

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

Hancock CSD School Reopening Plan Addendum 2021-22

The following addendum will be added to our 2020-21 School Reopening plan.

Addendum: 9/6/2021

INTRODUCTION

The Hancock Central School District will be open for full-time in person learning starting September 9, 2021. Remote learning options will be available only for those with verifiable medical hardships.

The New York Education Department, as our oversight agency, has advised school districts that we should utilize the current [CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) with Delaware County Public Health directives to determine operational procedures for the 2021-2022 school year. Additionally, the NYS Department of Health has released [Interim Guidance for Classroom Instruction in P-12 Schools During the 2021-22 Academic Year](#).

When the 2021-2022 school year begins, school will look much like it did when the last school year ended in June of 2021. We will continue to maintain a safe environment while providing as much normalcy as possible. Face coverings will still be required for all adults and students within district facilities and on district transportation. Mask breaks will be directed by teachers/staff for students within classrooms and will continue to be optional when outdoors. It is our number one goal to keep students and staff safe and physically present in school.

The Hancock Central School District is relying on our parents/guardians to ensure children are not experiencing signs/symptoms of COVID-19 before boarding a school bus or leaving home. Students and staff are required to notify the Hancock Central School District when they develop symptoms.

We ask for your continued support and cooperation in following the guidelines detailed in the school opening plan. Together, we are confident we can make the 2021-2022 school year a success.

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

The Hancock Central School District has designated school nurse, Mrs. Jennifer Hunt, to serve as COVID-19 Safety Coordinator, with the following responsibilities:

- Be the main contact upon the identification of positive COVID-19 cases and be responsible for subsequent communication;
- Ensure continuous compliance with all aspects of the Hancock Central School District pandemic response;
- Be the county, state, and federal liaison for all matters related to COVID-19.

Mitigation Strategies

COVID-19 recommended strategies being implemented include:

- *Physical Distancing* combined with *Mask Wearing* when not possible (best practice of 6 feet where possible; minimum of 3 feet or greater in all areas);
- *Mask Wearing* at all times on district transportation;
- *Disinfecting* daily;
- *Increased Ventilation*;
- *Barriers* installed on cafeteria tables;
- *Training* on handwashing and respiratory etiquette;
- *Promoting* students and staff staying home when sick and getting tested, as appropriate;
- *Support* local health departments with contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation;
- *Regular cleaning and disinfection* of all buildings, classrooms, and transportation vehicles.

Face Coverings

When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear face coverings, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct face-covering use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Acceptable face coverings for COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, cloth or disposable face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose (i.e. homemade, sewn, quick cut, bandana and disposable masks that cover mouth and nose).

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

All students, staff, parents/guardians and visitors must wear face coverings in instructional buildings regardless of vaccination status:

- Whenever within three feet of someone;
- In hallways;
- In common areas: entrances, exits, lobbies;
- When traveling inside the school;
- In restrooms;
- In other congregate settings;
- On school buses.

Students and staff who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a medical condition will require documentation from a physician. The Hancock Central School District administration will make decisions regarding students and staff who cannot tolerate face coverings due to a mental health concern or a developmental disability on a case-by-case basis.

The Hancock Central School District will continue to obtain and maintain an adequate quantity of personal protective equipment (PPE) used for school safety purposes.

Social Distancing

Maintain at least three feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, physical education, and music. If students are engaged in singing or playing a wind instrument, at least six feet of distance between students is recommended. In physical education, ensure any contact due to activities is quick and not for extended periods of time. When outdoors, schools should encourage activities that allow for distancing and reduced contact.

The Hancock Central School District will create alternate plans in consultation with school health personnel on how to meet the needs of the child and staff when social distancing and face coverings are not tolerated.

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to the DOH. All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic. Consistent with CDC guidance, students in the K-12 indoor classroom who are within at least three feet of an infected student with masking are excluded from the definition of close contact and are not required to quarantine. DOH concurs with CDC guidance, which recommends that fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact with someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should be tested 3-5 days after exposure. Close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 that do not fall in the exception detailed below must quarantine for 10 days and monitor symptoms through the 14th day. Below is the CDC exemption for K-12 students in indoor classroom setting:

Exception: In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three-to-six feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

It is recommended that schools should continue to assist the DOH with contact tracing. Any students who begin to exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 should remain home and seek testing. DOH recommends for any activities not in the classroom – recess, lunch, Support Services, etc. – schools keep records of seating charts and cohort students to reduce exposure and assist with contact tracing.

School Schedules

The Hancock Central School District will be open for full-time, 5-days-a-week, in-person learning at all grade levels starting September 9, 2021. There will not be hybrid or remote learning options with the exception of students with approved medical exemptions. Medical exemptions may be applied for through the appropriate principal's office and will be reviewed by the district medical director.

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

School Buses and School Vehicles

DOH concurs with existing CDC guidance that all students and adults must wear well-fitting masks while inside a bus, regardless of vaccination status. At least three feet of physical distancing between non-household members should be maintained as much as possible on a school bus. Ventilation, loading from the rear forward, and alternate window/aisle seating can also help reduce risk of transmission.

Management of Ill Persons

Any student or staff member with a fever greater than 100°F and/or symptoms of possible COVID-19 infection should not be present in school.

Students and staff with symptoms of illness must be sent to the health office. Ill students and staff will be assessed by the school nurse (registered professional nurse, RN) or medical director. If a school nurse or medical director is not available, ill students and staff will be sent home for follow up with a healthcare provider. The school nurse or medical director will assess individuals for chronic conditions such as asthma, allergies or gastrointestinal conditions that may present the same symptoms as COVID-19 but are neither contagious nor pose a public health threat.

Students with a temperature or signs of illness will be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area for an evaluation, and a possible COVID-19 test. Staff will wear protective equipment when assessing the student. Staff who are ill with COVID-19 symptoms at work should notify their supervisor, leave the building, and follow up with their medical provider.

Whenever a student or staff member shows symptoms of COVID-19 that imposes a significant risk of infection of others in the school, the individual shall be excluded from the school and sent home in a safe and proper conveyance. The COVID-19 coordinator will immediately notify the local public health department when a positive COVID-19 case is reported.

School staff must immediately report any illness of students or staff to the school nurse or other designated school staff.

The Hancock Central School District will provide the necessities for the cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas in the event an individual is confirmed to have COVID-19.

Hancock Central School District

The Wildcat Pledge: We nurture and empower each learner's unlimited capacity to become a responsible citizen with a promising future.

Our Vision: Striving for excellence as an innovative, advanced and reflective school community.

Core Beliefs:

- Our mindset: We do whatever it takes to ensure continuous growth because we believe each of us can learn.
- Collaboration: We work better together, always.
- Innovation: We embrace creativity and advancing technology.
- Integrity: We trust, respect, support and care for one another.
- Learning environment: Our approach is engaging, learner-centered and adaptable to individual needs.
- Student centered: We put students first.

Return to School After COVID-19 Illness

According to the Commissioner's testing determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62, all school students, teachers, and staff with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 must be excluded from school, regardless of vaccination status, and either (a) provide a negative COVID test result, or (b) remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset, prior to returning to school.

If student, teacher, or staff symptoms are improving AND they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines, they may return to school with either a note from the healthcare provider indicating the test was negative OR a copy of the negative test result. Given the growing prevalence of breakthrough infections among vaccinated populations nationwide, there is no recommended exemption for symptomatic vaccinated people. Please refer to such determination for details on this testing requirement.

THE HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL CONTINUE TO MONITOR CDC, NYSED, STATE AND LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE. THIS PLAN IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PROGRESSES.

Guidance Links:

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools.](#)

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf>