



Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake Central School District 2021-22 COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols (Updated 03-02-2022)

Introduction

The Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake School District executed a full return to school in September. Since the beginning of the year, most of the protocols required for us to reopen have been mandated by the NYS Department of Health (see new LEVEL 3 below). When those mandates expire, the district will need to identify its approach through locally designed mitigation protocols (see new LEVEL 1 & 2 below). A modified mitigation plan has been created by a group of administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents. This modified plan was approved by the BHBL Board of Education on **February 17, 2022**. This plan will expire on **June 30, 2022** unless further Board of Education action is taken.

Personal and Structural Protections

We will use this chart as a communication tool for letting parents and students know what the expectations are. It is helpful to think of various strategies for mitigation as falling into two categories:

- Some strategies involve **personal protection**. This would include strategies such as universal mandated wearing of face masks, mask type, mandatory staff testing, test-to-stay for students, contact tracing, and quarantine. In the district's plan, these personal protections will only be mandatory when specifically put in place by NYS law, valid NYSDOH mandates, or in special cases upon order of the county departments of health or the district's Medical Director based upon local circumstances.
- Other strategies involve **structural protections**. This would include strategies such as social distancing, ventilation, and sanitizing procedures. In the district's plan, structural protections may or may not be required, based upon mitigation level and independent of whether they are required by NYS law or NYSDOH Mandate.

	Mitigation Protocol		
Area of Focus	Level 1 LOW Mitigation Protocol	Level 2 MEDIUM Mitigation Protocol	Level 3 HIGH Mitigation Protocol
Authority	ENACTED LOCALLY		ENACTED BY MANDATE/LAW
Personal & Structural Protections	<p>Personal Protections will be optional. Recommendations for best practice from CDC and NYSDOH will be provided by the district.</p> <p>Structural Protections will be reviewed and decreased by the school district at levels described below.</p>	<p>Personal Protections(such as masking, mask type, and testing) will be optional. Recommendations for best practice from CDC and NYSDOH will be provided by the district.</p> <p>Structural Protections such as social distancing, sanitizing, and ventilation will be required by the school district at levels described below.</p>	<p>Personal Protections such as masking, mask type, and testing required. Specific requirements will be governed by NYSDOH Emergency Mandates, NYS Law, or Local County DoH Determination.</p> <p>Structural Protections such as social distancing, sanitizing, and ventilation required. Specific requirements will be governed by NYSDOH Emergency Mandates, NYS Law or Local County DoH Determination.</p>
Criteria for Level Selection	<p>Moving from Level 3 to Level 2: Level 2 would be the default in the absence of NYSDOH Emergency Mandate or NYS law regarding the prevention of the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Moving from Level 2 to Level 3: The district will move from Level 2 to Level 3 when personal and structural mitigation protocols are enacted by law, mandated by the NYSDOH, or upon order of the county departments of health or the district's Medical Director.</p> <p>Moving from Level 2 to Level 1: The district will monitor the average number of student/staff cases for the previous 30-days on a weekly basis. When the 30-day average case # decreases for four consecutive weeks <u>after</u> the move from Level 3 to Level 2, the district will move from Level 2 to Level 1. This move can be initiated by the superintendent and must be approved by the Board of</p>	<p>Level 3 protocols are enacted through NYSDOH Emergency Mandate or NYS Law. In any areas where new law or mandate differs from what is listed below, this plan will be updated.</p> <p>Local Determination: In the event that the Schenectady or Saratoga County Department of Health or the district's Medical Director directs the district to implement Level 3 measures as a precautionary measure, the Board and public will be notified at an emergency meeting of the Board of Education as soon as is safely possible. The Board of</p>	

	<p>Education at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.</p> <p>Moving from Level 1 to Level 2: A move from Level 1 into Level 2 would occur when the 7-day average case/100,000 level for either Schenectady or Saratoga County rises for 7 consecutive days or when advised by the district’s medical director or one of the county departments of health. This move can be initiated by the superintendent and must be approved by the Board of Education at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting.</p>		<p>Education will be updated on the status of this determination at each subsequent board meeting until the district is returned to Level 2.</p>
<p>Social Distancing</p>	<p>Not Applicable.</p>	<p>Emphasize social distancing to the greatest extent possible in all structured settings (classrooms, cafeterias, large group gatherings, special events,, etc.)</p> <p>In each situation, provide the maximum spacing that can be accommodated.</p> <p>Be mindful of high risk activities and situations when planning special events.</p>	<p>As enacted through NYSDOH Emergency Mandate, NYS Law or Local County DOH Determination.</p> <p>Follow requirements to the greatest extent possible. Be mindful of high risk activities and situations.</p>
<p>Facemasks (indoors) <i>(Any individual can wear a mask at any time on all district property.)</i></p>	<p>Optional</p> <p>District will publicize current CDC and DOH Recommendations for best practice for mask wearing and mask type.</p> <p>*See item 3 below</p>		<p>Enacted through NYSDOH Emergency Mandate, NYS Law or Local County DOH Determination.</p> <p>If masking is required, regular and appropriate mask breaks will be provided- every 30-45 minutes throughout the day - including lunch, recess, physical education, changes of class outdoors where possible, outdoor breaks in instruction.</p> <p>District will consider exceptions for</p>

