



# **Hudson City School District**

**2021-22 School Opening Plan  
August 2021**

**Dr. Maria Lagana Suttmeier**

# Governor Hochul's Announcements Today

- The NYS DOH will be issuing a statewide universal mask mandate for all people in schools.
- She is working with all levels of government to explore what action would be needed to have a vaccine mandate in schools. This is not yet being ordered, but the Governor supports a mandate, not only in schools but other venues, and there will be additional announcements about the issue of vaccination mandates in the future.
- Finally, she indicated that there will be additional directives for schools later this week that will be “clear, concise and uniform.”

# Priorities

- Return all students to in-person instruction five days a week - and keep them in school by following health and safety protocols.
- Health and safety protocols remain critically important for all of our students, faculty and staff.

# Guidance

- On August 5, NYS Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker announced that school districts may move forward with their planning in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance and in partnership with our county health department.
- On August 12, the NYSED released guidance in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- HCSD opening plan will align with guidance from the CDC, NYSED, AAP, Columbia County DOH, as well recommendations from Questar III BOCES and Needham Risk Management Group.

[CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

[21-22 SED Guidance](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools.](#)

# CDC Recommended Health & Safety Protocols

- Universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
  - Mask breaks a local decision.
- Masks not required (optional) outdoors on school grounds.
- At least 3 feet of social distancing in buildings to the extent possible.
- At least 6 feet of social distancing in PE, music and band classes to the extent possible.
- Layered prevention strategies, such as hand hygiene, daily cleaning and disinfecting, ventilation and testing.
- If a child/staff is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they must stay home and get tested.

# CDC Recommended Health & Safety Protocols

- CDC recommends all teachers, staff and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation & quarantine.
- Screening testing strategies recommended by CCDOH dependent on level of community transmission of COVID-19 for those not fully vaccinated
  - also recommended for sports and other activities with elevated risk
- Faculty/staff may need to complete an attestation form that they are asymptomatic.

# CDC Recommended Health & Safety Protocols

- Proper building ventilation continues to be a priority.
  - Our current air filtration systems meet all required safety levels.
  - Use of our one-time American Rescue Plan funds to upgrade our air filtration systems throughout the district where necessary.
- Masks required for all students on buses.
  - We will return to regular capacity guidelines.
  - Windows open for ventilation as feasible.
  - Our transportation partners will continue to follow the cleaning and sanitization protocols that have been in place since the start of the pandemic.

# Bus Seating Example

- Up to 42 students on a bus with aide and driver
- In the example diagram below, O represents a student seat and X represents the space between the students:

O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	Driver
O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	O X O	Aide	--

- Assigned seating for contact tracing
- Bus loaded back to front (and unloaded front to back)



# Food Service & School Meals

- Hand hygiene will be promoted before and after meals.
- Breakfast will be served grab and go style.
- Students must wear masks when in the service line.
- Students may remove their masks when seated and eating as long as they are appropriately distanced.
- Lunch periods will be staggered to ensure physical distancing and proper cleaning and disinfection.
- Alternative locations will be provided for students with severe food allergies, as needed.
- Students will be supervised during meal times and prohibited from sharing food and beverages unless members of the same household.
- Adequate space will be reserved for faculty and staff to observe physical distance while eating meals.

# Remote Instruction

- **NYSED's position: So long as allowed by public health officials, schools should be open for in-person teaching and learning, and students should be in school.**
- **Questar III BOCES will offer limited remote options for students with an approved medical exemption.**
- **Classes will be taught by a Questar III teacher - not a District teacher.**
- **Secondary offerings will provide the basics to give them what is required for the year - will not mimic in-district programming.**
- **A survey went out the week of August 16 to determine who may qualify for this option.**

# Fall Sports

- NYSPHAA supports use of NYSED guidance
- Local decision includes surveillance testing of all athletes and coaches, regardless of vaccination status
  - Twice a week for high risk sports
  - Once a week for low to moderate sports
  - Parent consent required
- Cancellation of high risk sports recommended if high transmission rate, unless all athletes are fully vaccinated.
- Spectators should abide by appropriate physical distancing and masks must be worn indoors.
  - other protocols are a local decision
- Outdoor concessions will be permitted with all safety protocols in place. More consideration must be given to indoor concessions.

