

Menands Union Free School District Proposed Opening Plan COVID-19 Tiered Mitigation Protocols Fall 2021

The Menands Union Free School District is planning for a full return to school in September, providing strong academics and extracurricular offerings. The district will employ a tiered mitigation approach, including components including facemasks, facilities cleaning, hand hygiene, contact tracing, quarantining, HVAC (ventilation) and surveillance testing. [Guidance from the New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#), [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [The Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#), [The United States Department of Education](#), have served as a primary guide for this reopening plan.

A measured approach shall be taken in making adjustments to mitigate efforts based on the **transmission or rate of infections based on data from the [Albany County Department of Health \(ACDOH\)](#)** .

The intent of the tiered approach is to find and maintain a balance between **prioritizing** health and safety of students and staff, and **supporting** the social, emotional, mental health of students and staff. This tiered mitigation strategy is fluid and will be reviewed intermittently in order to ensure the stated objectives are being met.

There is a clear recognition of the polarized views on masking and vaccination. Our priority has been and will continue to be the safety of our staff and students. The mitigation strategies included in the matrix below have proven to be successful in creating a safe school environment. We will continue to employ the strategies that work best. The District will continue to endeavour to be responsible in terms of mitigating the spread of COVID, while balancing the provision of educational and extracurricular activities with the preservation of health and safety. These are challenging times and we are all similarly focused on the best interest of our students, our children.

NOTE: This plan will be adjusted if dictated by any organization or body with the authority to do so.

**Menands Union Free School District
COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols: 2021 - 2022 (DRAFT)**

	Mitigation Protocol¹	Low² Community Transmission	Moderate Community Transmission	Substantial Community Transmission	High Community Transmission
1	COVID-19 Vaccines	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
2	COVID-19 Testing	Potential Surveillance Testing for teachers & staff not fully vaccinated.	Potential Surveillance Testing for teachers & staff not fully vaccinated.	Surveillance Testing at 5% per week For non-vaccinated Parental Consent Required	Surveillance Testing at 10 % per week For non-vaccinated Parental Consent required
3	Facemasks (Indoors/Outdoors)	Encouraged & supported for all Discouraging of mask wearing will not be tolerated Required for unvaccinated adults/staff Provide for mask breaks as needed and appropriate with explicit guidance and opportunities.	Encouraged & supported for all Discouraging of mask wearing will not be tolerated Required for unvaccinated adults/staff Provide for mask breaks as needed and age appropriate with explicit guidance and opportunities.	Required By All Indoors at all times Provide for mask breaks as needed and appropriate with explicit guidance and opportunities.	Required By All Indoors at all times Provide for mask breaks as needed and appropriate with explicit guidance and opportunities.
4	Monitoring Community and	Ongoing	Ongoing; weekly	Ongoing; weekly	Ongoing; weekly

¹ For the CDCs Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

² As determined by the CDC. For a description of these levels, please see Appendix A of this document. For tracking of these levels, please see <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

	School-Based Transmission		benchmark	benchmark	benchmark
5	Physical Distancing (Indoors/Outdoors)	N/A	3' when practicable	3' when practicable	3' when practicable
6	School Visitors (Indoors/Outdoors)	No Restrictions	Minimal Restrictions	Strict restrictions; no unnecessary visitors; no "outside group" use of school facilities.	Strict restrictions; no unnecessary visitors; no "outside group" use of school facilities.
7	Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette	Expected & Encouraged Instruction & Signage	Expected & Encouraged Instruction & Signage	Expected & Encouraged Instruction & Signage	Expected & Encouraged Instruction & Signage
8	Quarantining ³	Pursuant to DOH Regulations. At present vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to be quarantine	Pursuant to DOH Regulations.. At present vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to be quarantine	Pursuant to DOH Regulations.. At present vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to be quarantine	Pursuant to DOH Regulations.. At present vaccinated and asymptomatic do not need to be quarantine
9	Staying Home When Sick (Staff and Students)	Required	Required	Required	Required
10	Return to School/Work Protocols (following illness)	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols
11	Cleaning and Disinfection	Daily Routine Cleaning	Daily Routine Cleaning and increased Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces
12	Cafeteria/Eating	No Restrictions	6' distancing encouraged	6' distancing when practicable	6' distancing when practicable
13	Recess and Physical Education (Outdoors)	No Restrictions	Mask Encouraged	Social Distancing Masks Encouraged	Social Distancing Masks Encouraged

³ In the K-12 classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected students from quarantining if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>

14	Ventilation and Air Quality	N/A	Maximize Ventilation Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Maximize Ventilation Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Maximize Ventilation Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)
15	Transportation⁴	Mask required at all times Seating Charts	Mask required at all times Seating Charts	Mask required at all times Seating Charts	Mask required at all times Seating Charts
16	After School Clubs & Athletics	No Restrictions	Will be allowed with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, remaining in cohorts when practical. Game play could be contingent on protocols of opposing teams. Spectators may be limited.	Will be considered with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, remaining in cohorts when practical. Spectators may be limited. Game play could be contingent on protocols of opposing teams Verification of vaccination/ regular testing may be required.	Will be considered with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, remaining in cohorts when practical. Spectators may be limited, and in some cases not allowed. Game play could be contingent on protocols of opposing teams Verification of vaccination/regular testing may be required.
17	Performing Arts	No Restrictions	Will be allowed with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, use of bell covers, cohorting when practical. Spectators may be limited.	Will be considered with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, use of bell covers, cohorting when practical. Spectators may be limited.	Will be considered with mitigation protocols in place, including but not limited to: physical distancing, masking, use of bell covers, cohorting when practical. Spectators may be limited, and in some

⁴ By Order of the CDC, students and staff must wear masks at all times while on school buses. Please see <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/masks/mask-travel-guidance.html>

				Verification of vaccination/ regular testing may be required.	cases not allowed. Verification of vaccination/regular testing may be required.
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Appendix A
CDC Levels of Community Transmission⁵

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days.	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAATs) ⁶ that are positive during the past 7 days.	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

⁵ See Part 4, Screening Testing, at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

⁶ See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/naats.html>