



# Hastings-on-Hudson Public Schools

27 Farragut Avenue

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706



(914) 478-2900

[www.hohschools.org](http://www.hohschools.org)

---

## **COVID-19 Management Document — 2021-22** *What We Know Now — What We Are Working to Resolve* **Updated — August 27, 2021**

### **Overview**

This document is our “one-stop resource” for how we will manage COVID-19 during the 2021-22 school year. It is organized around the framework of *What We Know Now* and *What We Are Working to Resolve*. Accordingly, it will be updated regularly and date stamped.

Please note that the **COVID-19 Management Document — 2021-22** covers our district-wide approaches for managing COVID-19. School-specific requirements and guidelines will be issued by each school, as necessary. We will list the school updates with links at the end of this document promptly.

Please understand that COVID-19 and how we manage it requires flexibility and patience with what often are necessary changes in approaches and plans. Our commitment is to promptly communicate any changes to our plans.

### **An Overarching Framework for Decisions**

COVID-19 is a public health and medical concern, requiring educators to work within the expertise provided by Federal, national, state and county public health and medical authorities. We are dependent on state and county requirements and guidance, which is tied to requirements and guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The New York State Education Department (NYSED) issued its [Health and Safety Guide for the 2021-22 School Year](#) on August 12, 2021. We are anticipating guidance and requirements before school opens from the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH) and the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH). Media reports of anticipated guidance and requirements will not be the basis of our decision-making.

Hastings works closely with Westchester County school districts and especially with the Quad Village School Districts to coordinate our plans for addressing COVID-19. We will align with the anticipated state and county guidance. In turn, the District’s Leadership Team continues to work within the state, county and regional frameworks to develop final plans. We are careful to confer with teacher and staff leaders.

## What We Know Now

1. Hastings Will Be All In — We will have a full return to in-person instruction for all students, grades K-12, this school year. We will be fully in-person all day, every day. (8.6.21)
2. No Remote Option — We will not be offering a Hybrid or Remote Learning option. The sole exception will be providing a limited Remote solution for those students required to quarantine due to documented exposure to a confirmed, positive case of COVID-19. Please see the specific section at the end of this document regarding the Remote Learning option. (8.6.21 & 8.27.21)
3. Masks — Masks will be required for all staff and students K-12. This will be indoors only. We will build in opportunities for mask-breaks for students and teachers as we did last year. Office personnel will receive separate guidance on when they may take their masks off. (8.13.21)
4. Physical Distancing — Formerly known as social distancing, physical distancing within classrooms and other school spaces will be three feet when possible. (8.13.21)
5. Vaccinations — We strongly encourage vaccinations for all eligible staff and students. Vaccinations are a game-changer for ensuring sustained, in-person schooling. We know that a very high percentage of our employees and age-eligible students are fully vaccinated. We are surveying all employees as to their vaccination status, with responses due by August 26, 2021. Responses will be kept private with findings reported in the aggregate. We are awaiting guidance from the state and county as to whether vaccinations will be mandated for employees. (8.13.21 & 8.20.21)
6. COVID-19 Testing — We will partner with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) on a regional approach to surveillance testing, which will be district-based. The testing program is not mandated at this point, as we await additional guidance from the state. Staff and families will be notified of this optional program prior to the start of school. (8.20.21)
7. Quarantine Requirements — The new guidance from the state and county will dramatically lessen the number and extent of quarantines for students and staff. **Vaccinations and mask-wearing** now will prevent asymptomatic individuals from having to quarantine when in “close contact” (within six feet for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period) with a confirmed, positive case. To be clear, exposed staff or students will not have to quarantine if, at the point of exposure, they:
  - Were fully vaccinated and remain asymptomatic;
  - Wore a mask and remain asymptomatic. (8.13.21)
8. Testing Requirements If Out With COVID-19 Symptoms — Return will be allowed only after testing shows the individual is negative for COVID-19 or other illnesses, such as the flu, or upon the production of medical documentation from a physician ruling out COVID-19 and providing clearance to return to school. Any negative COVID-19 test will suffice for return to school; however, we recommend either the Rapid Molecular (NAAT) or a PCR test when practicable.
9. Lunchrooms and Meal Times — Quarantine Distance Metrics (when not masked and indoors) — When indoors, any student, vaccinated or unvaccinated, who is seated during lunch or meal times less than six feet from another student diagnosed with COVID-19 will have to quarantine. The quarantine group is limited to those within the six feet adjacency during lunch (i.e., the immediate lunch table). These requirements do not apply when students are eating outdoors. (We are awaiting additional information from the state and county.) (8.20.21)

