



Binghamton City School District

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August 18, 2021

Dear Binghamton Families,

We looking forward to welcoming all of our students back to school next month, beginning on Thursday, September 9. Keeping our students, faculty and staff healthy and safe, while maximizing in-person teaching and learning is at the heart of the district's opening plan for schools. Following the guidance of the New York State Education Department, we will be putting in to place the following measures:

Masking: The district will require masks while indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Masks will be optional while outdoors, with expectations that physical distancing is adhered to where possible.

Social Distancing: The district will adhere to physical distancing of three (3) feet indoors where possible with local discretion. The district will utilize additional mitigation measures including, but not limited to, mask wearing, screening testing, improved ventilation, use of barriers, training on handwashing and respiratory etiquette, promoting students and staff staying home when sick and getting tested, support local health departments with contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and regular cleaning and disinfection of all buildings, classrooms, and transportation vehicles.

Transportation: Masks are required while riding a bus with no physical distancing requirements. The district will promote families sitting together (e.g., cohorting) and assigned seating for purposes of contact tracing if necessary.

Screening & Mitigation: The district will screen for temperatures and provide rapid COVID testing for students and staff who exhibit symptoms or who self-report feeling ill. Testing will also be conducted weekly for those students and employees who choose to participate. School health offices will conduct all screening and/or rapid COVID testing. The district will continue to support contact tracing per the requirements of our local department of health.

Remote Learning: The Binghamton City School District wants all students to return to safe, in-person learning. Remote learning will be an option for those who are medically fragile. Medical notes will be required, and the district's medical doctor will review and consult with the district on each request. If your student, or someone in your household, is medically fragile, please complete this [form](#), if you have not already done so. This form was distributed earlier this month. To provide time for the district physician to review and for the building principal to schedule, requests must be made no later than August 20th.

Remote learning options will either be in partnership with Broome-Tioga BOCES or through a regional or district provided remote learning model. This will be determined after final requests are received, reviewed, and approved. While understanding that medical conditions may change, for planning purposes, it will be expected that remote learning will be a full year commitment.

BHS is also offering half-day remote learning for eligible juniors and seniors. Information regarding the "Virtual Academy" will be released later this week to High School families.

The above information is based on the most up to date information. Please note that any section of the outlined plan may be amended through federal, state, or local directive. We will provide timely communication of any changes and we appreciate your lasting support.

With Patriot Pride,

Dr. Tonia Thompson
Superintendent of Schools

Educating, empowering, and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.