



School Reopening COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols for the 2021-2022 School Year

For the 2021-22 school year, the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District is planning for a full return to school on Wednesday, September 8. As of today, the district continues to partner with the [Montgomery County Department of Health](#) as we plan the district's reopening efforts based on the recommended guidelines provided by the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#), and the Department of Public Health Commissioner's Determination on indoor masking (10 NYCRR2.61). That information can be found [here](#).

FFCS is planning for a 100% in-person return to school in September, providing a full academic program and a wide range of extracurricular and athletic offerings for all students. Our priority is to have all students attend in-person instruction for the 2021-22 school year. The district will employ a layered mitigation approach, including strategies ranging from masking and social distancing, to facilities cleaning and hygiene, to contact tracing and quarantining, to HVAC (ventilation) and the provision of food services, to surveillance testing and vaccination access. As a public institution, we must consider everyone in the community and minimize the risk for our students and staff. By individually doing our part to keep everyone safe and healthy, we will ensure academic, social, and emotional growth of our students.

Over the past year, we have learned how to manage the virus effectively by using layers of mitigation aimed to prevent infection and transmission in our schools. This layered mitigation plan is a measured approach based on the **transmission or rate of infections**, ranging from Low Community Transmission>>Moderate Community Transmission>>Substantial Community Transmission>>High Community Transmission (see chart below). It is important to understand that this is a fluid document and whenever possible and appropriate, adjustments to mitigation strategies will be made

according to the most current data available and in coordination with DOH.

These are challenging times and we are all similarly focused on the best interest of our students, staff, and families.

Communication and notifications:

The Fonda-Fultonville Central School District will continue to keep our community updated on items related to COVID-19 news, health information and guidance from New York State. Beginning September 8, our daily COVID-19 communication updates will be shared on a COVID-19 notification page.

In order to streamline our communication efforts and ensure families and individuals impacted directly by cases affiliated with our school community receive and read important updates, we are making the following changes to the way we communicate about positive COVID-19 cases. Please note that the information will be readily available on the banner at the top of the district homepage. You can easily access that information [here](#).

If there is no community message on the district website posted for a particular school day then the district did not receive confirmation from Montgomery County Department of Health of any positive cases for that day.

No changes will be made to how we communicate to staff and/or families that may have a child that is determined to be a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case within the school. **Impacted families and staff will always be notified as soon as possible once contact tracing is completed if there is a need for a student or staff member to quarantine.** Initial communication will come from the FFCSD or the Montgomery County Department of Health.

Remote Only Learning Model not offered:

The district will not be offering a remote only option. If families do not want to send their children to school for in-person learning, their option is to home instruct their children. For more information on home instruction visit the following [link](#).

The following links can be accessed to review county transmission rates.

[CDC County Covid Tracker](#)

[Percentage Positive Results By County Dashboard](#)

The chart below describes the mitigation protocols we will utilize in each area of focus. This layered mitigation strategy is fluid and may be adjusted as conditions warrant.

	Mitigation Protocol <i>We will use CDC County Transmission Levels in addition to local data to determine our level of mitigation protocol. All data being used to make these determinations will be shared on the district webpage.</i>			
Mitigation Strategy -Area of Focus	Low Transmission	Moderate Transmission	Substantial Transmission	High Transmission
COVID-19 Vaccines	Encourage all eligible to consider-not mandated	Encourage all eligible to consider-not mandated	Encourage all eligible to consider-not mandated	Encourage all eligible to consider-not mandated
Indicator of Transmission	Total new cases totaling 100,000 persons in past ten days (0 - 9.99) Testing results that are positive for the past 7 days (0-4.99%)	Total new cases totaling 100,000 persons in past ten days (10 - 49.99) Testing results that are positive for the past 7 days (5 - 7.99%)	Total new cases totaling 100,000 persons in past ten days (50 - 99.99) Testing results that are positive for the past 7 days (8 - 9.99%)	Total new cases totaling 100,000 persons in past ten days (greater than 100) Testing results that are positive for the past 7 days (greater than 10%)
Mask wearing and social distancing (indoors) <i>(Commissioner's Determination on the requirement of Indoor Masking Pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.61.)</i>	Accordingly, universal masking of teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask and regardless of vaccination status, is required until this determination is modified or rescinded. Students may remove masks when sitting in a classroom or space in which desks are spaced 6' apart as a mask break. Students may utilize barriers to take mask breaks in other classrooms where desks are a minimum of 3' apart. Mask breaks may also be given by a supervising staff person if barriers are not available. Staff must wear a mask unless 6' apart from students or other staff.			

