

Dear Letchworth Central School District Families:

On August 5, 2021, Dr. Howard Zucker (New York State Department of Health Commissioner) issued the following statement:

“With the end of the state disaster emergency on June 25, 2021, school districts are reestablished as the controlling entity for schools. Schools and school districts should develop plans to open in-person in the fall as safely as possible, and I recommend following the guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments.”

**On September 2, 2021 schools received new guidance from the NYS Department of Health. That new guidance can be found at this link:**

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/school-guidance.pdf>

The District will continue to prioritize the health and safety of all its family members, and the preservation of in-person instruction during the 2021 – 22 school year. The following protocols have been developed in consultation with the Wyoming County Department of Health (WCDOH).

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

The District will continue to support students, staff, faculty and administration who are interested in obtaining COVID-19 vaccines. Information regarding COVID-19 vaccines may be found at:

- CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>
- New York State: <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/>
- Wyoming County: <https://www.wyomingco.net/595/COVID-19>

**The District WILL NOT mandate COVID-19 vaccines for its students, staff, faculty and administration. According to new guidance the District will need to test staff who are not vaccinated on a weekly basis. (Issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.62)**

### **Physical Distancing**

The District will adhere to the CDC’s recommendation of three (3) feet of physical distance within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

*“With respect to 6 ft distancing when students are unmasked and performing certain high-risk activities (eating, singing, etc.), DOH is applying the CDC’s guidance in this area, including as follows from within the CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html#physical-distancing> “Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should*

*implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.”*

### **Face Coverings**

On August 27, 2021, Dr. Howard Zucker (New York State Department of Health Commissioner) made the following determination pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.61:

**“Universal masking of teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools over age two and able to medically tolerate a face covering/mask and regardless of vaccination status, is required until this determination is modified or rescinded.”**

### **Screening**

Parents/guardians will be responsible for screening their students for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to boarding District transportation or entering District facilities. Employees and visitors are responsible for monitoring themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to entering District facilities. Please stay home when you are not feeling well.

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- A temperature greater than or equal to 100.0° F (37.8° C)
- Feel feverish or have chills
- Cough
- Loss of taste or smell
- Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headaches
- Nasal congestion/ runny nose

Individuals will consult their healthcare providers prior to returning to school.

### **Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

The District will support the WCDOH’s COVID-19 spread mitigation efforts by implementing the following contact tracing and quarantine protocols:

- A **close contact** is an individual who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of fifteen (15) minutes or more over a twenty-four (24)-hour period.
- Contact tracing will include the forty-eight (48)-hour period prior to the onset of symptoms of the confirmed COVID-19 positive individual or date of the confirmed COVID-19 positive individual’s test if asymptomatic.

- **Close contacts** will be quarantined per the WCDOH's direction.
- An individual will be excluded from the quarantine requirement if:
  - both the infected individual and **close contact** individual correctly and consistently wore well-fitting face coverings the entire time of the **close contact**.
  - he/she is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic.
    - The District must have documentation of vaccination on file prior to the initiation of a contact trace for an individual to be excluded from the quarantine requirement.
  - he/she was previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last ninety (90) days.

### **Food Service**

Students will eat their lunches in the District's cafeterias during their prescribed lunch times to the greatest extent practicable. Individuals will be physically distanced at 3 feet apart when eating, and drinking. When the cafeterias have reached capacity per the aforementioned distancing protocols, the District will establish alternative, physically-distanced locations for food service. Breakfast will be eaten in the classroom maintaining as much physical distancing as possible.

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### **Athletic events and all other extra-curricular activities/public events**

For outdoor events masks are not required. For all indoor events, universal masking is required.

### **Transportation**

The following protocols have been developed to provide the safest environment on our buses:

- Capacity on District transportation will return to loading limits as prescribed by the sizes and types of the New York State Department of Transportation defined motor vehicles transporting school-age passengers to and from schools.
- Face coverings are required for ALL individuals riding District transportation. This is congruent with current public transportation procedures.
- Parents/guardians may choose to transport their students to and from school.

### **Cleaning/Disinfecting**

Our custodial staff will continue to clean and disinfect high touch areas and keep our building safe for everyone. Air quality is always monitored and adjusted throughout the building.

## **Instruction**

The District is committed to the safe return of ALL students to in-person instruction. Federal and state governments and agencies have committed significant resources to sustain in-person learning. The District will proceed with in-person instructional model for ALL students for the 2021 – 22 school year.

**The District is in constant contact with the WCDOH and regional school districts.  
Circumstances may necessitate adjustment to the aforementioned protocols.**

**Letchworth is excited for the 2021 – 22 school year with your children.**

**Together...We are Letchworth.**

Sincerely,

Todd Campbell  
Superintendent of Schools