10. Lunchroom & Meal Times — We will continue to provide indoor and outdoor options for FMS and HHS students. We will be instituting outdoor lunch this year for Hillside. (8.20.21 & 8.27.21)
11. Barriers — We will not have barriers on desks or in classrooms other than when requested by individual students or staff. The requests may only apply to the individual's desk. We will maintain barriers in public facing spaces, such as at the security desks and in building and central offices. (8.13.21)
12. Annual Honor Commitment to Healthy Practices — Last year's daily attestation of health will be replaced by an "Honor System Agreement," in which staff and families commit at the start of the school year to daily home health checks before coming to school and to stay home if not well. Staff and families will not submit a daily record of their home health checks. It is an Honor System. The Honor System Agreement was sent to all families and staff on August 27, 2021 as part of the Superintendent's Weekly Community Update. A link to the document is [here](#). (8.27.21).
13. Busing Procedures — All riders will be required to wear a mask and windows will remain open. Assigned seating will continue for Hillside and 5th grade students. (8.13.21)
14. Ventilation and Facility Cleaning/Disinfection — We will continue to ensure air quality through the ongoing use of the upgraded ventilation systems. We will continue the additional cleaning and disinfection practices instituted last year throughout each building several times per day. (8.6.21)
15. Safety Protocols for Athletics, Music, Theatre — We will provide full co-curricular programming by following the health protocols instituted for athletics, music and theater in Spring 2021. We will be adding back the choral program at Hillside. Details will be forthcoming from each building and the relevant co-curricular department. (8.13.21)
16. Parent/Family Visitors and Meetings — Once school begins on September 1, we will not allow parents, family, or volunteers into school facilities until further notice. Parent/family meetings with teachers, administrators and other professionals will be virtual. This includes ***Back to School Nights***. We will review procedures ahead of the November 2021 ***Parent-Teacher Conferences***. Please understand that our sole intent is to limit possible COVID-19 exposure and maximize the opportunity for in-person schooling for all students. We are confident that we can address parent/family needs with care via virtual and telephone modes of communication. Parents/family should contact their Building Administrators if they have questions about essential exceptions. (8.27.21)  
  
(Prior to school starting on September 1, we have allowed in-person student orientations, tours and ***Meet the Teacher*** and ***Meet the Coaches***. All participants have worn masks, the sessions have been outdoors as much as possible, and the numbers involved have been limited.)
17. Spectators/Audiences — We are awaiting guidance from Section 1 regarding spectators at athletic events (indoor and outdoor). We expect guidance as of August 27, which will be shared promptly with all athletes and families. Once we have that guidance, we will establish similar approaches for audiences attending performing arts events. (8.27.21)

## **What We Are Working to Resolve**

1. **District-Wide Documents** — The District’s Leadership Team determined at its August 23-24, 2021 Retreat to have this “one-stop document” be the sole district-wide statement on how we are managing COVID-19 this school year. The COVID-19 documents for 2020-21 have been archived on the District’s website. They are historical documents and are superseded by what is stated in the **COVID-19 Management Document — 2021-22**. (8.27.21)
2. **School-Specific Plans** — Each school will send out specific updates, as necessary, before school starts, followed by periodic updates across the school year. (8.20.21)
3. **Other Items** — There are a set of more specific items that we will be reviewing as the year proceeds. We will bring these forward with action plans as necessary.

## **Remote Learning Option**

### **Eligibility for Classroom Livestream (Updated 8/18/21)**

The Hastings Public Schools will open for full (in-person) instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers will no longer be live streaming their instruction from the classroom, except when a student is under a state-mandated COVID-19 quarantine. As such, students who are absent from school will not have the ability to attend classes remotely.

Please send the NYS-mandated quarantine orders or doctor’s note confirming quarantine to the respective school health office. If neither of these are available, a letter with signature from parent or guardian stating the date of exposure and quarantine dates is required.

- Farragut Complex Health Office at [cipollinaj@hohschools.org](mailto:cipollinaj@hohschools.org)
- Hillside’s Health Office at [kowalskig@hohschools.org](mailto:kowalskig@hohschools.org) or [feeney@hohschools.org](mailto:feeney@hohschools.org)

### **When Is A Student *NOT* Eligible for Remote Learning?**

Students will not be able to attend classes remotely when they are:

1. Home due to illness, including COVID-19.
2. Awaiting COVID-19 test results (see Item 8 above).
3. Self-imposed quarantine or isolation.

### **How To Request Remote Learning for Those *ON* State-Mandated COVID-19 Quarantine**

1. Call/email the respective school health office to notify the school of the situation and request remote learning.
2. Health Office nurses will follow up, confirm, and notify administration.
3. All requests will be received on school days, Monday-Friday by 1:00 PM. Remote learning will be set up for eligible students on the subsequent school day, not the day of notification.
4. Attendance will be adjusted accordingly.

5. While in remote learning, teachers are not expected to interact with students who are at home. Instructional materials will be shared via Google Classroom. Special arrangements can be made for pick up, if necessary.