Mask wearing (outdoors) including recess and physical education.	N/A	N/A	Recommended when 3' social distancing cannot be consistently met by students & staff alike.	Recommended for all when 3' social distancing cannot be consistently met by students & staff alike.
Transportation	Masks Required at all times.			
Staying Home when sick & return to school procedures after COVID-19 positive (staff and students)	<p>Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any illness(cough, fever, loss of taste and smell, cold/flu symptoms, etc) and contact their healthcare provider if symptoms do not resolve after 48hrs. A person may be asked to provide a doctor's note to return to school.</p> <p>Return to school after being diagnosed COVID-19 Positive: Individual must satisfy isolation protocols and have improving symptoms. Must be fever free for 24 hours without using fever reducing medication. (Per NYSDOH)</p>			
Hygiene: Handwashing/ Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Expected and Encouraged	Expected and Encouraged	Expected and Encouraged	Expected and Encouraged
Cleaning and Disinfection <i>(all surfaces district wide will receive public health & NYSED approved microbial disinfectant spray every 75 days)</i>	Daily Routine Cleaning	Daily Routine Cleaning Enhanced Disinfection of High-Touch Surfaces (School Buildings and Buses)	Daily Routine Cleaning Enhanced Disinfection of Moderate and High-touch Surfaces (School Buildings and Buses)	Daily Routine Cleaning Enhanced Disinfection of Moderate and High-touch Surfaces (School Buildings and Buses)
Ventilation and Air Quality	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows,	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open

	open doors)	doors)	doors)	doors)
Contact Tracing, Quarantine, and Return to School/Work Protocol	<p>The district will Follow guidelines released by Montgomery County Health Department when determining a close contact. All close contacts will be determined through shared communication between FFCSD and the Montgomery County Health Department.</p> <p>A vaccinated, asymptomatic person will not need to be quarantined if determined to be a close contact. If a close contact, vaccinated individual is symptomatic, quarantine rules apply, unless the individual tests negative for Covid-19 within 3-5 days. Close contacts return to school after a 10 day quarantine. Positive students or staff will be isolated for 10 days. An unvaccinated individual may test out of quarantine if on day 5 or later they take a PCR test that has a negative result. When the negative result is received in writing by the school nurse and the individual is not symptomatic they may be removed from quarantine(CDC recommendation adopted by Montgomery County Public Health 9/14).</p> <p>All classrooms and buses will have seating charts to assist in contact tracing.</p>			
Daily Screening	Staff and substitutes: Daily screening is mandatory before entering campus.			
Performing Arts	Masks can be removed for singing and playing an instrument when a distance of six feet is maintained.			
Interscholastic Athletics - mask wearing	<p>Indoor athletics masks required with mask breaks at 6' apart. Spectators must be masked 3' apart.</p> <p>Outdoor athletics, masks not required.</p>			
Extra curricular activities or clubs(indoors)	Masks are required, unless 6' of distance can be maintained			
School Use of Facilities	Compliance with applicable school protocols	Compliance with applicable school protocols	Limited Use of Facilities Allowed. All groups ensure compliance with applicable school protocols.	Limited Use of Facilities Allowed. All groups ensure compliance with applicable school protocols.
Visitors to Buildings during the school day.	<p>Sign in, screening and masks required. Visitors will be admitted by appointment only. Ex. meeting with: teacher, principal, counselor, facilities repair, outside providers/vendor</p> <p>Sign in, screening, and masks required. Visitors will be admitted by appointment only. Ex. meeting with: teacher, principal, counselor, outside providers/vendors,</p>			

	facilities repair, etc.
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COVID-19 testing:

COVID-19 testing requirements: All FFCSD unvaccinated staff will be tested on a weekly basis beginning Tuesday, October 12.

Diagnostic testing: FFCSD's school physician will have diagnostic testing referrals available for students or staff that present with COVID-19 symptoms or asymptomatic individuals that have been exposed to someone that was COVID-19 positive within the last 14 days..

High Risk Sports: Surveillance COVID-19 testing will be instituted for high-risk sports that may consist of random or regular testing based on the conditions as they exist in the area. A 10% sample will be pulled each week from high-risk sports from the modified level to the varsity level. Student-athletes and coaches will be tested by qualified medical personnel regardless of vaccination status. Agreeing to testing is a condition of an individual's ability to participate in a high-risk sport.

Indoor/Outdoor Athletics:**Indoor/Outdoor Athletics**

- bring your own water bottle (water will be available but community use of water will not be permitted) - clearly label all water bottles and other personal items
- students should wear their own appropriate workout clothing (do not share clothing)
- individual clothing/towels should be washed and cleaned after every workout immediately upon returning home
- frequent hand washing is highly encouraged

Locker Rooms

- limited number of athletes in the locker rooms at one time
- at least 3 feet apart and masked at all times while in the locker rooms and in other indoor areas (bathroom, training room, etc.)
- frequent hand washing is highly encouraged

Western Athletic Conference(WAC) Indoor Spectators

- masks required
- four spectators per player for home teams across all WAC indoor contests.
- all spectators must wear a mask indoors and be at least 3' apart.