

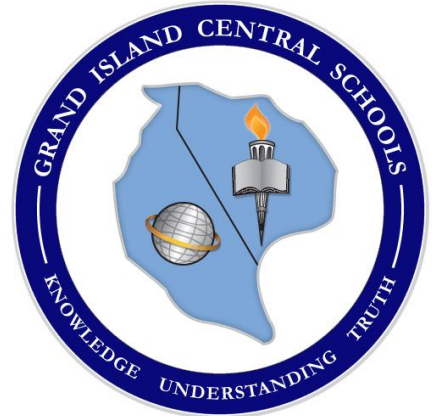
# Opening Plans for September 1, 2021



# Our Goals for the 2021-22 School Year

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to...

- keep students and staff healthy and safe;
- be responsive to student needs; and
- maximize in-person 5 days a week, teaching and learning for all students.



# What do we know about the Delta Variant of COVID-19

According to Yale Medicine, Delta, is a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain, which was first identified in India in December. It swept rapidly through that country and Great Britain before reaching the U.S., where it is now the predominant variant.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) described Delta as more transmissible than the common cold and influenza, as well as the viruses that cause smallpox, MERS, SARS, and Ebola—and called it as contagious as chickenpox in an internal document.

The highest spread of cases and severe outcomes is happening in places with low vaccination rates, and virtually all hospitalizations and deaths have been among the unvaccinated, the CDC says. But the CDC released data in July that showed vaccinated people also can transmit Delta, which officials did not believe to be the case with other variants, and which led the agency to make a prompt revision to its masking guidelines.

# What do we know about the Delta Variant of COVID-19

According to Yale Medicine, the most important thing you can do to protect yourself from Delta is to get fully vaccinated. At this point, that means if you get a two-dose vaccine like Pfizer or Moderna, for example, you must get both shots and then wait the recommended two-week period for those shots to take full effect.

Whether or not you are vaccinated, it's also important to follow CDC prevention guidelines.

<https://www.yalemedicine.org/news/5-things-to-know-delta-variant-covid>

# August 23

**On August 23** - The ECDOH released their Health and Safety requirements and recommendations for schools to follow. It mirrors in many ways, the guidance from the CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Promoting Vaccination

- **Schools should promote vaccinations** among teachers, staff, families and eligible students by promoting locations for community members to get vaccinated, partnering with local agencies, hosting informational sessions, providing flexible legal excused absences to families for going to get vaccinated, etc

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Indoors

- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, the ECDOH **requires** indoor masking for all individuals aged 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, bus drivers, bus aides, vendors, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. Appropriate masks must be worn at all times in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including but not limited to hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, locker rooms, auditoriums, etc. Students may remove their mask during meals as long as they sit 3 feet apart, to the extent possible, and a seating chart is kept.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - **Outdoors**

- ECDOH strongly recommends but **does not require** masks outdoors. However, protocols and procedures should be maintained for students, faculty, and staff to ensure maximized physical distancing to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus on school grounds, especially when masks are not being worn outside.



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - **Transportation**

- ECDOH **requires** bus drivers, bus aides, staff, and students to wear a mask at all times while on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems and private vendors, regardless of vaccination status.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Mask Breaks

- Mask breaks **may be taken by students once every hour** for approximately 5 minutes. Students should be seated and stationary at their desks during mask breaks. If students are seated closer than 6 feet, stagger breaks so that students closer than 6 feet are not taking breaks at the same time.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use - Exceptions

- Persons who cannot safely wear a mask because of a disability or medical condition should work with the school for a reasonable accommodation. Our district will require written documentation of a medical or physical condition from a physician or licensed medical provider before providing an exception.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

**Mask Use** - Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:

- A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.).

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Mask Use

The Grand Island Central School District believes **that these precautions for mask wearing** are reasonably designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, while allowing students to attend school 5 days per week and actively participate in the District's programs and instruction. **The public health experts at the ECDOH, CDC, etc. have thoroughly studied this matter**, and the District has no reason to question or contradict their recommendations.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing

- Because of the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing **to the extent possible** within their facilities but should not exclude students from in-person learning to meet a minimum distance requirement.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Students

- ECDOH strongly **recommends** schools to maintain **at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms** combined with mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk, regardless of vaccination status.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Student Close Contacts

- When determining close contact status following an exposure, **unvaccinated** students within **3 feet** from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of **15 minutes** or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious **will be quarantined regardless if masks were worn.** As per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, **fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts are not subject to quarantine.** (Must be asymptomatic.)



