

Saugerties Central School District

Layered Mitigation Strategies to Increased In-Person Instruction



2021-2022

<i>Building</i>	<i>BEDS CODE</i>	<i>Website</i>	<i>Contact Information</i>
Saugerties Central School District	621601060000	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/	(845) 247-6550
Lawrence M. Cahill Elementary School	621601060003	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/373	(845) 247-6800
Grant D. Morse Elementary School	621601060002	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/429	(845) 247-6960
Mt. Marion Elementary School	621601060004	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/482	(845) 247-6920
Charles M. Riccardi Elementary School	621601060001	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/540	(845) 247-6870
Saugerties Junior High School	621601060005	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/257	(845) 247-6561
Saugerties Senior High School	621601060007	https://www.saugerties.k12.ny.us/Domain/73	(845) 247-6651

I. Introduction/Philosophy

At Saugerties Central School District our commitment is to the students and families we serve. Our priority is to keep them safe. Our reopening plan incorporates recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#), the [New York State Department of Health \(NYSDOH\)](#) and the [New York State Education Department \(NYSED\)](#). This addendum contains the mitigating factors to increase in-person instruction.

We continue to be guided by the following **Guiding Principles**:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
2. Providing the opportunity for all students to access high quality education;
3. Factoring into decision-making the challenges to the physical safety, social emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students caused by school closure
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners, such as families, educators, and staff;
6. Monitoring schools, students, and staff. When necessary, modifying schedules to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread; and
7. Considering and supporting diversity in our schools and school districts as we provide education is essential.

II. Layered Mitigation Strategies

Masks

Maintaining protocols and procedures for students, faculty, staff, and other individuals to ensure appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Masks are optional for individuals in all indoor school spaces.

Full Mask Use Protocol:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1W38RglwB9cfni3azjg0QWPDZM7p4DTNs/view>

Physical (Social) Distancing

The district will strive to maintain physical distancing of a minimum of three (3) feet. Should this not be possible in an assigned classroom the following steps will be taken in the order below:

1. Move the class to a larger setting to maintain a physical distance of at least three (3) feet.

A minimum of six (6) feet of physical distancing, must be maintained:

- Between adults (teachers, staff, visitors)
- Activities requiring projecting the voice, playing a wind instrument, or aerobic activities resulting in heavy breathing
- In common areas and outside of classrooms where possible

Hygiene:

Maintain adherence to, and promotion of hygiene guidance set forth by DOH and CDC., including instruction for students and signage throughout the District buildings.

Hand Hygiene Protocol:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s-wrm6oQEFiCArSNaWMw6_-SdzLvyzgx/view

Healthy Hygiene Practices Protocol:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18JbHICSmdSgSp-WP-3jpk2WawMfQBzrd/view>

Screening:

Maintain Protocols and procedures for mandatory health screenings including:

- Daily screening questionnaire for all staff
- Periodic screening of students through a parent survey

Temperature Screening Protocol:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rY_pANO8PPIpPKKeZr7hSPtIXE6wt7Q/view

Health Screening Protocol:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PqdFZ7yg9KP9SgL9sPbM-aHiMlqK6K8a/view>

Can My Child Attend School Today (Pre-K to Gr 12 COVID-19 Toolkit):

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11ZCHxbHdZmDSZvP-IP59yqYch-q8sSh8/view>

Monitoring Community Transmission

Saugerties Central School District continuously monitors the following COVID-19 data points:

- Active cases in each building
- Designated positive cases in each building
- Ulster County positivity rate
- Total active cases in Ulster County
- Total active cases in Saugerties

Transportation

Saugerties CSD will conduct transportation activities that are consistent with state-issued public transit guidance and NYSED School Reopening guidelines. Students and school staff must wear acceptable face coverings at all times on school buses (e.g., entering, exiting, and seated).

Students who are able will be required to wear masks and social distance on the bus to the extent practicable. If it is not practicable, bus windows must be open. ; however, students whose physical or mental health would be impaired are not required to wear a face covering, but must be appropriately socially distanced. Members of the same household may be seated together. Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to drop off or walk students to school to reduce density on buses.

All buses that are used every day by districts and contract carriers will be cleaned/ disinfected once a day.

- Students must wear a mask on a school bus if they are physically able. Students who are unable to medically tolerate a face covering, including students where such covering would impair their physical health or mental health are not subject to the required use of a face covering;
 - Buses will be loaded back to front with students sitting one per seat unless they are siblings. Students must physically (social) distance on the bus if practicable. Bus windows must be open;
 - Should every seat be occupied by a student, then the bus will load from front to back to ensure students who need to sit together do so for the shortest period of time possible.
 - Students who do not have a mask can NOT be denied transportation;
 - Students who do not have masks must be provided one by the district;
 - Students with a disability which would prevent them from wearing a mask will not be compelled to do so or denied transportation.

Enhanced Ventilation

The District will continue to increase ventilation by increasing outdoor air and decreasing recirculated air as much as possible. Classroom windows and doors will be opened to maximize fresh air flow through the classroom. Areas will use window and box fans to cross ventilate rooms. If one fan is used the air flow should be directed to the outside, to exhaust stale room air. If several fans are in use, only one needs to be directed outside.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Maintain adherence to, and promotion of, cleaning and disinfection guidance set forth by DOH and CDC, including strategies for cleaning and disinfection of exposed areas and appropriate notification to occupants of such areas.

