



Launching the 2021-22 School Year COVID-19 Updates

**Board of Education Meeting
September 14, 2021**



Mitigation Efforts

The District is well equipped to support all guidelines issued by the appropriate New York State agencies: New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) and New York State Education Department (NYSED)

- **Examples of requirements in each of our schools:**
 - **Face masks:**
 - Must be worn indoors at all times
 - Must be worn by occupants on buses
 - Mask breaks will be provided
 - **Social distancing:**
 - Three (3) feet indoors, when possible, will be provided
 - Distancing of six (6) feet for eating, singing, playing wind instruments, PE, and recess
 - Limit any large gatherings
 - **Hand sanitizer** will be provided in all spaces and **handwashing** will be encouraged
 - **Ventilation** will continue to be a focus in school and on buses
 - Air purifiers added to cafeterias, music rooms and health offices
- **Contact Tracing Protocols:**
 - Protocols have been modified:
 - Asymptomatic, vaccinated individuals will not be quarantined if masks are worn
 - Close Contacts will be determined by:
 - Perimeter of three (3) feet for students and six (6) feet for adults
 - Contact time of 15 minutes in a 24 hour period



COVID-19 Vaccination

The COVID-19 vaccine has proven to lessen the effects of COVID-19 on individuals.

- The District has coordinated vaccination clinics for its students and staff members and will continue to do so
- The District cannot require students or staff members to be vaccinated
- Staff members who are not vaccinated will have to be tested weekly
- District will partner with the WCDOH to facilitate surveillance testing



COVID-19 Testing

The District will facilitate weekly COVID-19 testing in partnership with the WCDOH and [Quadrant Biosciences](#). This testing will:

- Utilize the [Clarifi saliva-based PCR test](#)
- Tests will be administered in school
- Surveillance Testing will target 20% of students and staff weekly
- Results will be reported to the WCDOH for contact tracing purposes
- Consent will be required to participate
- Participation is strongly encouraged, but cannot be mandated
- Once Quadrant Biosciences furnishes a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and authorization from legal counsel is gained, the consent process will begin District-wide



COVID-19 Testing for Unvaccinated Staff

School districts also have the responsibility to test staff members who are not vaccinated.

- The Irvington UFSD will ensure that staff members are compliant with the NYS directive
- Expecting the WCDOH to integrate this testing into the surveillance testing program
- Testing will occur weekly, likely during the work day



Sick? When to stay home.

COVID-19 related symptoms that will require a medical evaluation and COVID-19 testing, even if your child is experiencing just one of the following symptoms:

- Fever greater than 100.0 and/or chills
- Cough that is persistent
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea

This list does not include all possible COVID-19 symptoms. Children and adolescents with the virus that causes COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms.

If your child has a fever, please do not give medicine such as Tylenol or Advil and send them to school. Should the fever return when the medicine wears off, you will be called to pick-up your child.

Please keep your child home until fever free for 24 hours (less than 100.0 without the use of medicine), improvement in symptoms, and if prescribed by your healthcare provider, your child has received the appropriate treatment.

****All applies to staff members as well****



New: Acceptable COVID-19 Tests

Updated guidelines have introduced new standards for the COVID-19 tests that will be accepted by the Irvington UFSD:

- All students and staff members will need to provide a negative COVID-19 test after any illness with symptoms suggestive of a COVID-19 infection.
- The IUFSD is only accepting **NAAT** tests (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test), for example: PCR or rapid molecular tests. At this time the District is not accepting rapid antigen tests.



Public Board of Education Meetings

The State of New York has once again provided the opportunity for public entities to meet virtually. Thus, there is a decision before the Board of Education and Administration.

Should the Board meetings continue to be held in-person for everyone, allowing for in-person community attendance and participation?

-OR-

Should the Board meetings continue to be held in-person for the Board and Administration, while only permitting the community to view and participate virtually, as was the case for much of 2020-21?