers, monitors, attendants and mechanics are required to perform a self-health assessment for symptoms of COVID-19 before arriving at work. If personnel are experiencing any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they will notify their employer/supervisor as per the reporting policies and seek medical attention.

School bus drivers and monitors must wear a face covering along with an optional face shield. Transportation staff (drivers, monitors, attendants, mechanics and cleaners) will be trained and provided with periodic refreshers on the proper use of PPE and the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Transportation departments/carriers will provide PPE such as masks and gloves for drivers, monitors and attendants in buses as well as hand sanitizer for all staff in their transportation locations such as dispatch offices, employee lunch/break rooms and/or bus garages. Drivers, monitors and attendants who must have direct physical contact with a child must wear gloves.

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.

XII. Social-Emotional Well-Being

As District and school personnel adapt to environments that result in substantially reduced time spent interacting in-person, ensuring intentional and meaningful inclusion of social-emotional learning (SEL) across all aspects of operating strategies is critical to supporting the well-being and success of students, staff, and families. Along with physical health and well-being, our schools and District must prioritize social-emotional well-being - not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur.

We recognize that social and emotional well-being must be prioritized during transitions back to school and for as long as necessary to appropriately support student needs; physical and emotional safety is necessary for the brain and body to be ready to learn. We also recognize the critical need to address adults' social and emotional needs before the return to school and on an ongoing basis. Adults must have systems of support including meaningful peer relationships, opportunities to

connect, and resources to support self-care. Without these supports in place, adults will not have optimal capacity to support the needs of students and families. Families are also encouraged to contact Student Support personnel in their child's school if their child needs social-emotional support.

XIII. School Schedules

To begin the 2021-22 school year, all IUFSD schools will open with 100% daily student attendance. Should orders from governmental agencies require a model of student attendance with fewer individuals present on a daily basis, the District will apply all guidance available at that time to inform its planning and will consider those models of attendance that were implemented during the 2020-21 school year.

XIV. 2021-22 Reopening Plan Overview

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

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 and 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.

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