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Staff - Close Contacts

- ECDOH strongly **recommends** schools to maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance **between teachers/staff and students** combined with mask wearing, to reduce transmission risk, regardless of vaccination status. ECDOH recognizes that distance may be harder to maintain in lower grade levels wherein personal instruction is often necessary.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Staff Close Contacts

- When determining close contact status following an exposure, **unvaccinated teachers/staff** within **6 feet** from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious **will be quarantined regardless if masks were worn.**
- As per CDC guidelines, **fully vaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts are not subject to quarantine.** (Must be asymptomatic.)

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

- **Practice and Lessons:** ECDOH **requires** that individuals participating in activities which involve projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument **must be 6 feet apart** during practice and lessons and **must wear a mask when not singing** or playing.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Band, Chorus, and Orchestra

- **Performances:** ECDOH requires, to the extent practicable, that individuals participating in activities that involve projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument **must be 6 feet apart during all performances** and **must wear a mask when not singing or playing.**
- **ECDOH further requires, without exception,** at least 6 feet of distance between the performers and the audience during all performances

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Physical Distancing - Busing and Transportation

- ECDOH strongly **recommends**:
  - maintaining a daily seating and attendance chart for the identification of close contacts,
  - keeping students from the same household in the same seats,
  - students from different household should not share seats, and
  - loading buses back to front.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- ECDOH **requires daily health screenings**, including temperature and a COVID-19 symptom check upon entry into school of all students, faculty, staff, contractors, vendors, and visitors to identify individuals who may have COVID-19. If an individual presents with a **temperature greater than 100.0°F, or reports one or more COVID-19 symptoms, regardless of vaccination status**, the individual must be denied entry into the facility or sent directly to a dedicated isolation area prior to being picked up or otherwise sent home.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- **COVID-19 symptoms** include the following: fever, chills, rigors, muscle aches, headache, back pain, fatigue, runny nose, congestion, sore throat, loss of smell, loss of taste, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, wheezing, chest pain, cough, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, altered mental status/confusion, and seizures.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

- ECDOH **requires** the use of a **daily screening questionnaire for students, teachers, staff, and visitors** reporting to school. (Appendix A). The questionnaire for students, particularly younger students, who may require assistance, **may be answered before that student reports to school** by their parent/legal guardian (e.g., by electronic survey, digital application, or telephone).



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## School Entry Health Screening

### Appendix A: Health Screening Questionnaire

#### COVID-19 HEALTH QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

#### QUESTIONS:

- 1) Have you experienced symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever (temperature of 100°F or above) or chills, muscle or body aches, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, headache, sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste and/or smell in the past 10 days?

Please answer "yes" only if you are experiencing a new onset of symptoms OR you are experiencing a change in symptoms from your baseline if you have a known pre-existing medical condition (e.g. asthma, allergies).

No  Yes

- 2) Is your temperature 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater today?

No  Yes

- 3) Have you tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 10 days?

No  Yes

- 4) Have you had contact with anyone confirmed or suspected of having COVID-19 in the past 10 days?

No  Yes

**\*If you checked YES to any of the above questions, please STOP and notify administration immediately\***

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Developing Illness at School

- ECDOH requires that if a **student or staff member develops COVID-19 symptoms** while at school, regardless of vaccination status, **the ill person must immediately be placed in an isolation area/room at school and picked up by a parent/guardian** if a student or sent home if a staff member.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- COVID-19-Like Illness
- ECDOH **requires** that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID-19-like illness, regardless of vaccination status, **one of the three following criteria must be met:**
  1. A negative COVID-19 test is provided. ECDOH strongly recommends a PCR COVID-19 test. OR
  2. A note from the student/staff's medical care provider with an alternative diagnosis is provided. (Appendix B) OR
  3. There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- A negative at-home COVID-19 test result will **NOT** be accepted to return a student to school or school staff to work.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Returning to School Following Illness

