



Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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Constance D. Evelyn, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

July 28, 2021

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Community,

I'm writing to provide an update regarding current health and safety information as we prepare to reopen school in the fall. Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended students, teachers, staff, and visitors wear masks in K-12 schools this fall, regardless of vaccination status, as the highly contagious Delta variant of the coronavirus causes COVID-19 cases nationwide to surge.

Last year, as public school districts prepared to reopen in the fall, the NYS Education Department released reopening guidance after the NYS Department of Health publicized guidelines related to the preservation of health and safety within schools. As you may recall, there was much information and direction regarding the utilization of PPE including facemasks and desk shields, social distancing, screening and contact tracing, ventilation, and instructional delivery models (i.e., hybrid, remote, in-person).

To date, NYS public school leaders have **not** received guidance from the State Education Department nor the NYS Department of Health regarding reopening this September. We understand that there are questions about remote instruction as well as other inquiries including whether districts will mandate vaccines for adults working in our schools. Here are some of the protocols we believe will be required based on the current guidance from the CDC.

1. Masks will continue to be required for all (i.e., students, educators) in K-12 public schools (with opportunities for mask breaks);
2. Social distancing of 3 feet or more;
3. Optional mask wearing outdoors.

At this time, we do not have information mandating remote instruction and thereby, we are planning for full time in-person instruction. If the NYS Department of Education provides information mandating remote instruction, we will be prepared to modify our plans. Additionally, we are not the authority that provides oversight regarding mandated vaccines for K-12 public school educators.

As usual, we will stay connected to our parents and community as we gain access to more information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Constance D. Evelyn
Superintendent of Schools