



# COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocol Summary

## 2021-2022 School Year

Updated September 5, 2021

**\*Changes noted in bold and underlined\***

The West Seneca Central School District is committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community. The District will comply with all Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) requirements. Below is a summary of how we will implement our programming in compliance with these requirements. Please note that these protocols are subject to change.

### **Masks**

- Masks will be required for all students, staff and visitors while indoors. This includes any time inside our buildings such as evening events, supply drop-offs, open houses, and sporting events, etc. Acceptable masks are cloth-based or surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Bandanas, gators, and clear face shields are not considered acceptable facecoverings.
- In order to reduce crowding, we are encouraging families to send one family member per student to activities such as supply drop offs and open houses.
- Masking is recommended but not required outside, especially in crowded environments. Masks are not required during meals.
- Teachers will coordinate mask breaks for students once every hour for approximately 5 minutes. Mask breaks will be coordinated to ensure students are seated six feet apart.

### **Distancing**

- Schools will maximize and prioritize distancing to the greatest extent possible placing approximately 3 feet between students in the classroom setting.
- We will strive to maintain at least 6 feet of distance to the extent possible between staff and students and among staff.

### **Daily Screening**

- Families will be required to screen their children for COVID –19 related symptoms on a daily basis. The District will continue to communicate the signs and symptoms to be watchful for on a regular basis. Students exhibiting symptoms should not attend school. If a student presents with symptoms of COVID-19, our school nurse will be in contact with the parent/guardian and the student will be sent home.

## Meals

- **On 9/4/21, the Erie County DOH updated its guidance for meals by requiring that students maintain a distance of 3 feet between one another while eating.** Given the short notice of this change, our staff will work to implement this change over the first few days of the school year. Various spaces within the building will be used which may include cafeterias, classrooms, and outdoor spaces. Assigned seating will be utilized.

## Music & Physical Education (PE)

- When possible, PE classes will be held outdoors. When indoors, we will utilize the “Distancing” protocol listed above (i.e. masking and approximately 3 feet of distance between students).
- Music Lessons and Rehearsals: Students must remain 6 feet apart when playing wind instruments or singing. **We have been informed by the Erie County DOH that 6 feet of distance must be maintained between singers during rehearsal, regardless of whether a mask is worn.**
- Musical Performances: We have additional flexibility for performances. We will strive to maintain 6 feet of distance between students (to extent possible) participating in performances that involve singing or playing wind instruments. We are required to maintain 6 feet of distance between the performance group as a whole and the audience as a whole.

## Athletics

- The District will participate in Section VI sports. Spectators will be able to attend. Masks will be required for spectators for indoor events and strongly encouraged at outdoor events especially when in crowded settings.
- Masks are required for coaches and athletes when not engaged in physical activity (e.g. on the sidelines). The ECDOH strongly recommends mask wearing for athletes during game play unless they are unable to physically tolerate wearing a mask during competition.
- **Per the Erie County DOH 9/4/21 guidance update, masks are now required for sports taking place indoors.** Prior to this update, athletes were able to remove masks while practicing or playing sports indoors if they were physically unable to tolerate wearing a mask.

## School Events and Field Trips

- School events, extracurricular activities, internships and field trips may occur as long as they are able to follow all ECDOH guidelines including masking and distancing.

## Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Ventilation

- Schools will be thoroughly cleaned each day. High touch areas will be disinfected on a frequent basis.
- The District’s HVAC systems are designed to provide appropriate ventilation per applicable codes, using fresh air. The District will continue to closely monitor airflow/ventilation and will have air handlers open at 100% air flow. Windows will remain open as appropriate based on weather conditions.

### **Transportation**

- Masks shall be required for all individuals while on district transportation. Assigned seating will be utilized. Family members should sit together.

### **Technology**

- K-12 students will each be assigned a district owned device. Teachers will ensure all students are set up on various digital platforms (e.g. Google Classroom).

### **COVID-19 Testing**

- The District is partnering with ECDOH to provide **voluntary** proximal and surveillance testing. Parents will receive additional information regarding testing in the coming weeks.

### **Contact Tracing & Quarantine**

- The ECDOH will facilitate any necessary contact tracing related to COVID-19 infections and the District will assist as needed. The District will utilize seating charts for students on a broad scale to assist with the contact tracing process.
- In the event that a student is quarantined, they will be provided asynchronous work from their teachers. Work will be accessible using various digital platforms, such as Google Classroom.