- COVID-19 Positive Case
- **ECDOH requires** that students or staff **must meet all the following criteria** in order to return to school following testing positive for COVID-19:
  - i. At least 10 days after COVID-19 symptom onset or 10 days from their first positive test if asymptomatic AND
  - ii. Fever-free for at least 24 consecutive hours without the use of fever-reducing medications AND
  - iii. COVID-19 symptoms are improving.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## When the School Receives Notice of a COVID-19 Positive Case

- ECDOH **requires** schools to notify the ECDOH COVID-19 School Team of all positive COVID-19 cases reported by staff, students, or guardians.
- The school is required to prepare a list of classroom, bus, sports, and extracurricular activities close contacts.
- Close contacts are defined as students who are within 3 feet or teachers/staff who are within 6 feet from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious, regardless if masks were worn.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine

- ECDOH uses the close contact definition along with the duration of exposure, proximity, and presence of symptoms to determine who is an exposed contact and therefore subject to quarantine.
- Schools **are required** to cooperate with contact tracers to determine close contacts and compile contact information.
- ECDOH will notify parents and staff who are considered to be contacts exposed to a COVID-19 case.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Fully Vaccinated Close Contacts

- Per CDC guidelines, **fully vaccinated** individuals who are identified as **close contacts** are **not** subject to quarantine. However, these individuals should monitor for COVID-19 symptoms.



# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Per CDC guidelines, unvaccinated students within 3 feet or unvaccinated teachers/staff within 6 feet from the positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period during a time the case was infectious, regardless if masks were worn, **will be considered a close contact and quarantined for 10 days** from the last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 case.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Persons who are not fully vaccinated should be tested immediately after being identified, and, if negative, tested again in 5-7 days after last exposure or immediately if COVID-19 symptoms develop during quarantine.
- **Seating charts** for classrooms, buses, and extracurricular activities should be kept in the event there is a case in a class. **If there is no seating chart, all unvaccinated individuals in the class** will be considered unvaccinated close contacts and be quarantined for 10 days from the last day of exposure to the positive COVID-19 case.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Quarantine - Unvaccinated Close Contacts

- Regardless if a seating chart is maintained, **if there are two or more cases in a classroom during a 10-day period, all unvaccinated individuals in the class will quarantine for 10 days** from their last exposure to the positive COVID-19 case, regardless if masks were worn.

# ECDOH Requirements and Recommendations

## Youth Sports

- ECDOH **requires** masking for all youth sport players during all youth sport activities **whenever the players are not actively participating in game play or practice.** ECDOH further requires masking of all youth sport coaches and staff during all youth sport activities **while not** directly engaged in physical activity.
- **ECDOH** strongly **recommends** masking for all youth sport players during game play and practice **unless they are unable to physically tolerate masking.** In addition, ECDOH strongly recommends that athletes and coaches who are not engaging in physical activity (i.e. sitting on the bench or sidelines) maintain a distance of at least 3ft.

- **We will be open at full capacity.**
- Our **Start and End Times** for each school in the District have reverted **to the original start and end times we had prior to the pandemic.**
- This means that our High School and Middle School start and end times will be the same.
- Huth, Kaegebein and Sidway will also have the same start and end times.
- This also means that our district buses will be running at full capacity.
- We **are not** offering a 100% remote option for students. However, we do believe it is prudent to offer a remote learning option for students **who may be immunocompromised or medically fragile.**
- **Students who have a compromised immune system**, and if their doctor believes that the child's return to a regular school setting poses a danger due to that condition, **may** be eligible for a year long seat in the BOCES e-Learning Virtual Academy. Contact our Assistant Superintendent of Pupil Services, Cheryl Cardone at 716-773-8815 if your child needs that service.

