



April 13, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The district has revised its 2020-21 plan to align with the recently released New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) Guidelines for schools. At this time, the plan is a draft, with implementation subject to support from the Chemung County Department of Health and County Executive. As part of the new requirements, the document is available for stakeholder review and feedback on our district website or at the link at the end of this letter. Once approved, the draft plan is tentatively set to be implemented April 19, 2021.

These revised state guidelines address many of the same topics from our Fall Reopening Plan, with very few items being “revised,” other than decreasing physical distance requirements. Below is a summary of the main changes to the guidelines, along with guidelines that have not changed but are important to note in regard to health and safety.

**Revisions based on updated guidelines:**

- The district is reducing required physical distancing between students from six feet to three feet during most instruction.
- PreK-12 students currently on hybrid instruction will attend school four days per week, with Wednesdays remaining as remote days for targeted instruction of remote students. Wednesdays will revert to remote days for High School students beginning the week of April 19.
- The ability for schools to maintain increased in-person instruction days will be dependent upon community transmission rates and data. As was done prior to this plan revision, district determinations of opening and/or closing of classrooms and/or buildings will be made in consultation with the Chemung Department of Health and/or the County Executive.
- The district is also reducing physical distancing in classes that require heavy exertion of activity (i.e., physical education), projecting the voice (e.g., singing), or playing a wind instrument from 12 feet to six feet.
- Physical barriers are no longer recommended by CDC for the classroom setting. The physical distancing between adults and between adults and students will continue to be fixed at six feet per the guidelines unless safety or the core activity (e.g., instruction, moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance.
- Six feet of distance continues to be required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or other times masks must be removed.
- To meet transportation requests of those attending four-day in-person learning, physical distancing on buses will be maximized whenever possible.

**The following protocols still apply:**

- Face coverings are required at all times, except when in proper location for eating and when mask breaks are safe and allowed.
- The district continues to meet the guidance on ventilation and filtration in all buildings.
- The district continues to test students and staff randomly for COVID-19.
- Parents/guardians must continue to complete daily health screenings for their children. District employees must also complete daily health screenings.

*continued*

To view the draft plan, [click here](#).

*To provide feedback on this new/revised information, please click here:*

<https://forms.office.com/r/6FKSfdfyDt>

*Note that feedback is being accepted **until 8pm April 14** in order for the district to meet state requirements and, subject to county support, be able to implement the plan beginning April 19, 2021.*

Thank you for your continued support and care of our community's children. If you have questions, please contact your school office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools