

**Ballston Spa CSD
DRAFT
Reopening Plan
Framework**

Revised August 5, 2021

Background

This *Reopening Plan Framework* is built utilizing the guidance documents and information listed in the *Resources* section at the end of this presentation; conversations with and guidance from the Saratoga County Public Health Services; conversations with and feedback from the BSCSD District Physician; conversations and planning with the WSWHE BOCES; input and communications from parents caregivers that we continue to receive; and our BSCSD internal workgroups. The NYS Department of Health will not be providing guidance to schools for our reopening. Our plan will continue to evolve based on conversations with those groups listed in the *Next Steps* section.

Reopening Planning Measures

Many of the *Key Elements* of our plan will depend on the status of the virus in our schools, in the community, and in the Saratoga County region. As the status may change during the year, any changes will be informed by the following measures:

1. County transmission rates (*Low, Moderate, Substantial, or High*) as determined by the CDC.
2. Daily averages of positive cases as determined by the NYS Department of Health.
3. Vaccination rates for students, staff, and the community as determined by the District reporting portal and the NYS Department of Health Vaccination database.
4. Number of positive cases in classrooms and individual schools as determined by the BSCSD COVID Coordinator and Saratoga County Public Health Services.

Reopening Goal

In-person learning 5 days per week with minimal disruption.

- The District will take proactive steps to meet the goal including:
 - ***Maximizing vaccination*** availability for students and staff.
 - ***Using masks*** as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Conducting screening tests*** of unvaccinated students and staff as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Monitoring daily cases*** in classrooms and buildings.
 - Quickly ***conducting contact tracing*** of positive cases so as to minimize the impact of quarantining.
 - ***Frequently reevaluating*** our plan based on new information and changes to our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Continuously updating parents and the community*** and requesting feedback on proposed changes to our plans.

Current Vaccination Status⁽¹⁾

Group	First Dose	Fully Vaccinated
BSCSD Faculty and Staff ⁽²⁾	86%	85%
BSCSD Students 12+	56%	52%
Ballston Spa Zip Code ⁽³⁾	70.8%	67%
Ballston Lake Zip Code	79.8%	75.7%
Saratoga Springs Zip Code	73.6%	69.7%
Mechanicville Zip Code	65.6%	61.4%
Middle Grove Zip Code	59.2%	55.4%
Rock City Falls Zip Code	55.8%	52.3%

(1) Data is as of August 2, 2021

(2) BSCSD Faculty and Staff rate is based on self-reported data

(3) Information retrieved from <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code>

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance⁽¹⁾

- **Transportation** – In our current plan,
 - ***Masks*** are required on buses by federal rule for students and staff.⁽²⁾
 - ***Ventilation*** will be maximized as weather allows.
 - ***Bus Schedule*** will be the same as in pre-pandemic years with similar number of buses and runs.
 - ***Student drop-off and pick up*** by parents/caregivers are encouraged to lessen the number of students on our buses.
 - ***Kindergarten students*** will be oriented to our buses and the rules before school opens.
- **Entering School** – In our current plan,
 - ***Health Screening*** using the Pinpoint Screening app *may* be used again this year.
 - ***Screening Testing*** for the COVID virus may be required on a weekly basis for students and staff who are not vaccinated as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Masks*** may be required in hallways and common areas of school based on our reopening planning measures.
 - ***Social Distancing*** of at least 3 feet will be maintained wherever possible. Where it cannot be maintained, other measures (e.g., masks and screening testing) may have to be in place as warranted by our reopening planning measures.

(1) See *Resource* pages on slides 8 and 9. As research continues to emerge, we will adjust our plans as necessary.

