

Scio Central School – Opening Plan 2021-2022

At-A-Glance

****As of September 7, 2021, subject to change based on NYSED, NYSDOH, ACDOH and CDC guidance.**

Preventative Strategies

- Acceptable face masks are required to be worn at all times (including upon entering, hallways, and restrooms) except the following:
 - When eating breakfast and lunch at least 4-feet apart
 - When outside (some exceptions)
 - When singing or playing a wind instrument
- Parents are expected to screen their child(ren) each morning and keep them home if they are exhibiting any Covid-19 symptoms
- Scio CSD encourages vaccinations of those eligible
- Anyone that needs to enter the school other than staff and students will need to report to the Main Office
- Students in grades PK-6 will be in cohorts
- Students in 7-12 will be in cohorts as much as possible
- Classrooms will be fogged nightly

Athletics & Extracurricular Activities

- Extended day school programming will tentatively begin in October
- All extracurricular activities will resume with some preventative measures in place
- Playgrounds will remain open
- Athletics will follow NYSED, DOH, & NYSPHSAA guidance

Classroom Instruction

- Students in grades 3-12 will have a school issued laptop
- K thru 2nd will have a school issued iPad
- Normal grading will be used for face-to-face instruction as well as virtual instruction in the event of a mandatory quarantine by the Department of Health
- Remote instruction will only be used for mandatory quarantines or school shutdowns
- Classroom seating charts will be required for all class periods



Meals

- Lunch – students will be seated at least three feet apart
- Breakfast – students will be seated at least three feet apart
- Seating for lunches will remain consistent daily

Transportation

- Masks will be required at all times while riding the bus
- Students will sit in assigned seats for safety and contact tracing purposes

School Day Schedule

- School Day will be Face to Face Monday through Friday
- School start and end times
 - School Day – 7:55-3:00
 - Students may enter building at 7:30 a.m.
- BOCES is unchanged:
 - Junior CTE students will attend in the AM
 - Senior CTE students will attend in the PM
- Students will have a hallway locker and switch classes
- Elem students will switch rooms for all specials
- Students will not change clothes or use the locker room for PE

Introduction:

Schools are once again faced with educating our school population while navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic. Our approach to safety has consistently been to follow the guidance from the NYSED, NYSDOH, ACDOH, and the CDC. As we begin the 2021-2022 school year, we will continue to follow the guidance of these entities.

Having our students in the building five days a week continues to be a priority. The length of our school day will return to pre-pandemic times. Our approach to providing a safe learning environment for students, faculty and staff will be a layered approach. Mitigation layers will include, but are not limited to:

- Encouraging Vaccination
- Social Distancing
- Mask Wearing
- Handwashing/Sanitizing
- HVAC improvements
- Regular Disinfecting
- Elementary Cohort Groups
- Evaluation of Symptomatic Individuals
- Limiting Visitors to the Building

This plan is an update to our 2020-2021 Reopening Plan which morphed as new information was received throughout last school year. The steps we took to mitigate the virus last school year were, overall , very successful. This plan aligns with its basic concepts and includes changes we made throughout the school year, while being aligned with the latest CDC and NYSED guidance.

This plan remains a living document that must be revisited on a regular basis to ensure it is up-to-date as new guidance is provided.

Covid-19 Vaccinations

The CDC states that “vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports”. (NYSED Health and Safety Guidance, page 6) Furthermore, many schools serve children under age 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at the time. Therefore, reflecting CDC guidance, this document emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (i.e., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households.

Monitoring Community Transmission

Scio Central School will continue to work with the Allegany County Department of Health to monitor community spread, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrences of outbreaks to guide decisions related to Covid-19 procedures.

Wearing Masks

The CDC has recommended universal mask wearing for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels.

Scio Central School District will require all to wear masks while in the school building. Specifically,

- All will wear masks upon entering the building, in hallways, in restrooms, and in any large group settings
- Masks are to be worn properly over the nose, mouth, and chin
- Masks may be removed when eating, singing or play a wind instrument if there is a 6-foot distance
- Masks may be removed if you are the only person in a room
- Masks are to be worn on school transportation at all times
- Masks will generally not be required outdoors unless
 - Individuals are together for a sustained period of time less with than 6-feet distance
 - Individuals are in a crowded setting
- Mask requirements for extracurricular and after school activities will be the same as during the school day

Social Distancing and Cohorting

Scio Central School will expect all (unless residing in the same household) to maintain a distance of 6-feet whenever possible. Scio CSD will take steps to help guide teachers, staff and students to keep this distance by doing the following:

- Classrooms will be set up with desks 6-feet apart
- Hallways will have stickers to represent 6-feet apart
- Breakrooms will have markings 6-feet apart

At times, a distance of 6-feet may not be possible for some circumstances such as:

- On the school bus (maximum of 2 students per seat)
- Small group instruction (try to maintain at least 3 feet – masks must be worn)
- Meals in the cafeteria (elementary will be in cohorts, high school will be at least 3 feet distanced)
- Science labs (masks must be worn)
- Physical Education elementary school - will be in class or grade level cohorts – masked when not distanced
- Physical Education middle school/high school – will group as able – masked when not distanced
- Outdoor athletics (physical distanced except during play)
- Indoor athletics – same as PE class

Contact Tracing

As per the Allegany County Department of Health, an individual who has been within 6ft of an infected person for longer than 10 minutes or more over a 24-hour period would be considered a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case. Close contacts that are fully vaccinated or have documentation of being positive within the last 90 days, would not need to quarantine unless they have symptoms.

In PreK-12 classrooms only, if everyone in the room is consistently wearing a mask the entire time, **students** who are exposed to an infected person would not need to quarantine per the CDC guidance if they were at least 3ft apart. This exception does not apply to any adults in the room.

Seating charts will be required for all classes, study halls and meals throughout the school day to assist with contact tracing.

Temperature Screening, Questionnaire Screenings, and Symptomatic Individuals

Scio Central School will no longer require questionnaire screenings. Temperature screening may be done on occasion.

Students: Parents play an integral role by screening their children each day prior to coming to school to ensure they are symptom free. Families are expected to keep their children home if their child, or any household member, is experiencing symptoms. The school will periodically remind parents via phone calls, social media and in writing the importance of keeping their children home if they or anyone in their home is experiencing symptoms. Deb Fuller, School Registered Nurse, will continue to be the contact for families. Nurse Fuller will work with the family to determine when the child can return for instruction. Teachers should call the school nurse about students who become symptomatic during the school day. [The CDC maintains a list of Covid-19 symptoms on its website.](#)

Common symptoms include:

- Fever or chills
- 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
- Diarrhea

School Employees: All school employees are expected to self-screen prior to coming to work. Employees are expected to contact their supervisor and Nurse Fuller prior to entering the building if they are experiencing symptoms.

Transportation

As per CDC order, masks will be required at all times while riding the bus. Students will sit in assigned seats for safety and contact tracing purposes. Busses will continue to be sanitized after each run. There will be a maximum of two students per seat and students will be spaced as much as possible.

Other Mitigating Strategies:

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette: Students will be expected to hand sanitize upon entering the classroom, gym, cafeteria, etc. Students will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands throughout the school day. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette will be taught and reinforced.

Disinfecting and Sanitizing: The building will continue to be sanitized on a regular basis. All high touched surfaces will be thoroughly cleaned at least once per day and classrooms will be fogged nightly. All classrooms will be equipped with wipes and supplies will be replenished as needed.

Drinking Fountains: We encourage all students to bring water bottles to school. Filtered water is available through the drinking fountain bottle filler. All classrooms will have a supply of drinking cups for student and staff use.