# The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- **Masks:**
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, **we will follow** the **Erie County Department of Health mandate** for **universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.**
- **The CDC, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America, and the American Academy of Pediatrics have all issued similar recommendations calling for universal masking in schools.**
- Masking, when combined with other layers of protection, will give our students the best chance to remain in school full-time with fewer illnesses and fewer disruptions.
- **Cloth masks in school help to decrease the spread of droplets/aerosols to others.** Thus, a COVID-19 positive but asymptomatic individual is less likely to spread the virus if they are wearing a mask.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- To the extent possible, we will set up our classrooms to maintain **3 feet of distancing**.
- We will **continue to ask parents to take their child's temperature**, prior to them boarding our school buses. Children must be fever free to ride our buses.
- We will continue to require **children and staff who are ill to stay home**.
- We will use our **Thermal Temperature Scanners** as students arrive to school.
- We will **continue** the use of the daily **Health Screening Form**.

## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- We will continue to **send students and staff home** if they develop symptoms while in school.
- We will continue to follow the same **hand hygiene protocols** as we did last year with students and staff.
- We will continue to implement the same **cleaning and disinfecting protocols** in classrooms and common spaces as we did during the last school year.



## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies....

- We will continue to **comply with the Erie County Department of Health's "Close Contact" Quarantine Requirements.**
- A **"Close Contact"** is someone who has been within **3 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes.** (This is a change from 6 feet. This change will allow for our asymptomatic peers, who were 4-6 feet away from an infected individual to remain in school and avoid 10 days of quarantine.)
- Those individuals who are determined to be a **"Close Contact"** **and are vaccinated, will NOT** have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic.

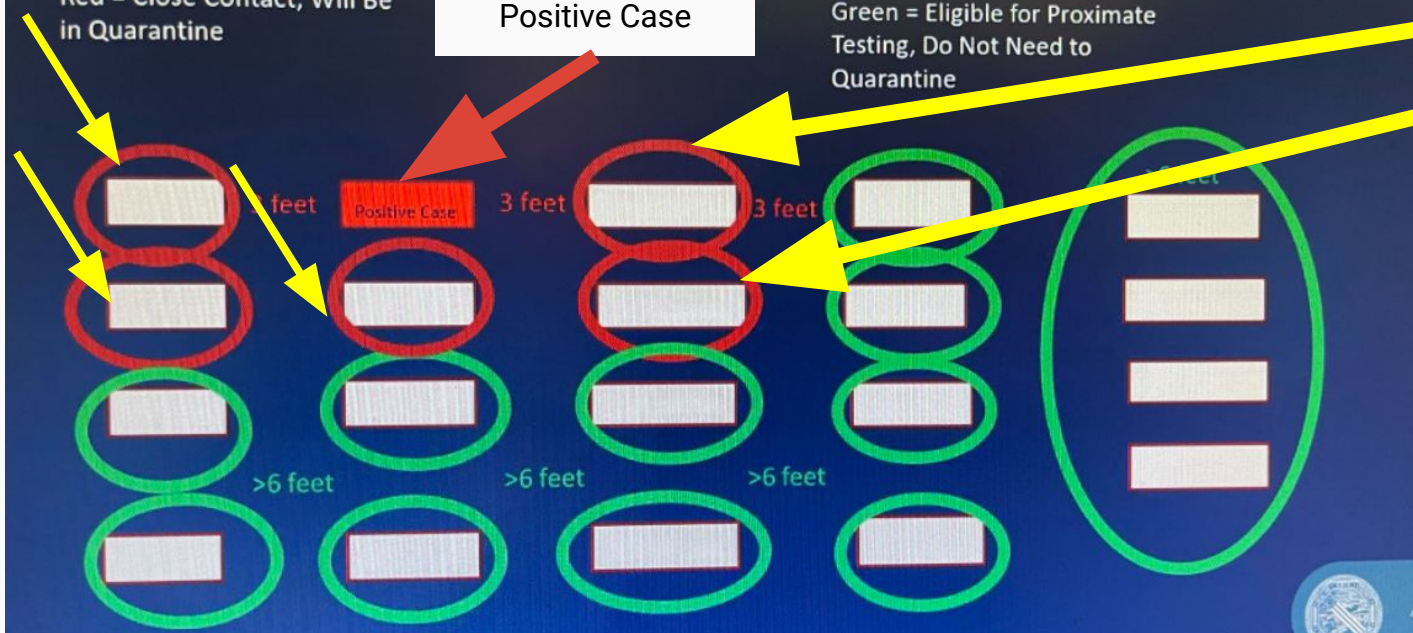
# Close Contacts and Proximal Contacts

## Proximal Testing Case Example

Red = Close Contact, Will Be in Quarantine

Positive Case

Green = Eligible for Proximate Testing, Do Not Need to Quarantine



Close Contact - 3 feet for 10 minutes or more.



