



OTSEGO NORTHERN CATSKILLS
BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Fall 2021
Opening

August 24, 2021

Layered Measures

- Vaccination - the leading public health prevention strategy (CDC, AAP, local health departments)
 - You are encouraged to discuss vaccination with your healthcare provider
- Physical Distancing – distance as much as possible
 - At least 3 feet in classrooms, 6 feet in Physical Education, 6 feet while eating
- Face Masks – must be worn indoors at all times for both vaccinated and unvaccinated
 - Mask breaks should be given and outdoor spaces can be used as appropriate
- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
- If a BOCES student is being transported during the school day:
 - The student will be required to wear a mask, keep as much distance as possible, and open windows for ventilation as temperatures allow

Controlling the Spread

- Self-Assessment
 - Monitor for any new COVID-19 symptoms daily
 - Daily screening questionnaire is not required for staff or students
 - Do not report to work if you are feeling ill and report the absence to your supervisor and HR
- Onset of symptoms during the workday
 - Call the school nurse and/or report illness to supervisor immediately
- Exposure:
 - If vaccinated and asymptomatic, wear your mask for 14 days and get tested after 3 to 5 days
 - If unvaccinated, you will need to quarantine. DOH orders must be send to HR
- Please seek medical attention from your health care provider and receive COVID-19 test

Cleaning and Ventilation

- Daily cleaning of all spaces
 - Immediate cleaning/disinfection of spaces occupied by a person reporting illness
- Midday cleaning of high touch surfaces and fogging twice a week
- Staff are expected to clean shared touch surfaces (same practice as 2020-21)
- Ventilation systems have been reprogrammed to increase ventilation
 - Includes daily pre and post occupancy air purge cycles
- Maximum rated MERV filters have been installed based on manufacturer recommendations
- Windows can be opened as temperatures allow for fresh air ventilation

Instructional Plan

- Students and staff will return to 5 days per week in-person learning
 - BOCES is ready to shift to remote instruction as needed
- BOCES will provide a social contract to students and parents
 - The contract sets standards of conduct to help lessen the spread of COVID-19
- Student attendance will follow the current practices and be recorded daily
- A digital access survey will be distributed to staff and students to determine access to devices and internet access
 - BOCES will make every effort to ensure each person has the appropriate technology to continue instruction if a remote setting is required

Social Emotional Supports

- SEL Leadership Teams at each Center will support adults and students
 - Teams will gather input to offer support and learning activities
- Some specific examples of interventions include Second Step (elementary and middle), the PAX Good Behavior Game pilot (elementary), and Restorative Practices (secondary)
- Our work rests on the CASEL Framework Core Competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills and Responsible Decision-Making, and Trauma Informed Care

Communication

- This presentation will be offered in the evening for both staff and BOCES families
- Staff trainings related to layered protections and awareness of COVID-19 symptoms will be offered through Public School Works and on Opening Day
- Students should receive training within their classes on the methods to mitigate COVID-19 spread
- Signage is updated through the buildings
- BOCES will use E2Campus Omni-alerts and website updates to inform staff and students/parents of any updates to the plan

Quarantine and Isolation Orders

- NYSDOH Ordered Quarantines
 - You are eligible to be paid for **up to three** NYS DOH Quarantine/Isolation orders
 - The count started in March 2020 therefore this would include paid quarantines from last school year
 - If you were approved to telework during previous quarantines, that instance would not be counted towards the three
 - An employee is only eligible for one paid quarantine order due to exposure to a COVID positive person
 - An employee is only eligible for the 2nd and 3rd paid quarantines if they are sick with COVID.
- BOCES encourages employees to stay home and get tested if they are symptomatic
 - Therefore, employees will be paid while waiting for test results
 - Employees are expected to work from home while waiting for test results
 - If you are too sick to work, you should take a sick day
- If you have questions about your own situation, please contact your supervisor and our Human Resource office to discuss.

COVID Coordinators

- Dr. Catherine Huber – District Superintendent
 - cmhuber@oncbores.org
- Dr. Jennifer Avery – Deputy Superintendent
 - javery@oncbores.org
- Mr. Josh Reiss – Safety Risk Coordinator
 - jreiss@oncbores.org
- Ms. Sarah Blood - Director of Human Resources and Employee Engagement
 - sblood@oncbores.org

Questions?