(2) See <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance⁽¹⁾

- **In School** – In our current plan,
 - ***Remote Learning*** will not be an option. Tutoring services for students who are homebound due to documented medical issues will be provided as in prior years.
 - ***Classroom setups*** will look very similar to pre-pandemic rooms⁽²⁾. Additional details on science labs, group work, etc. will be addressed.
 - ***Schedules*** will be the same/very similar to those in pre-pandemic years (e.g., 60 minute periods at high school).
 - ***Locker Use*** details for middle and high schools will be shared by building principals.
 - ***Lunch time*** details are still being worked out due to distancing concerns.
 - ***Quarantining*** of symptomatic students will still occur, but vaccination status, masking, and distancing may reduce this need. Program options for quarantined students and staff are being developed.
 - ***Symptomatic students and staff*** may have to be sent home to be tested for the virus.

(1) See *Resource* pages on slides 8 and 9. As research continues to emerge, we will adjust our plans as necessary.

(2) Additional teachers have been hired to reduce class sizes at certain grades in K-5.

Key Elements based on CDC and AAP Guidance

- **After school Clubs and Athletics** – In our current plan,
 - *Meetings/games* will be the same/very similar to schedules in prior years.
 - *Masking* may be required based on distancing in the club activities or the nature of the sport. A distinction between indoor and outdoor masking is being worked on.
 - *Screening Testing* for the COVID virus may be required for student athletes who are not vaccinated as warranted by our reopening planning measures.
- **Visiting the Schools/Attending Events** – In our current plan,
 - *School Visitors* will continue to be limited and will be expected to follow the rules in place if allowed. A distinction between indoor and outdoor masking is being worked on.
 - *Spectators* will be allowed at athletic events and will be expected to follow the rules in place. A distinction between indoor and outdoor masking is being worked on.

Next Steps:

- Continue refining planning with administrative council, Saratoga County School Districts, Saratoga County Public Health Office, and the School District Physician. (*Ongoing*)
- Meet with union leadership groups to review framework and get feedback. (*August 5 and 6*)
- Meet with Suburban Council School Districts to review options. (*August 9*)
- Video meeting with BSCSD staff to review revised framework and get feedback. (*Week of August 9*)
- Survey BSCSD parents and caregivers on revised framework for feedback. (*Week of August 9*).
- Present revised framework to the Board of Education. (*August 18*)
- Communicate changes to plans to all groups above. (*TBD*)

***Welcome all students, faculty, and staff to school on
Wednesday, September 8!!***

Resources:

Reopening:

- Centers for Disease Control Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>
- Centers for Disease Control Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>
- American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
- NYS Department of Health Vaccination Tracker by Zip Code
<https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/vaccination-rates-zip-code>
- NYS Department of Health Percent Positive Tracker <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>
- Centers for Disease Control Community Transmission Rate <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>
- BSCSD Positive Case Tracker [insert link once live]
- BSCSD Coping with COVID Resources <https://www.bsccd.org/Page/13113>

Resources:

Masking:

- *Effectiveness of Mask Wearing to Control Community Spread of SARS-CoV-2 | Infectious Diseases | JAMA | JAMA Network* <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2776536>
- *An evidence review of face masks against COVID-19* <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/118/4/e2014564118.full.pdf>
- *How well do face masks protect against coronavirus? - Mayo Clinic* <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-mask/art-20485449>
- *EPA Researchers Test Effectiveness of Face Masks, Disinfection Methods Against COVID-19 | US EPA* <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/epa-researchers-test-effectiveness-face-masks-disinfection-methods-against-covid-19>
- *Face masks effectively limit the probability of SARS-CoV-2 transmission | Science* <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/372/6549/1439.full>
- *Face Masks Against COVID-19: An Evidence Review* https://files.fast.ai/papers/masks_lit_review.pdf
- *Respiratory virus shedding in exhaled breath and efficacy of face masks* <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-020-0843-2.pdf>
- *Coronavirus Face Masks: Types & When to Use | Johns Hopkins Medicine* <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-face-masks-what-you-need-to-know>
- *Myths about Masks and Other Coronavirus Facial Coverings - Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital* <https://www.hopkinsallchildrens.org/ACH-News/General-News/Myths-about-Masks-and-Other-Coronavirus-Facial-Cov>
- *Research finds masks can prevent COVID-19 transmission in schools.* <https://today.duke.edu/2021/06/research-finds-masks-can-prevent-covid-19-transmission-schools>