

Connetquot Central School District of Islip

Operational Plan

2021-2022



Operational Plan

Since March 2020, the world has been operating under pandemic restrictions to proactively decrease the spread of COVID-19. This was accomplished by the Connetquot School District with great success during the 2020-21 school year.

As we move into the second year we continue to be committed to learning from our successes and failures, bringing all students back to in-person learning, and keeping our faculty, students and staff safe and healthy while in our buildings.



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To this end, guidelines from the CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services have been incorporated into our daily operations as we look forward to welcoming our community back into our schools in September 2021.

However, these operational standards are subject to change dependent on the concentration of community spread and/or updated guidance and mandates from regulatory agencies in this ever-evolving public health situation.



Operational Plan

The District is seeking to reopen in the 2021-22 school year with a full and robust program for all of our students, including the return of the music and fine arts program in its entirety, our math, reading and AIS program, our computer science and engineering program at our elementary schools, and all clubs and extracurricular activities, district-wide.

The following guidelines will shape our September opening:



Operational Plan

School Schedules

- All schools will return to their pre-2020 schedules.
- All bussing routes will be restored.

Fully Remote Instruction

- Will not be offered.
- Medically fragile students can follow the 504 process and work with their medical doctor and the district to see if alternate instruction is a possibility.



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Physical Distancing

- We will maintain at least three feet of physical distance between our students within classrooms, physical education and music instruction.
- Students that are engaged in singing, or playing a wind instrument will be distanced by at least six feet.
- At least six feet of distancing is recommended between students and teachers/staff and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.
- All teachers have the ability to utilize the “stand up” barriers provided for them during the 2020-21 school year, if desired.



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Athletics

- All interscholastic sports will be permitted.
- Indoor spectators – masks will be required. Physical distancing while in the stands should be maintained between individuals who do not reside in the same household.



Operational Plan

Transportation

- As we are considered “public transportation” the CDC is a regulatory agency and has ordered that all passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status.
- No student will be permitted on our buses without a face covering, which will need to be worn the entire time they are on the bus. Increased ventilation by keeping windows and ceiling vents will be utilized as much as practicable.



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Food Service and School Meals

- School lunches continue to be free for all students at this time. The food service line will reopen for students to select their food prior to heading to the cafeteria to eat.
- Meal planner App will no longer be used since we are no longer prepacking meals for students.
- Students will be seated at least 3ft away from each other while eating. In certain buildings where there is not enough space to permit 3ft of physical separation, some classes will eat in their classrooms, but will be rotated into the cafeteria on a weekly schedule.
- UPK will eat in their classrooms and be provided with a lunch option.



Operational Plan

Prevention

- Personal prevention and maintaining of healthy habits will assist in keeping us all safe and allow our mission to educate all of our students in-person in a safe, effective manner. To that end, we will continue to encourage:
 - Healthy handwashing
 - Respiratory etiquette
 - Physical distancing
 - Isolating ill persons when in school



Operational Plan

Screening Testing

- Our District is not screening testing.
- There is no current requirement for daily attestations of health, nor for thermal screening of all entrants. As these “safeguards” did not identify any cases last year, this practice is being discontinued.



Operational Plan

Masks

Mask guidance for schools remains unchanged from the end of the prior school year in June 2021, consistent with CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations.

Governor Hochul has stated today that she is immediately directing the NYSDOH to institute universal masking for anyone entering a school building. Further stating that “Later this week, I’ll announce a series of school related policies.”

The administration and Board of Education will revisit masks once the Governor has enumerated her policies.



Operational Plan

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

- Close contacts, defined as under 6 ft., for a cumulative total of over 15 minutes in a 24-hour period, who are unvaccinated, or have not recovered from a COVID-19 infection within the prior 90 days, will be quarantined for 10 days.
 - *The exception to this is in the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within three to six feet of an infected student, if both students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.*
- Fully vaccinated persons who have come into close contact should be tested 3-5 days after exposure and may attend school in-person provided they wear a mask and receive a negative test.



Operational Plan

Contact Tracing and Quarantine

Positive Cases

- School districts must continue to report positive cases of COVID-19 to SCDHS.
- All individuals who test positive for COVID-19 must remain in isolation for 10 days from date of symptom onset or test date if asymptomatic.



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Education When in Quarantine

- Students that are in quarantine will receive live-streamed instruction from their teacher via Google Meet.
- Elementary students in quarantine will live stream for the math and literacy block, but not for specials. However, for an entire class in quarantine, the teacher will live stream for all major content areas (ELA, math, science, and social studies), as well as for specials. A daily schedule of live streaming will be communicated to the parents.
- Secondary students in quarantine will livestream for all course sections.



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Staying Home When Sick

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness (e.g. flu, COVID-19), should stay home and refer to their healthcare provider for testing and care, regardless of vaccination status.
- Staying home when sick is essential to keep COVID-19 infections out of schools and prevent spread to others.



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Cleaning and Disinfection

- Cleaning once a day is usually enough to sufficiently remove potential virus that may be on surfaces.
- If a facility has had a sick person or someone who tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, this space will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Ion sprayers will continue to be used in all athletic spaces (e.g. locker rooms, wrestling areas, work out areas, bleachers, etc.) in preparation for return of students each morning. High touch surfaces (e.g. door handles, railings, wall phones, etc.) will continue to be wiped down daily.



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Ventilation

- Bringing in fresh outdoor air keeps virus particles from concentrating inside. Filtration systems will continue to be cleaned and updated, and classrooms will be encouraged to keep windows open, when possible, to increase air flow.
- The HVAC system has been updated in the building that did not previously have active air exchange systems.



Operational Plan

Visitors

- Schools should limit non-essential visitors, volunteers and activities involving external groups or organizations, particularly in areas where there is moderate-to-high COVID-19 community transmission. In light of this recommendation, the District will be evaluating events to determine if we can maintain 6 ft of space between adults (visitors) to determine viability of the event.
- Events where safe distancing cannot be maintained will be held virtually rather than in-person (e.g. Back to School night).
- Visitors during the school day will be permitted in by appointment only and will be masked while on school grounds.



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Visitors

- Community groups will continue to be able to utilize the grounds upon receiving permits to do so.
- Internal facility use will be evaluated for the ability to maintain safety for the participants and for the operation of the school after events.
- All community organizations who apply for permits must submit and monitor a safety plan inline with the District's safety plan, which includes physical distancing and masking.