## The District will implement the following risk mitigation strategies...

- We will continue to **use the Air Purifiers** we purchased last year in every classroom.
- To the extent possible, **we plan on offering free** weekly COVID-19 surveillance PCR testing **through the Erie County Department of Health.**
- To the extent possible, **we plan on offering free COVID-19** PCR testing to individuals **who are not close contacts** but are considered proximal contacts. **(Proximal Testing)**
- **A proximal contact** is someone who was in the vicinity (same classroom or same bus) of an infected person but not within 3 feet for 10 consecutive minutes.

- **The District will partner with the Erie County Department of Health to have an additional medical professional placed within our district for the sole purpose of conducting surveillance and proximal testing.**
- **Students will not be tested unless a parent provides consent.**
- **We are strongly recommending that unvaccinated students volunteer for this expanded testing program.**
- **We will have more information on how parents can provide consent for the PCR testing in the days and weeks ahead.**

Consider having your child vaccinated

# Erie County Vaccination Progress

THROUGH AUGUST 16, 2021

Based on data reported by the New York State Department of Health



**58%**

of all population  
fully vaccinated



**66%**

of 12+ population  
fully vaccinated

LEARN MORE & GET YOUR VACCINE AT: [erie.gov/vax](https://erie.gov/vax)



Erie County  
Department of  
Health



Public Health  
Protect. Promote. Prevent.

# COVID-19 - Vaccine Administration Sites and Dates

## Saturday, August 21, 2021

- New Hope Baptist Church; 12pm-5pm; 2090 Genesee St, **Buffalo**, NY 14211: [Register Here](#)
- Riverside Park; 12pm-5pm; 2700 Niagara St, **Buffalo**, NY 14207: [Register Here](#)

## Monday, August 23, 2021

- ECC South; 12pm-7pm; 4041 Southwestern Blvd (Bldg 7 - Old DMV), **Orchard Park**, NY 14127: [Register Here](#)

## Tuesday, August 24, 2021

- Boys Scouts of America; 10am-2pm; 2860 Genesee St, **Cheektowaga**, NY 14225: [Register Here](#)
- ECC South; 9am-4pm; 4041 Southwestern Blvd (Bldg 7 - Old DMV), **Orchard Park**, NY 14127: [Register Here](#)

## Thursday, August 26, 2021

- Harlem Road Community Center; 2pm-6pm; 4255 Harlem Rd, **Buffalo**, NY 14226: [Register Here](#)

## Friday, August 27, 2021

- Freedom Friday Event at Martin Luther King (MLK), Jr. Park; 1:30-3:30pm; **Buffalo**, NY 14211 (Fillmore and Parade side): [Register Here](#)

## Saturday, August 28, 2021

- Sadie Strong 5K Walk; 8am-12pm; 2 Nottingham Terrace, **Buffalo**, NY 14216: [Register Here](#)

## Sunday, August 29, 2021

- Canalside; 11am-3pm; 44 Prime St, **Buffalo**, NY 14202: [Register Here](#) (Pfizer Only)

## Saturday, September 4, 2021

- Buffalo Central Terminal; 10am-12:30pm; 495 Paderewski Dr, **Buffalo**, NY 14212: [Register Here](#)  
*Part of the Second Annual Backpack Giveaway event with Legislator Howard Johnson and Buffalo Councilmember Mitch Nowakowski*

The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to...

- keep students and staff healthy and safe;
- be responsive to student needs; and
- maximize in-person 5 days a week, teaching and learning for all students.

**By following these non-pharmaceutical interventions and by considering the pharmaceutical interventions (becoming fully vaccinated) we will meet and continue to meet these goals!**