



Fort Edward site 2021-2022 Opening Plan

As we plan for a full in-person return to school we would like to share with you the Newmeadow at Fort Edward 2021-2022 Opening Plan. Our plan is based on the current [CDC guidance](#), as well as guidance from the [American Association of Pediatrics](#), the NYS DOH, and the local County DOH. Many of the elements of our plan will depend on the status of the virus within our school, and the local county health department.

Our goal is to establish a balance between the health and safety of our staff and students while prioritizing full in-person learning. The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. We want everyone to feel comfortable and safe returning to school. To help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, there will be several safety protocols that we must adhere to. This plan is fluid and reviewed frequently to ensure we are up-to-date with the most current guidance. Families and staff will be notified of any changes via the electronic messaging system.

Our goal for the 2021-2022 school year is to return all students to full in-person instruction with minimal to no disruptions.

Remote Learning

- Remote learning will be only offered if there is a class-wide mandatory quarantine issued by the local County Public Health Department
- There will not be an option to self-select remote learning as an educational model. *Exceptions may be made for students with a documented medical circumstance as related to COVID-19 (immunocompromised individuals)*

Masking

- Indoors: Masks are required for all regardless of vaccination status.
 - Students should wear a mask to the extent possible given tolerance, age, and developmental levels.
 - Frequent student mask breaks are encouraged.
- Outdoors: Masks are not required
 - CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals wear a mask in crowded settings
- Outdoor learning and recess are encouraged to be used as much as possible.

Handwashing

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Remind everyone to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing.
- Supply and use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol. Hand sanitizers will be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision.

Daily Health Screenings

- Parents/guardians and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
 - Everyone is instructed to stay home if any signs or symptoms are present.
- Students and visitors will have a temperature check completed upon arrival.

Attendance

- All students are expected to attend school in person each day.
- Remote learning will only be provided if there is a class-wide quarantine.
- Individual students who are quarantined will be provided with a remote learning option.

Social Distancing/Classroom Arrangement

- Classrooms and other areas will be arranged to accommodate students and staff using the 3 feet social distancing whenever possible. If space allows greater distances will be put in place.
- Classroom windows may be open to increasing ventilation, to the extent possible.

Cohorts

- Students will remain in their designated classroom cohorts whenever possible.

Lunch/Snacks

- Students will be separated by a minimum of 3 feet.
- Masks are to be worn unless the individual is actively eating.

Quarantines/Contact Tracing

- We will work with the local DOH and follow their guidance.
- We will maintain accurate attendance logs, visitor logs, and classroom/area contact tracking logs.
- All information will be confidentially maintained as required by federal laws and regulations.

Daily Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures and Protocols

- We will continue daily routine cleaning. Enhanced disinfection for moderate and high touch surfaces.
- Cleaning logs will be maintained.
- Primary products used: EPA approved disinfectants—sprays and surface wipes
- Use of hand sanitizer and the practice of good hygiene will be taught/encouraged.

Visitors

- Visitors will be allowed by appointment only.
- Masks will be required when inside the building, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors will have their temperature taken upon arrival.

Safety Drills

- Modified to maintain social distancing.

Vaccinations

- No current mandate/requirement for employees to be vaccinated.
- We will encourage vaccinations.
 - The CDC recommends anyone over the age of 12 get vaccinated.

Return to School/Work

- Individuals returning to school/work must provide:
 - Documentation from health care provider following an evaluation (return to school/work notice); **OR**
 - Negative COVID-19 test results; **OR**
 - Release from quarantine/isolation if tested positive for COVID.