

## Ellicottville Central School - Summary of Reopening Plans for 2021-22 School Year

This summary corresponds/supplements to the larger "Ellicottville Central School Pandemic - COVID-19 Re-opening Plans for 2021-22 School Year," which can be accessed via the District Website. **Please note: this information is subject to change if new guidance is issued by the CDC, NYSDOH, the Governor's Office, the Catt. Co. Dept. of Health, NYSED, etc.**

To best ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff, ECS will be using a multilayered approach based on recommendations and guidance from the: CDC, AAP, NYSED, Catt. Co. Dept. of Health, and our Medical Director.

Please know that the overall goal is to allow all students to return to in-person learning full time; 5 days per week from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. MS/HS students will return to a more "traditional schedule," and we will no longer have a large study hall in the gymnasium. At the time of this plan, the District is still working on the finer details of the daily schedules for both the Elementary and MS/HS and details will be coming in the near future.

- 1. Masks:** All students and staff will be required to wear masks while on school buses and inside the school building regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional outside, unless there is a group activity where there is prolonged contact between individuals and 6 feet of social distancing cannot be maintained. Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own acceptable masks. In the event a student or staff member does not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided. Mask breaks will be provided. Exception: Masks may be removed by staff, Board of Education Members and adult attendees at meetings provided all participants are socially distanced more than 6 feet apart.
- 2. Social Distancing:** In order to bring all students back to in-person instruction, we will follow the CDC guidance that allows for 3 feet of social distancing in classrooms for students. Whenever possible, we will try to increase this distance as space allows. Staff who are not fully vaccinated should social distance 6 feet from students and other staff members to the greatest extent possible.
- 3. Cohorts:** Cohorts (consistent groups of students staying together all day) will be used in grades PK-6 to the greatest extent possible. Cohorting students in grades 7-12 is not possible in a district the size of ECS.
- 4. Hand Washing:** Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands throughout the day as needed. If soap and water is not available in a certain area, hand sanitizer will be provided. Instructions will be provided at the beginning of the year.
- 5. Cover Your Cough / Sneeze:** Students will be instructed to cough or sneeze into arm or elbow whenever possible. In the event a student coughs or sneezes into a tissue or their hand, they will be instructed to wash their hands or use hand sanitizer. Instructions will be provided at the beginning of the year.
- 6. Daily Health Screening / Temperature Checks:** In accordance with the CDC recommendations, ECS will no longer take the daily temperature of students arriving at school or require students and staff to complete daily health screeners. Parents will need to check their child/children for symptoms of COVID-19 (including temperatures) prior to sending their child/children to school each day. Please note that if there is an increase of transmission within the school community or the community at large that necessitates the use of these tools, such may be implemented.
- 7. Staying Home:** Students and staff MUST stay home when they do not feel well or have COVID 19 symptoms. Parents / Staff should consult with their physician or the school nurse for "next steps" including testing for COVID-19. THIS CANNOT BE IGNORED. If your child (or a staff member) is symptomatic and attends school, he/she could subject many others to quarantine protocols.
- 8. Student Transportation:** Per CDC guidance, physical distancing is not required on buses. However, all students, drivers and staff MUST wear a mask while on the bus. To assist with "Contact Tracing" should it be needed, students may be assigned seats. In addition, due to the extensive planning required to accommodate all students for in-person instruction which includes assisting with contact tracing as needed, students MUST be picked up and dropped off at the same address each day. No alternate passes can be honored at this time.
- 9. Signage:** Posters / signs pertaining to items such as hand washing, wearing masks, recognizing COVID-19 symptoms, etc. will be on display throughout the building. The District will also use floor decals to assist with traffic flow.
- 10. Meals / Cafeteria:** For the elementary, meals (breakfast and lunch) will be served in the cafeteria and/or Multi-purpose room. For MS/HS students, the MS/HS cafeteria, the stage in the Ward, and HS Library will be used for meals. To the extent possible, students will be seated 6 feet apart, but in some cases may be seated closer. Both desks and tables will be used to serve meals and they will be cleaned between groups of students using them. Seating charts will be established and used to assist with contact tracing should it be necessary.
- 11. Physical Education:** Whenever possible, PE classes will be conducted outside. When classes occur inside, masks MUST be used at all times and efforts will be made to keep students as socially distanced by 6 feet or more when ever possible. Mask breaks will be provided when students can be distanced at least 6 feet apart and there is also a break from physical activity.
- 12. Band / Chorus:** At this time, the District is still working on plans for these classes. This is necessary, as these classes may require greater social distancing, and, according to the CDC, routine screening testing. Until plans can be finalized for these classes, student scheduled for them will be engaged in enrichment, genre, cultural, etc. activities.
- 13. Social Emotional Needs / Wellness:** The District will be using student survey tools such as SAEBRS (Social, Academic, Emotional Behavior Risk Screener) for grades PK-5 and PEAR (Partnerships in Education and Resilience) for grades to 6-12 to assess and monitor students' social emotional needs throughout the year.
- 14. Remote Instruction:** While the District is planning on all in-person instruction for all students starting September 2<sup>nd</sup>, it may become necessary to switch to an all remote model for a period of time for all students / groups of students. At the beginning of the school year students will be provided with an "Emergency 3-Day Packet" and/or other materials to be used in the event this model is needed. Should the District need to switch to an all remote learning model, more information will be provided at that

time. In the event an extended all remote option is needed, the District is poised to ensure that each student has a 1:1 iPad / laptop for use during this time. A survey will be coming in September to collect information regarding updated internet access / cell phone service at households.

