



Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District School Reopening COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols Fall 2021 (09-29-2021)

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District is planning for a full return to school in September. As we know, unfortunately the pandemic is still with us. While we want to see as much normalcy as possible, we must also prepare for peaks and valleys in the rate of transmission of this virus this year. The NYS Department of Health is expected to provide direct regulations that will govern much of the implementation of layered mitigation to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition to following the regulations provided by the NYSDOH, we will use guidance from the CDC, the NYS Department of Education, our county health officials, and our school physician to advise the plan. This plan was approved by the BHBL Board of Education on 9-7-2021

Monitoring Local Data

In order to help our families stay informed of the levels of COVID in our BHBL community, we will be monitoring local data at the county, town, and building level. At the **county level** we will monitor the CDC's *level of transmission*. The *level of transmission* is based on two factors- 1) the number of new cases in the county over the previous 7 days; and 2) the percentage of accurate COVID tests (Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests or NAATs) that come back positive in the county over the past 7 days. The determination of a specific *level of transmission* follows these guidelines:

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs ¹ that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

In addition to monitoring the Schenectady and Saratoga county levels of transmission, we will monitor data at the **town level**- specifically the number of *active cases* in Ballston, Charlton, Glenville, and Clifton Park every day. We will publish the updated **county and town data** regularly on our web page ([link](#)) for ease of access. All of relevant source data can be found in the following locations:

[CDC County Covid Tracker](#)

[Schenectady County Detailed Live COVID Data](#)

[Saratoga County Detailed Live COVID Data](#)

In addition to county and town data, we will consider **building-level** data through *random pool testing* within the district if this program becomes available through our counties. This pool testing would enable us to directly measure if the virus is present in our schools. The pool testing is saliva-based and non-invasive. (Note: If we implement this screening, parents would be given the ability to opt-out.)

LEVELS OF RESPONSE

We will use this chart as a communication tool for letting parents and students know what the expectations are. The level response will be chosen at the direction of CDC and Department of Health Guidance. The chart describes briefly the mitigation protocol we will utilize in each area of focus. This tiered mitigation strategy is fluid and the Board of Education authorizes the superintendent to make any adjustments necessary to match CDC/DOH guidance.

		Mitigation Protocol			
		<i>Based upon current NYSDOH Regulations, CDC Guidance, and the advice of our local county Departments of Health we will follow one of the following.</i>			
	Area of Focus	Level 1 Mitigation Protocol	Level 2 Mitigation Protocol	Level 3 Mitigation Protocol	Level 4 Mitigation Protocol
1	COVID-19 Vaccines	Vaccines are recommended but not required. Weekly CoVid-19 testing is required for all staff and contractors except for those individuals who voluntarily provide proof of CoVid-19 vaccination to the district.	Vaccines are recommended but not required. Weekly CoVid-19 testing is required for all staff and contractors except for those individuals who voluntarily provide proof of CoVid-19 vaccination to the district.	Vaccines are recommended but not required. Weekly CoVid-19 testing is required for all staff and contractors except for those individuals who voluntarily provide proof of CoVid-19 vaccination to the district.	Vaccines are recommended but not required. Weekly CoVid-19 testing is required for all staff and contractors except for those individuals who voluntarily provide proof of CoVid-19 vaccination to the district.
2	Social Distancing (indoors)	N/A	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masked (to greatest extent possible)	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masked (to greatest extent possible)	3 feet distancing <u>and</u> masked (to greatest extent possible)
3	Facemasks (indoors) <i>(Any individual can wear a mask at any time on all district property.)</i>	Optional	Recommended but not required	Required for instances when 3 feet social distance cannot be consistently met by students & staff (i.e. hallways, common areas.) Students may	Required for all staff and students indoors at all times- except when eating/drinking. Regular and appropriate mask

				remove masks when sitting at a desk with proper social distance. Staff may remove masks when teaching if 6 feet of social distance is maintained.	breaks provided- every 30-45 minutes throughout the day- including lunch, recess, physical education, changes of class outdoors where possible, outdoor breaks in instruction. District will consider exceptions for individuals unable to tolerate masks upon advice of a physician.
4	Facemasks (outdoors) including recess and physical education.	N/A	N/A	Not required but recommended for unvaccinated for instances when 3 feet social distancing cannot be generally met by students & staff alike.	Not required but recommended for all for instances when 3 feet social distancing cannot be generally met by students & staff alike.
5	Transportation (<i>Masks are required by federal mandate at all times on public transportation. Vents and windows open above 45° F</i>)	Masks Required	Masks Required	Masks Required	Masks Required Assigned Seating Families sit together Bus Passes Suspended Vents and Windows open at temperatures above 45° F.
6	Hygiene: Handwashing/Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Expected and Encouraged.	Expected and Encouraged.	Expected and Encouraged.	Expected and Encouraged.