			individuals unable to tolerate masks upon advice of a physician.
Facemasks (outdoors) including recess and physical education. <i>(Any individual can wear a mask at any time on all district property.)</i>	Optional District will publicize current CDC and DOH Recommendations for best practice for mask wearing and mask type. *See item 3 below		Follow NYSDOH emergency mandates, NYS Law or Local County DOH Determination. Be mindful of high risk activities and situations.
Transportation	Mask optional unless mandated by Federal transportation requirements. Vents and Windows open as practicable and determined by the Superintendent and Transportation Director.		Follow Federal emergency mandates or NYS Law. Assigned Seating Families sit together Bus Passes Suspended Vents and Windows open to the greatest extent practicable at temperatures above 45° F.
Hygiene: Handwashing/ Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Expected and Encouraged.		Expected and Encouraged.
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)
Ventilation and Air Quality	Fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors) in compliance with state regulations while focusing	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors) significantly in excess of State regulations as	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors) as indicated by NYSDOH emergency mandates, NYS Law or Local DoH

	on keeping spaces at a typical temperature.	mechanical tolerances of the equipment permit. May result in colder than typical temperatures in rooms during the winter months.	Determination. Will likely result in outside air being brought in that is significantly in excess of current State regulations but within the mechanical tolerances of the equipment. May result in colder than typical temperatures in rooms during the winter months.
Testing of Potential Positive Cases	Not Applicable.	If resources are available (staff and supplies) the District will provide a rapid test kit to students/parents who demonstrate symptoms at school <u>if</u> parents request it. Staff/Students may elect for testing if concerned about exposure.	If resources are available (staff and supplies) the District will test individual students who demonstrate symptoms at school <u>if</u> parents request it. Staff/Students may elect for testing if concerned about exposure, as long as tests are readily available
COVID-19 Surveillance Testing	No Surveillance Testing	Pool Testing (Elementary) We will conduct random weekly pool testing at all three elementary schools to monitor levels of COVID-19. This is a non-invasive (saliva-based) test for students/staff chosen at random. <u>Parents will be given the ability to opt out of this screening.</u> Large Scale Voluntary Testing of Staff and Students: While supplies are available, the district will provide a rapid test kit to the entire student body and staff at predetermined times (i.e. prior to returning from extended	Follow NYSDOH emergency mandates or NYS Law. This may include 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. Random Surveillance Testing may be required for students but parents would be given the option to opt-out of this testing.

		breaks) when the district is in Level 2.	
Daily Screening	None.		Only if enacted through NYSDOH Emergency Mandate or NYS Law.
Indoor Physical Education	No additional restrictions beyond those established in other areas in this plan		Follow NYSDOH Emergency Mandate or NYS Law to the greatest extent possible.
Performing Arts (ensembles and lessons)	No additional restrictions beyond those established in other areas in this plan.		Follow NYSDOH guidelines to the greatest extent possible.
Interscholastic Athletics	No additional restrictions beyond those established in other areas in this plan (SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON SUBURBAN COUNCIL LEAGUE/SECTION DECISIONS)		Follow NYSDOH guidelines to the greatest extent possible.
School Use of Facilities	Compliance with applicable school protocols.		Compliance with applicable school protocols. Usage may be prohibited or limited based upon enacted guidelines at the time of implementation.
Visitors to Buildings during the school day.	Normal Operational procedures.		Official Business Only

Additional information regarding mitigation protocol:

1. **COVID-19 Vaccines:** Vaccines remain available locally to all eligible students and staff. Saratoga County Department of Public Health states: "Vaccination is the most effective strategy against the virus that causes COVID-19 disease." Contact the County Health Department or your medical provider for more information about the vaccine.

2. **Contact Tracing/Quarantines/Test to Stay & Return to School:** As of 2/16/2022 the NYSDOH has suspended contact tracing and as a result largely eliminated quarantines and test to stay practices. Any individual with active COVID-19 symptoms **should remain home from school** until symptoms resolve and take a home or PCR COVID-19 test. Students/staff that test positive for COVID-19 must follow the latest NYSDOH guidance, currently: remain home from school for 5 days after the onset of symptoms and wear a well fitted mask for an additional 5 days upon return to school.
3. **Face Masks:** The District will supply all requesting students and staff with appropriate face masks while supplies and budget can accommodate. With appropriate medical documentation, N-95 face masks will be provided along with required fit testing.
4. **Movement to Virtual School:** Parents of children with documented medical concerns will be given an option to apply for a transfer to the Capital Region B.O.C.E.S. virtual school anytime a movement is made between Level 2 and Level 3.