



Oyster Bay - East Norwich Central School District

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Curriculum & Instruction*

August 25, 2021

Dear OBEN Families and Staff,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As an update to my welcome back letter on August 11th, I would like to provide further information regarding the opening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year. On September 1st, OBEN students will return to five days a week in-person instruction along with athletics, extra-curricular activities, and transportation.

Universal masking will be required for all students and staff when indoors and on buses. Masks will not be required when outdoors. Additionally, brief mask breaks will be provided throughout the day.

In the event a positive case of COVID-19 is reported to the District, contact tracing will take place if a student or staff member is deemed a close contact. A close contact includes someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes or more. Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine unless they present with symptoms. Students in a classroom who are within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were wearing masks are exempt from quarantine.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and patience while navigating through the uncharted waters of the COVID-19 pandemic. I look forward to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and seeing all of you in the upcoming weeks.

Sincerely,

Francesco Ianni, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Understanding COVID-19 Protocols for 2021-22 at OBEN



Health & Safety

- Universal masking will be required for all students and staff when indoors.
- Masks will not be required when outdoors and may be removed during meals and brief mask breaks.
- There will be a minimum 3-6 feet of physical distancing between students in classrooms.
- Desk shields will not be used in classrooms.
- Daily health screening submissions will not be required.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, buildings and buses will continue.
- Frequent hand-washing and respiratory hygiene will continue to be encouraged among students and staff.
- Students who cannot medically tolerate mask must seek accommodation through the 504 process.



Instruction

- All students will return to five days per week of in-person instruction.
- Elementary specials (music, art, library and physical education) will take place in traditional settings.
- Lockers will be available.
- There will be no hybrid or remote option.
- Back-to-School Nights as of now will be virtual.
- Visitors to the schools will be limited. Any visitors will be required to wear a mask.



Contact Tracing

- The district will continue to contact trace for COVID-19 cases and report positive cases to the Nassau County Department of Health.
- Parents or guardians will be notified if contact tracing of a positive case results in their child being deemed a close contact.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from the date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.
- Students in a classroom who are within 3 to 6 feet of a student who tests positive for COVID-19 are excluded from the definition of a close contact and not required to quarantine if both students were wearing masks.
- Individuals who are fully vaccinated do not need to quarantine after contact with a positive case unless they have symptoms.



Transportation

- Students, bus drivers and driver assistants will be required to wear masks while riding on the school bus.
- Bus windows will remain open, when possible, to increase fresh air and improve ventilation.
- Members of the same household are encouraged to sit together.
- Late buses will be available when events, clubs and activities commence.
- Buses will be regularly sanitized.



Food Services

- School lunch will be available for free to all students.
- Outdoor recess will occur without cohort restrictions.

After-School Activities



- After-school programs and extra-curricular clubs will be in place in accordance with health and safety protocols.
- Athletics will continue in the fall. As of today, COVID testing of athletes will not be required.
- Concerts, plays and ceremonies will return with consideration for capacity limits.

Please note this guidance is in effect as of August 25, 2021.