7	Cleaning and Disinfection	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)
8	Ventilation and Air Quality	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Maximum mechanical fresh air circulation. Open windows. Open doors.
9	Contact Tracing, Quarantine, and Return to School/Work Protocol	Counties have issued flowcharts for use by the district in conjunction with county health officials to guide contact tracing. Factors considered: vaccination status, mask use, physical distancing, length of time exposed, and presence of symptoms.	Counties have issued flowcharts for use by the district in conjunction with county health officials to guide contact tracing. Factors considered: vaccination status, mask use, physical distancing, length of time exposed, and presence of symptoms.	Counties have issued flowcharts for use by the district in conjunction with county health officials to guide contact tracing. Factors considered: vaccination status, mask use, physical distancing, length of time exposed, and presence of symptoms.	Counties have issued flowcharts for use by the district in conjunction with county health officials to guide contact tracing. Factors considered: vaccination status, mask use, physical distancing, length of time exposed, and presence of symptoms.
10	Testing of Potential Positive Cases	N/A	District will be able to test individual students who demonstrate symptoms at school <u>if</u> parents request it.	District will be able to test individual students who demonstrate symptoms at school <u>if</u> parents request it.	District will be able to test individual students who demonstrate symptoms at school <u>if</u> parents request it.

11	Random COVID-19 Surveillance/Screen Testing (Staff and Students) or Pool Testing	No Surveillance Testing	No Surveillance Testing	Surveillance Testing at once per week of all students and staff in coordination with Saratoga County. This is a non-invasive test (saliva-based) that will help us determine local levels of virus. Parents have the right to opt-out of this testing.	Surveillance Testing at once per week of all unvaccinated staff in coordination with Saratoga and Schenectady County. This is a non-invasive test (saliva-based) that will help us determine local levels of virus. Parents have the right to opt-out of this testing.
12	Daily Screening	N/A	No daily questionnaire. Regular reminders to parents and staff to stay out of school when symptomatic.	No daily questionnaire. Regular reminders to parents and staff to stay out of school when symptomatic.	No daily questionnaire. Regular reminders to parents and staff to stay out of school when symptomatic. Temperature Screening of all staff and students upon entrance.
13	Indoor Physical Education	No Restrictions	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masks recommended	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masks required	3 feet distancing <u>and</u> masks required
14	Performing Arts (ensembles and lessons)	No Restrictions	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masks/bell covers recommended	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masks/bell covers required	3 feet distancing <u>and</u> masks/bell covers required
15	Interscholastic Athletics (SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON SUBURBAN COUNCIL LEAGUE/SECTION)	No Restrictions	3 feet distancing <u>or</u> masks for athletes and spectators when not actively participating.	Athletes are random-tested regularly using Binex rapid tests.	Athletes are random-tested regularly using Binex rapid tests.

	DECISIONS)			<p>Outdoors: Masks recommended for all when 3 feet distancing cannot be consistently met by students & staff alike.</p> <p>Indoors: 3 feet distancing or masks required</p> <p>Limited spectators at events.</p>	<p>Outdoors: Masks recommended for all when 3 feet distancing cannot be consistently met by students & staff alike.</p> <p>Indoors: 3 feet distancing and masks required</p> <p>Limited spectators at events.</p>
16	School Use of Facilities	Compliance with applicable school protocols	Compliance with applicable school protocols	Compliance with applicable school protocols	Limited Use of Facilities Allowed. Only Class 1 and 2 groups (as defined by AR1500) allowed to use indoor facilities. All groups ensure compliance with applicable school protocols.
17	Visitors to Buildings during the school day.	Normal Operational procedures	Minimal Restrictions	Official Business Only	Official Business Only