15. **Medically Vulnerable Students** ECS will work with families who have medically vulnerable students, or students who have medically vulnerable people living in their household, or have other health concerns related to returning in-person to school to provide remote instruction upon receipt of documentation and approval of a physician note stating that the child needs remote instruction.
16. **Concerts/Open Houses/Conferences/Banquets/Etc.:** At this time, the District is still working on plans for these events. These events are being tentatively scheduled with the desire that they will be held.
17. **Parent Drop-Off and Pick-Up:** Families seeking to drop-off and/or pick-up their child/children should notify the office prior to the start of the school year. Elementary students may be dropped off between 8:00 AM and 8:10 AM and picked up starting at 2:45 PM at the north end (elementary end) of the bus loop. For MS/HS students, the preferred drop off time is 8:00 AM (but they may be dropped off starting at 7:30 AM) and pick up starts at 2:55 PM. The drop off / pick up location for MS/HS students is at the MS/HS parking lot entrance to the building.
18. **Student Drivers:** Students driving to school need to contact the MS/HS office to obtain paperwork and approval to drive to school.
19. **Interscholastic Athletics (students):** The District anticipates returning to interscholastic sports starting on Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> day of practice). The District will work with Section VI and NYSPHSAA for additional guidance / changes as needed. Please note we are still learning about screening testing requirements that may need to be implemented for student athletes that are not fully vaccinated based on COVID-19 transmission rates. We are working with the CCDOH and Catt. Co. Dept. of Emergency Services on this and will share more information once it becomes available, as changes may be necessary.
20. **Interscholastic Athletics (spectators):** Currently, we anticipate being able to allow all interested spectators to outdoor sports provided social distancing is followed. Masks are currently optional for outdoor spectators. We also anticipate allowing spectators for indoor sports. All indoor spectators will be required to wear masks and sit socially distanced at least 6 feet apart (exception: members of the same household may sit closer than 6 feet BUT still need to wear a mask) in the bleachers. If crowd size becomes a concern, we may have to look to limit spectators to a certain number of spectators per student. This protocol is subject to change.
21. **Homework Club / After School Activities:** We are currently focusing on reopening for daily instruction and these activities are on hold for the time being. We hope to phase in homework club and other after school activities beginning in October.
22. **Cleaning / Disinfecting:** The District will follow the CDC recommendation of cleaning school buildings and buses at least once a day to sufficiently remove any germs that may be on surfaces. Some areas may be cleaned more often as warranted (i.e. restrooms). The District will clean "high touch" areas (i.e. handrails) more often. The buildings will be disinfected at the end

of each day. Areas where a positive case of COVID-19 was present will be cleaned and disinfected per CDC guidelines.

23. **Facilities:** The District will continue to provide cups at drinking fountains. In addition, several fountains will be replaced with ones that contain bottle fillers. Otherwise, the District will comply with all required safety drills, water testing, building inspections, etc.
24. **Desk Guards:** We will no longer be using polycarbonate desk guards around individual student desks in the elementary school. Exception: Desk guards may be used for specialized instruction where social distancing cannot be maintained AND at least one of the participants is unable to wear a mask.
25. **Ventilation:** The District will closely monitor its ventilation system and ensure that it is operating at or above recommended settings. This includes running air exchange units more than required, and, in many cases, 24 hours per day / 7 days per week.
26. **Symptomatic students / staff on campus:** Students / staff that develop or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus MUST be referred to / report to the Nurse. The school will utilize an "Isolation Room" while working with these individuals and/or waiting to a parent / family member to pick them up.
27. **Contact Tracing:** The District will work in conjunction with the CCDOH to contract trace as needed. We have been notified that the CCDOH will supply schools in the County with updated contact tracing protocols in the near future. In the meantime, we will establish and use seating charts for classroom, buses and lunchrooms to assist with tracing efforts.
28. **COVID-19 Vaccinations:** While vaccination for COVID-19 is encouraged for individuals 12 years and older, at the current time, ECS **will not** require students or staff to share their vaccination status. (Please note this could change pending direction / legislation from NYS and/or the DOH.) At the same time, staff **MAY** voluntarily share their vaccination status with the school nurse by either providing a copy of their vaccination card or by providing the nurse with written permission to check the NYS database. Staff that give the nurse such permission need to provide their full name (including middle name) and their date of birth. Parents may also voluntarily share vaccination status of their child children by providing the nurse with written permission to check the NYS database. In addition, ECS will look to partner with CCDOH to provide vaccination clinics at the school. Please note: If the District knows that an individual is vaccinated it may prevent that person from being quarantined in the event they come into contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.
29. **COVID-19 Testing:**
  - The District will be partnering with the CCDOH and that Catt. Co. Dept. of Emergency Services to provide locations for COVID -19 rapid (PCR) testing as needed and free of charge to students and staff who exhibit COVID-19 symptoms.
  - At the current time, ECS **will not** seek to test anyone for COVID-19 or require screening testing (proactive testing of asymptomatic individuals) for COVID-19 of students or staff members. Please note, depending on guidance from the State, the DOH, the CDC, CCDOH, etc., this is subject to change.