Cleaning and Disinfection Protocol:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xtmNNICXjWcqTNv0PP0lsIRyjMjFtXJ5/view>

Eating Meals:

Elementary school students will eat with their cohort in their classrooms attempting to ensuring physical distancing of six (6) feet. If physical distancing of six (6) feet cannot be maintained, cohorts will be moved to the cafeteria to allow for larger physical distancing.

Secondary school students will eat in the school cafeteria. Physical distancing will be ensured between individuals while eating in the school cafeteria. If not feasible, meals will be served in alternate areas (e.g., gymnasiums) using staggered meal periods to ensure physical distancing and proper cleaning and disinfection between students. Students may use personal barriers while they eat. All desks occupied by students will be cleaned and disinfected between use.

Faculty and staff will continue to observe physical distancing while eating meals.

Community Input/Communication

Daily Superintendent's Update: Saugerties Central School District shares a daily letter containing data related to positive and designated positive cases related to the District.

Reopening Task Force Meetings: This group of 60+ individuals is composed of: parents, guardians, teachers, maintenance staff, custodial staff, nurses, Secretaries, School Resource Officer, psychologists, social workers, Administrators, and the District physician. To date there have been 23 meetings with additional meetings scheduled for the third Thursday of each month.

Reopening Town Hall Meetings: The Superintendent hosts a virtual town hall style meeting where individuals can write questions in the chat. The questions and comments are read aloud and answered.

Intention Surveys: To date, the District has sent four (4) surveys to guardians requesting their intentions to have their students attend remotely or in-person. In addition, guardians indicated whether they would use district or personal transportation.

Safety Pledge: Families were asked to review and sign the safety pledge. Teachers referenced this pledge throughout the year as a reminder of protocols.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ddimC80bj1AdzWHrjMFs0LCdHZpdUEXTRWO1Ont3azM/edit>

Promise Pledge Champagne (Start April 16, 2021): To be posted in all buildings to remind students and staff of expectations.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZU2JPiBnZaehF056PqnW1pJNCLlac-bK/view?usp=sharing>

Monitoring Protocols and Procedures to Track Health Conditions

<https://sites.google.com/saugerties.k12.ny.us/scsd-covid-reopening-plan-2020/home/protocols-procedures-forms?authuser=0>

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Testing Protocols:

Maintain process for the provision or referral of diagnostic testing for students, faculty, and staff for COVID-19

Testing:

District nurses will continue to provide referral information for administering testing. Under the Ulster County Department of Health CLIA, nurses will continue to provide rapid testing for staff and students for screening purposes.

Containment:

District nurses will continue to follow protocols and procedures for how to respond to positive or presumed-positive cases, as well as preventative practices.

School Health Offices:

Maintain protocols for safely caring for a student, faculty, or staff member if they develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day in accordance with the Interim Guidance for School-Based Health Centers Regarding COVID-19 and the New York State Department of Health School-Based Health Center Dental Program Reopening Addendum.

Isolation:

Maintain procedures to isolate individuals who screen positive upon arrival, or symptomatic individuals should they become symptomatic while at school, providing appropriate PPE for school health office staff caring for the symptomatic individual. Protocols for safe pick-up arrangements for symptomatic students.

Collection:

Maintain protocols for how parents or legal guardians should pick up their student with instructions that the student must be seen by a health care provider

Infected Individuals:

Maintain to communicate requirements that persons who have tested positive complete isolation and have recovered and will not transmit COVID-19 when returning to in-person learning. Discharge from isolation and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the local health department.

Exposed Individuals:

Maintain to communicate requirements that individuals who were exposed to the COVID-19 virus complete quarantine and have not developed symptoms before returning to in-person learning (exceptions for vaccinated individuals and those with prior COVID-19 infection detailed below). Discharge from quarantine and return to school will be conducted in coordination with the Ulster County Health Department.

Vaccination:

Communicate that in New York State, P-12 Teachers and staff have been eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine since January 11, 2021. The District survey teachers interested in being vaccinated. In coordination with the Ulster County Health department, staff members were provided with links to schedule appointments for vaccination. This survey was conducted several times. Asymptomatic fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19.

Previous COVID-19 infection:

Communicate that Asymptomatic individuals who have recovered from laboratory confirmed COVID-19 infection during the previous 3 months do not need to be quarantined if exposed to COVID-19.

Contact Tracing:

Maintain plans to support Ulster County Department of Health in contact tracing efforts using the protocols, training, and forms provided through the UCDOH Tracing Program.

Communication:

The District continues to share protocols and safety measures taken by the school with all relevant

parties including parents/legal guardians, faculty, staff, students, and the local community on the District website. Daily updates on COVID-19 positives per school will continue.

Closure:

Maintain the use of Contingency plans, protocols, and procedures for decreasing the scale or scope of in-person education, and/or closing the school.

Operational Activity:

With increased positive cases, the District will continue to determine which operations will be decreased, or ceased and which operations will be conducted remotely. Administration will contact appropriate personnel and contact families on the operation strategy.

Communication:

Text blasts, automated calls, phone calls, emails, and announcements on the District Website will continue to communicate internally and externally throughout the closure process.