



COVID-19 Mitigation Plan

Effective 3/2/2022

Newmeadow, Inc. is committed to taking responsible and thoughtful approaches to ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and their families. To effectively manage the impact of mandates and local transmission levels of COVID-19 in the school, Newmeadow will continue using the mitigation protocol. This mitigation plan considers applicable laws, rules, and regulations and uses objective information for decision-making.

COVID-19 Community Levels are a new tool to help communities decide what prevention steps to take based on the latest data. Levels are defined as low (green), medium (yellow), and high (orange) and are determined by looking at:

- hospital beds being used
- hospital admissions, and
- the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area.

CDC issued the following chart outlining prevention steps based on the COVID-19 Community Level. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>.

Saratoga County Public Health Services has changed the [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to reflect a new “Community Level” indicator from the CDC.

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wear a mask indoors in public • Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines • Get tested if you have symptoms • Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness
<p>People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.</p> <p>If you are immunocompromised, learn more about how to protect yourself.</p>		

Newmeadow will collaborate with Saratoga County Public Health, and act accordingly in case of shifting transmission rates and to determine if or when a change is warranted. 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 are our top priority.

COVID-19 Vaccines

- Strongly recommended for all eligible individuals.

Remote Learning

- Remote learning will be only offered if:
 - There is a class-wide mandatory quarantine due to exposure.
 - Documented medical circumstances as related to COVID (immunocompromised).

Masking

- Indoors and Outdoors:
 - Masks are optional for all (exceptions apply in the first 10 days after exposure or when testing positive)
 - Parents should notify classroom teachers regarding their child's masking preference.
 - Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any time. No one shall be bullied, harassed, or discouraged from wearing a mask.
 - Individuals who choose to wear a mask should wear the most protective mask they can, that fits well and that will be worn consistently. Information on [mask-wearing](#) can be found [here](#).
 - Masks will be available to students and staff when needed or upon request.

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.
- Adequate supplies for frequent hand hygiene shall be provided.
- Signs will continue to be posted to remind individuals of proper hand and respiratory etiquette.

Daily Health Screenings

- Parents/guardians should screen students and staff should self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms daily.
 - Everyone is instructed to stay home if any signs or symptoms are present.
 - More information on current illness protocols for [staff](#) and [students](#) can be found on our website.

Attendance

- All students are expected to attend school in person each day.
- Classroom tracking logs may be used for COVID tracking purposes.

- 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 if the exposure was at school.

Social Distancing/Classroom Arrangement

- Classroom windows may be open to increasing ventilation, to the extent possible.
- Whenever feasible, we will use additional spaces (inside and outside) to allow for physical distancing.
- Outdoor learning and recess are encouraged to be used as much as possible.

Cohorts

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

Lunch/Snacks

- Proper hand hygiene before eating.

Exposures/Positive Cases/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.
- More information on current exposures and positive cases protocol for [staff](#) and [students](#) can be found on our website.

Daily Cleaning/Disinfecting Procedures and Protocols

- We will continue daily routine cleaning. Enhanced disinfection for moderate and high touch surfaces, when necessary.
- Cleaning and disinfection logs will be maintained that includes the date, time, and scope of cleaning and disinfection.
- Primary products used: EPA-approved disinfectants.
- Protocols for daily disinfection of all spaces will continue to be reviewed and monitored.

Visitors

- Visitors will be allowed by appointment only.

Safety Drills

- Modified and traditional alarm-activated safety drills.

Return to School/Work

- According to applicable regulations and internal protocols.
- More information on the current protocol for exposures and positive cases for [staff](#) and [students](#) can be found on our website.

Ventilation and Air Quality

- Filtration and ventilation shall meet or exceed minimum requirements.
- Increase ventilation with outdoor air to the greatest extent possible (e.g., opening windows and doors) while maintaining health and safety protocols.
- Regular maintenance checks and filter changes using MERV8 and MERV13 filters.

Playground/Walks/Bikes

- Masking is optional for all.
- Maintain classroom cohorts as often as possible.

Transportation Students

- According to Bus Company policy.

This Plan retains the flexibility to future options and is subject to modification based on emerging circumstances and/or applicable laws, rules, and regulations.