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

# Proposed Revision 3/14/2022

The Menands Union Free School District successfully implemented a full return to school in September, providing strong academics offerings, with limited extracurricular opportunities, employing a tiered mitigation approach, based on the CDC’s levels of transmission at the time, and in accordance with guidance from: The NYS Education Department, The American Academy of Pediatrics, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the United States Department of Education.

As indicated in the plan adopted in August of 2021, the plan would remain fluid, and would be reviewed intermittently, and would be adjusted if dictated by any organization or body with authority to do so. On Sunday, February 27, 2022, NYS Governor, Kathy Hochul, announced the lifting of the mask mandate in school effective March 2, 2022. On March 3, 2022, the CDC updated their COID -19 Community levels as follows:

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| **Low**  Limited impact on healthcare system, low levels of severe disease | **Medium**  Some impact on healthcare system, more people with severe disease | **High**  High potential for healthcare system strain; high level of severe disease |
| Stay [up to date](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) with COVID-19 vaccines  [Get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) if you have symptoms | If you are [at high risk for severe illness](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145),  talk to your healthcare provider about  whether you need to wear a mask  and take other precautions  Stay [up to date](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) with COVID-19  Vaccines  [Get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) if you have symptoms | Wear a [mask](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/masks.html) indoors in public  Stay [up to date](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html) with COVID-19 vaccines  [Get tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/diagnostic-testing.html) if you have symptoms  Additional precautions may be needed  for people [at high risk for severe illness](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145) |
| People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask. If you are immunocompromised, learn more about [how to protect yourself](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145). | | |

**Additional Resources for Monitoring Community Transmission**

* <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>
* <https://www.albanycounty.com/departments/health/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-dashboard>

Since both of these changes have been implemented, Albany County has not reached a level of high transmission rates, nor have we seen any positive cases here at Menands School.

Throughout the pandemic, the district has taken a measured, thoughtful and conservative approach, and will continue to do so. The proposed revised plan will continue to do so making adjustments to mitigate efforts based on the **transmission or rate of infections based on the updated CDC measures.** The intent of the tiered approach continues to be 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. As such it will retain flexibility for future options and is subject to modifications based on emerging circumstances and/or applicable law, rules, and regulations. To that end approval of this plan by the Board of Education provides the authority to adjust the guidance if dictated by any organization or body with the authority to do so, and upon the authorization of the Superintendent in consideration of updated and relevant information and guidance. Any such changes will be reported to the Board at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

# Menands Union Free School DistrictCOVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols: 2021 - 2022 (Revised 3/14/2022)

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|  | **Mitigation Protocol** | **Low Community Transmission** | **Medium Community Transmission** | **High Community Transmission** |
| **1** | **COVID-19 Vaccines** | Strongly Encouraged  District will assist families in accessing | Strongly Encouraged  District will assist families in accessing | Strongly Encouraged  District will assist families in accessing |
| **2** | **COVID-19 Testing** | District will make test kits available to all families  Required prior to return if symptomatic | District will make test kits available to all families  Required prior to return if symptomatic | District will make test kits available to all families  Required prior to return if symptomatic |
| **3** | **Facemasks**  **(Indoors/Outdoors)** | Optional:  The exception being upon return from a positive case must be worn days 6-10.  Masks will be made available as needed to students and staff.  Discouraging of mask  wearing will not be  tolerated  Choices will be respected | Optional:  The exception being upon return from a positive case must be worn days 6-10.  Masks will be made available as needed to students and staff.  Discouraging of mask  wearing will not be  tolerated  Choices will be respected | Per guidance from the CDC or other agency with the authority to do so. |
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|  | **Mitigation Protocol** | **Low Community Transmission** | **Medium Community Transmission** | **High Community Transmission** |
| **4** | **Monitoring Transmission** | Ongoing & based on cases within the school community | Ongoing & based on cases within the school community | Ongoing & based on cases within the school community, with consideration of county transmission. |
| **5** | **Physical Distancing** | While allowing for dynamic and authentic learning environments, to the extent practicable the District will take the opportunity to maximize distancing | While allowing for dynamic and authentic learning environments, to the extent practicable the District will take the opportunity to maximize distancing | Implement distancing per guidance from the CDC or other agency with the authority to do so. |
| **6** | **School Visitors** | At the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools to allow for maximizing instructional opportunities and community engagement, to the extent practicable.  Visitors may be limited in number and based on time of day and purpose of visit.  No regular/ongoing use of the building by outside groups, one time and special events will be considered. | At the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools to allow for maximizing instructional opportunities and community engagement, to the extent practicable.  Visitors may be limited in number and based on time of day and purpose of visit.  No regular/ongoing use of the building by outside groups, one time and special events will be considered. | Restrictions may be imposed, and visitation could be further limited or curtailed.  No use of the building by outside groups. |
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|  | **Mitigation Protocol** | **Low Community Transmission** | **Medium Community Transmission** | **High Community Transmission** |
| **7** | **Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette** | Expected & Encouraged | Expected & Encouraged | Expected & Encouraged |
| **8** | **Contact Tracing & Quarantining** | Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations | Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations | Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations |
| **9** | **Staying Home When Sick & Return to School/Work (Students & Staff)**  **Please find guidance here** | Students & staff should stay at home with any sign of infectious illness  Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations | Students & staff should stay at home with any sign of infectious illness  Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations | Students & staff should stay at home with any sign of infectious illness  Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations |
| **10** | **Cleaning & Disinfection** | Daily Routine Cleaning | Daily Routine Cleaning | Daily Routine Cleaning & Daily Disinfection of moderate and  high-touch surfaces |
| **11** | **Cafeteria/Eating** | Distancing not required | Distancing not required | Distancing where practicable &  Pursuant to applicable DOH regulations |
| **12** | **Recess & Physical Education** | Distancing not required  Masks optional & available | Distancing not required  Masks optional & available | Implement facemasks and/or distancing per guidance from the CDC or other agency with the authority to do so. |
| **13** | **Ventilation & Air Quality** | 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) |
|  | **Mitigation Protocol** | **Low Community Transmission** | **Medium Community Transmission** | **High Community Transmission** |
| **14** | **Transportation** | Distancing not required  Masks optional & available  Bus windows & vents open as much as feasible  Seating Charts maintained  Daly sanitization of buses | Distancing not required  Masks optional & available  Bus windows & vents open as much as feasible  Seating Charts maintained  Daly sanitization of buses | Implement facemasks and/or distancing per guidance from the CDC or other agency with the authority to do so.  Bus windows & vents open as much as feasible  Seating Charts maintained  Daly sanitization of buses |
| **15** | **After School Clubs & Athletics and Performing Arts** | At the discretion of the Superintendent to allow for maximizing opportunities for students and community engagement, with  mitigation protocols in  place.  Interscholastic activities could be  Contingent on protocols of other schools involved.  Spectators may be limited | At the discretion of the Superintendent to allow for maximizing opportunities for students and community engagement, with  mitigation protocols in  place.  Interscholastic activities could be  Contingent on protocols of other schools involved.  Spectators may be limited | Per guidance from the CDC or other agency with the authority to do so.  No interscholastic activity  Spectators would not be allowed |