

## **Bainbridge-Guilford Central School Opening Plan**

### **Supplement to Opening plan 2020**

September 2021

The following is a summary of the Bainbridge-Guilford Central School's plan for safely opening schools this fall and is based on directives from the Centers for Disease Control, the New York State Education Department, the State Department of Health, and the Chenango County Department of Public Health. This plan is subject to change as we monitor local transmission rates, positivity rates, and new or additional guidance that may be released. The plan is premised on two overriding goals; first, we are committed to a return to full-time in-person instruction and second, we must do it as safely as possible. This plan will help us do both.

**Mode of Instruction:** Instruction for the 2021-2022 will be full-time and in person. If directed by state or county authorities to close to in-person instruction, we are ready to move to a remote instruction model on short notice.

**Remote Learning:** Will NOT be an option for students this year. All instruction will occur on campus. Exceptions to return to a full-capacity classroom will be made if medically necessary, on a case-by-case basis.

**Face Coverings:** At this time, based on NYS mandates, CDC and NYSED guidance, all persons, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear an approved face covering at all times when in a school building, except when on authorized mask breaks or when eating or drinking. Masks will NOT be required when outdoors.

**Social Distancing:** Based on recommendations from the CDC, DOH and NYS, three feet of distance shall be maintained between students and staff whenever practical, except in Band, or Chorus, where six feet of distance shall be maintained.

**Local Monitoring of COVID-19:** The District will continue to collaborate with the Chenango County Department of Public Health on a regular basis as outlined in the District Plan for Reopening Schools. We will also continue to monitor the local transmission and positivity rates in accordance with the CDC and NYSED recommendations.

**Transportation:** Based on the latest guidance from the CDC and NYS Education Department, we will follow the CDC recommendations for public mass transit. Students riding on school transportation will no longer require social distancing between students, but masks will continue to be required of ALL persons on buses, including students, staff, and drivers.

**Health and Safety:** All classrooms and common areas in school buildings will be disinfected daily. High touch surfaces will be cleaned several times per day. Hand washing, social

distancing, and proper respiratory hygiene will be practiced and encouraged for all stakeholders. Classrooms will contain hand sanitizer.

**Screening:** Daily health screening for all students, staff, and visitors to the school building will no longer be required, as per the NYSED memo. Parents no longer need to complete a daily screening form for their child online prior to coming to school. Students will still have a temperature check prior to entering the building each day.

**Symptomatic Protocol:** Any student, teacher or staff member with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19, must be excluded from school, regardless of vaccination status, and either (a) provide a negative COVID test result, or (b) remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset, prior to returning to school.

Any student or staff member experiencing COVID-like symptoms should remain at home until cleared by the school, County Department of Public Health, or a licensed health care provider. Students and staff who become ill with COVID-19 like symptoms during the school day will go to the school nurse for evaluation. Siblings of a symptomatic child will NOT be sent home this year unless symptomatic.

**Contact Tracing, Quarantine, and Isolation:** We will continue to cooperate and collaborate with the Chenango County DOH in contact tracing. With all staff and students wearing masks in the classroom, a “close contact” will not include students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time (unless otherwise directed by the DOH). This exception does not apply for staff. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated and exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual will NOT need to quarantine as long as they remain asymptomatic. However, it is recommended to receive a COVID test within 3-5 days after exposure. Unvaccinated individuals MUST quarantine as outline in the updated School Reopening Plan and may NOT return to school or work until cleared by the NYS Department of Health or Chenango County DOH.

All individuals who become ill with COVID-like symptoms while in a school building will be held in an isolation room until they can safely leave the building.

A person who tests positive for COVID-19 may return to school and end isolation if the following are met: (1) 10 days out from the start of symptoms; (2) fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication; AND (3) symptoms have improved.

**Child Nutrition:** Free breakfast and lunch will be provided for ALL students. All efforts will be made to maintain six feet of social distance during meal times. Cafeterias and other common areas will be used for meals in order to maintain appropriate distance. The district will not be delivering meals or doing curbside pick-up this year.

**Schedules:** Children will attend their appropriate building full-time in-person on days when school is in session, unless circumstances necessitate a shift to fully remote or hybrid instruction.

All content areas, including PE, Music, Band, and Chorus will be included in the schedule for in-person instruction. For Band and Chorus, every effort will be made to maintain six feet of social distancing.

**Interscholastic Athletics:** At this time athletics have started at BG. Students participating in outdoor athletics do not need to wear a mask. There is no limit on spectators attending outdoor athletic competitions. Indoor athletics (volleyball) students must wear masks and spectators attending these competitions must wear a mask also. Interscholastic sports and other extracurricular activities will occur as permitted by NYS, Chenango County and following protocols recommended by the CDC, NYSED, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and Chenango County DOH.

**Visitors:** Schools serve an important function as centers for their communities, and we will do our best to accommodate requests for both school groups and outside organizations to be allowed use of school facilities in a safe manner. Visitors to the BG school buildings will be required to comply with COVID-19 protocols in place at the time of their visit.

Please contact the district office with any questions at 607-967-6321.