



Seaford UFSD
Middle School
Opening of School Plan
2021-2022
March 14, 2022

Introduction

With an eye toward keeping our students and staff safe, and in an effort to return to pre-COVID routines as soon as possible, the following routines and procedures will be put in place for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. All procedures will be assessed periodically by the **Opening of Schools Task Force** comprised of parents, staff, teachers, administrators, and Board of Education members and adjusted as necessary. The district will:

- Establish safety protocols considering guidance issued by various health organizations, including but not limited to the CDC, the Departments of Health of NYS and Nassau County, the Office of the Governor, the State of NY, and the County Executive of Nassau County.
- Maintain communication with all local and state authorities.
- Work in every way possible to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 while protecting the social and emotional and mental well-being of our students and staff.

Communication/Family and Community Engagement

The district remains committed to providing open and transparent communication. This plan will be posted on our district website at <https://www.seaford.k12.ny.us/> and will be updated throughout the school year, as necessary, to respond to local circumstances.

The district will rely on the following methods of communication to communicate news, current requirements, and updates:

- Emails
- The District Website
- Shoutpoint Communications (voice and/or texts)

Delivery of Educational Services

- In Person Learning:

It is the belief of the Board of Education and District Administration that in-person education is the most effective way for students to learn. All students, K-12, will be in school and in person. Persons at serious risk will be informed of appropriate procedures to provide reasonable accommodations in school. Students will follow their regular schedules which include switching classes. Elementary students will leave their classrooms to attend special classes (Art, Music, Library, Physical Education).

- Remote Learning:

There will be no full-year remote instruction provided this school year. If a student is ill for an extended period of time, a doctor's note is required, and alternative accommodations will be determined as applicable.

Exposed Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Persons - Symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status or recent infection, are required to remain at home until tested and, if positive or not tested, the individual is required to isolate for five (5) days. Upon return to school, the individual is required to wear a mask on Days 6-10.

Exposed asymptomatic and symptomatic students may receive instruction in school if wearing masks for days 6 through 10. Alternatively, they may choose to receive remote instruction for days 6 through 10 at home.

Hallway Lockers

Students will be given the opportunity to use their hallway lockers.

Physical Education and Athletic Lockers

Students will be given the opportunity to use a physical education locker. Physical education lockers will be separated and designated by periods to allow for social distancing. In addition, student athletes will have access to athletic lockers.

Bathrooms

Students wishing to use the bathroom will need to check in with the lavatory monitor before entering. The number of students in a bathroom at a certain time will be monitored and regulated.

Lunch

We plan to use the cafeterias. Specific schedules, procedures, seating, routines, and locations will be determined by each individual building.

- There will be assigned seating.
- Recess will be outdoors as much as possible.
- Teachers will eat lunch in designated lunchrooms and will socially distance as much as practicable.

Athletics, Clubs, and Extracurricular Activities

- It is the belief of the Board of Education and the District Administration that the resumption of extracurricular activities is vital to the social and emotional health and well-being of our students. It is the plan of the district to provide the normal complement of athletics and extracurricular activities for students as long as no State or County Agency prohibits them.
- The district will monitor sports, clubs, and activities which interact with outside agencies and/or facilities.

Face Coverings

In accordance with the NYS Department of Health and the NYSED Commissioner's determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, the wearing of masks is optional. However, face coverings must be worn for all school nurse office visits.

Health Checks, Including Temperature Screening

Per current guidance, daily health checks and temperature screening are no longer required for students and staff.

Social Distancing

The CDC recommends social distancing in schools and further recommends a distance of 3 feet, if possible. Therefore, the following procedures and protocols will be enacted:

- All employees and students shall practice social distancing, especially in common areas such as the cafeteria and in hallways.
- Classrooms and other instructional areas will attempt to allow for student social distancing (3 ft. when possible).
- All adults must maintain social distances of 6 ft.

Transportation

Face coverings are no longer required on school transportation.

Health and Hygiene – General Procedures

The District is committed to providing the safest learning environment for staff and students. Therefore,

- Staff will be directed to stay home if they are sick and parents/guardians should keep sick children at home.
- The district will continue to support training of district nurses.
- General hygiene procedures will be reviewed with each employee, parent/guardian and student. Signage for handwashing, distancing recommendations wearing of face coverings will be posted in various areas of each school. Alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available throughout all school buildings. Additionally:
 - All rooms will be managed using the following protocols and/or procedures:
 - Sanitizing supplies will be provided in each classroom.
 - Alternative spaces will be used to accommodate larger instructional groups if necessary.
 - Outdoor spaces will be used for instruction whenever possible.
 - Classrooms will be cleaned and disinfected each night.

- Hallways and Lavatories
 - Traffic patterns will be reviewed to promote distancing in hallways.
 - Frequent cleaning of bathrooms will be done throughout the day.
- Building Cleaning
 - Buildings will be cleaned and disinfected each evening.
 - High touch areas of the buildings will be cleaned and disinfected frequently each day, including, but not limited to door handles, rails, counters, tabletops, bathroom fixtures, trash cans, water fountains and cash registers.
 - Staff will be provided with the appropriate PPE to perform cleaning and disinfecting tasks.

