



# Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen

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

August 16, 2021

Dear Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen Community,

I hope that you are enjoying a happy and healthy summer. As we draw closer to the start of the school year, the District is persistent in our planning for the opening of school this year. Please regard this letter as an update to the July 28<sup>th</sup> communication that was sent a few weeks ago.

New York State's Department of Education (NYSED) has issued a Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year (<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf>). This information mirrors guidance that has been released by the Centers for Disease Control (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>) that we have utilized to develop our opening plans. We have focused on implementing the safety and layered support recommendations to promote the health of our school community.

Our back-to-school plans are outlined below.

- Open schools with pre-pandemic schedules and fully in-person
- Masks will be required indoors and on buses for everyone
  - *Note, the CDC has issued a quarantine exception for K-12 close contacts: if students have well-fitting masks, they will not be subject to quarantine and therefore, will not need to miss days of school* (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contact-tracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>)
- Masks are not required outdoors
- Desk barriers will not be utilized
- One-time attestation that parents will check temperature every day that should be completed by the end of the first full week of school
- Remote learning will not be provided; students will access work through their teacher if needed
- Cleaning and enhanced disinfecting measures remain in place
- Contact tracing and quarantining will follow current Nassau County Department of Health protocols ([August 11<sup>th</sup> Letter and FAQ from NCDOH](#))
- The District will report positive COVID-19 cases to NCDOH and community

The decision to require masks indoors and on buses for everyone is based on expert medical recommendations endorsed by the CDC and AAP. Both organizations strongly recommend universal mask wearing in schools regardless of vaccination status.

More information may come forward from the Governor's Office following the current transition, and the District is prepared to make adjustments to our reopening plans accordingly.  
Thank you for your continued support and patience.

Sincerely,

*Constance D. Evelyn*

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