# Student Teachers

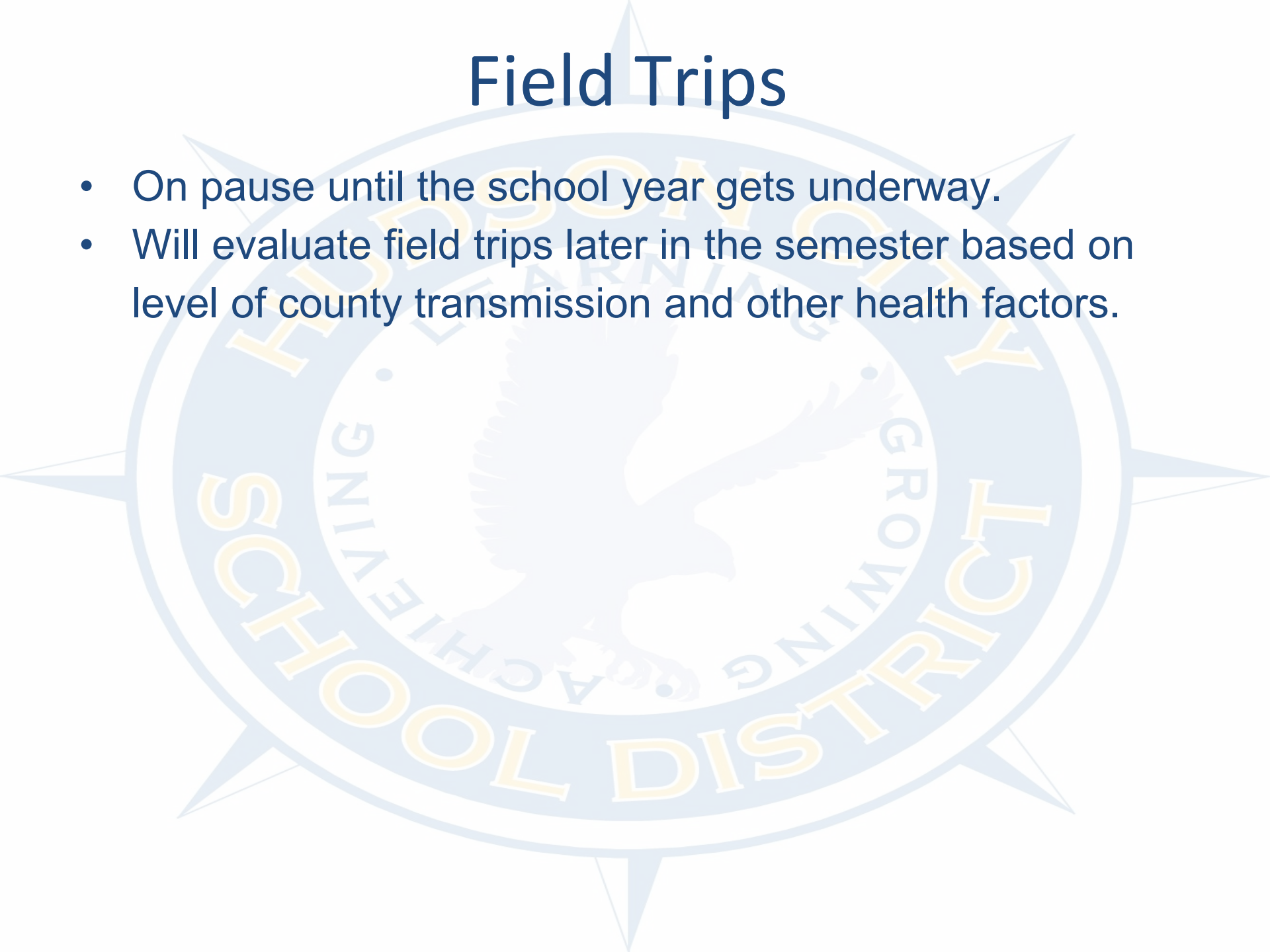
- Student teachers must be fully vaccinated.
- Student teachers will be responsible for adhering to the safety protocols described in this plan.
- Student teachers may be required to complete a COVID-19 Health Attestation form that indicates they have read and understand their obligations to be fever and symptom-free before reporting to their assignment this school year.

# Visitors

- School will limit nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations, particularly during times when there is a moderate to high COVID-19 transmission rate.
- All approved visitors must follow the guidelines contained in this document.
- Approved visitors who are symptomatic must stay home and seek testing and care, regardless of vaccination status.
- Visitors may need to provide proof of vaccination and/or complete an attestation form that they are asymptomatic.

# Field Trips

- On pause until the school year gets underway.
- Will evaluate field trips later in the semester based on level of county transmission and other health factors.



# Questions Submitted & Answered

- What type of educational services will be available for students who are on mandatory quarantine and can't attend school?
  - **Teachers are highly encouraged to post lessons in Google Classroom. We are currently discussing the best approach for all grade levels.**
- Will fully vaccinated teacher, staff and students be required to quarantine if they are exposed to a positive person?
  - **No, unless they have symptoms.**
- Will the district be considering and working towards in person parent teachers conferences?
  - **We are considering outdoor back to school events, weather permitting. We are considering in person conferences later in the semester with opportunities for remote conferences as well.**
- Will parents be able to attend sports events in person?
  - **Yes, on a limited basis with all safety precautions in place (e.g., masks, physical distancing)**
- Will vaccine be mandatory for students this year?
  - **Only if the Governor mandates this.**
- Will parental consent be required for student testing?
  - **Yes.**

# Questions Asked & Answered

- Is it possible for teachers to send an outline home that describes curriculum for particular classes as a means to keep parents included and apart of the classroom?
  - **Yes.**
  - **Curriculum maps are also available on the district website using this link: [curriculum mapping](#)**
- Will there still be people doing temperature checks and checking to see if people are on our list of people needing to be quarantined?
  - **No, daily health checks are not longer required.**
- Will students have to be in the gym in the morning like last year?
  - **Yes.**
- Will they have to stand near cones again?
  - **Yes.**
- If so who will be placing those cones down?
  - **An all hands on deck approach will be applied to appropriate physical distancing.**
- Will kids under 12, none of whom can be vaccinated, be sharing bus rides with those 12 and over?
  - **Yes.**



# What's Next?

- Stay tuned for Governor Hochul's announcements
- Faculty/staff meetings held week of August 30
  - MCSES: August 31 @ 1 pm
  - HHS: September 2 @ 1 pm
  - JHS: TBA
- Opening plan finalized and communicated on website and to families via Robo messaging
- Faculty/staff return Sept. 7
- Students return Sept. 9