Cleaning and disinfection training will continue to be provided to all custodial employees.

Cleaning chemicals used in the workplace will comply to all OSHA standards and be safe to use in schools.
- Office Spaces
 - Workers will be discouraged from using other workers' phones, desks, offices or other work tools and equipment whenever possible.
 - Conference rooms will be disinfected on a daily basis at a minimum if they are used.
- Building Systems
 - Total airflow supply to occupied spaces will be increased, wherever possible.
 - Natural ventilation will be increased by opening windows if possible and safe to do so in order to increase outdoor air dilution of indoor air when environmental conditions allow.
 - Building ventilation systems will be run during unoccupied times to maximize dilution ventilation when outside air temperatures permit.

Quarantining

In a mask-optional environment, students in a proximity of a confirmed case will be quarantined as per the Nassau County Department of Health.

Any instances of confirmed COVID infection that the school is alerted to will be reported to the Nassau County Department of Health.

Quarantining is not required if:

- students are all wearing masks and maintain social distance of 3' (6' for adults)
- the individual has completed a vaccine series (2 weeks after the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer, 2 weeks after 1 dose of J&J)
- the individual had COVID within the last 90 days

Procedures for Suspected or Confirmed Cases

Unless additional guidance is provided by the Nassau County Department of Health, the New York State Department of Health, or the New York State Education Department, the District will follow these procedures:

If symptoms are evident while school is in session:

- The school nurse will evaluate employees and students, who show symptoms of COVID-19 while in school. When a symptomatic person is sent to the school nurse or other designated personnel in each building, the following procedures will be initiated:
 - The person will be moved to a predetermined isolation room or area.
 - If the individual is a student, the parent/guardian will be contacted so that the child can be picked up as soon as possible.
 - Sick staff members and children will be advised not to return until they have one of the following: medical clearance from a health care provider, or a negative COVID-19 test performed by a doctor or in a laboratory, and/or release from isolation (provided by the Department of Health). As per guidance from the Nassau County Department of Health, in individuals who are symptomatic, a negative home test is not sufficient to return to school.
 - Persons who had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 will 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 quarantine.

If symptoms of COVID-19 are present prior to the start of the school day:

- Staff members and students who do not feel well should stay home.
- If a home test is positive, please notify your building principal and Lorraine Burke, R.N.
 - As per guidance from the Nassau County Department of Health, in individuals who are symptomatic, a negative home test is not sufficient to return to school. These individuals need to have one of the following to

return: medical clearance from a health care provider, or a negative COVID-19 test performed by a doctor or in a laboratory.

In the event that the school is notified of an employee or student who has tested positive for COVID-19 and are isolated by the Department of Health, the following procedure will be followed:

- The district will report the case to the Nassau County Department of Health and the district will follow all the protocols established by the Nassau County Department of Health.
- The custodial staff will be informed so that all desks, lockers, and workspaces of the person are thoroughly disinfected.

Exposed Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Persons - Symptomatic individuals, regardless of vaccination status or recent infection, are required to remain at home until tested and, if positive or not tested, the individual is required to isolate for five (5) days. Upon return to school, the individual is required to wear a mask on Days 6-10.

Exposed asymptomatic and symptomatic students may receive instruction in school if wearing masks for days 6 through 10. Alternatively, they may choose to receive remote instruction for days 6 through 10 at home.

School Closures

The district will continue to prepare for situations in which one or more school buildings need to close due to a significant number of students or staff testing positive for COVID-19, or if it is directed to do so because there is a considerable regional increase in COVID-19 cases. The district may choose to modify operations in one or more schools prior to closing to help mitigate a rise in cases. The district will consult the Department of Health when making such decisions.

Arrival and Dismissal

Our goal is to provide safe and efficient access to our district's buildings and property. Each school will have their own specific procedures/locations for their arrivals/dismissals including:

- Using multiple entrances and exits for student arrivals and dismissals.
- Identifying specific locations for parents to drop off and pick up students.

Visitors to Schools

In the new mask-optional environment, visitors to schools are now broadened to permit and encourage parent and visitor participation where appropriate.

Visitors will submit their license to school personnel who will verify the name with the appointment log and ask the visitor to affix a disposable visitor badge to their outermost garment.

Item Drop off Procedures

Procedures for the drop off of items during the school day will be limited. When necessary, these are the procedures that will be followed:

- The drop off of items (such as lunches, instruments, books, etc.) must be coordinated with the main office. Items can be left in the drop-off areas at the entrances of our buildings.
- Medication drop offs must be coordinated with the Health Office of the building.
- A designated drop off area will be established for all deliveries (ex, FedEx, UPS) to limit the number of visitors entering the buildings.

Safety Drills

Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency; therefore, all state required drills will be conducted. Steps will be taken to minimize the risk of spreading infection while conducting drills by maintaining social distancing wherever practicable. All schools will ensure that students and staff are receiving instruction in emergency procedures and participating in drills when they are in attendance.