



**COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols: 2021-2022**  
*(Updated: March 1, 2022)*

The Watervliet City School District effectively implemented a full return to school this year, providing strong academics and an array of extracurricular and athletic opportunities. The district used a layered mitigation approach based on New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to address COVID-19 health and safety concerns.

We are revising our layered mitigation plan to be consistent with the most recent recommendations of public health authorities. The plan is designed to be flexible based on updated guidance and any changes in [COVID-19 community levels](#).

We continue to emphasize that students and staff who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home from school. This is critical to limiting the spread of illness and ensuring a safe and healthy school environment.

Mitigation Protocol		Low Community Level	Medium Community Level	High Community Level
1	<b>COVID-19 Vaccines</b>	Encouraged	Encouraged	Encouraged
2	<b>COVID-19 Testing</b>	Surveillance and Rapid Testing available	Surveillance and Rapid Testing available	Surveillance and Rapid Testing available
3	<b>Facemasks (indoors)</b>  District will follow NYS and ACDOH masking protocols	Optional	Optional	Recommended
4	<b>Monitoring Community and School-Based Transmission</b>	Ongoing	Ongoing	Ongoing
5	<b>Social Distancing (indoors)</b>	3' distancing encouraged	3' distancing	3' distancing
6	<b>School Visitors</b>	No Restrictions	Minimal Restrictions	Moderate Restrictions No unnecessary visitors.
7	<b>Facility Use</b>	No Restrictions	Minimal Restrictions	Limited "outside group" use of school facilities; Must include Watervliet students; No concession stand use.

8	<b>Handwashing, Hand Sanitizer, and Respiratory Etiquette</b>	Encouraged and Expected	Encouraged and Expected	Encouraged and Expected
9	<b>Contact Tracing and Quarantine</b> District shall follow applicable DOH protocols	6' close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes	6' close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes	6' close contact perimeter for more than 10 minutes
10	<b>Staying Home When Sick (Staff and Students)</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	<b>Return to School/Work Protocols (following illness)</b>	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols
12	<b>Cleaning and Disinfection</b>	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of High-Touch Surfaces	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of High-Touch Surfaces	Daily Routine Cleaning and Daily Disinfection of moderate and high-touch surfaces
13	<b>Cafeteria</b>	3' distancing encouraged	6' distancing encouraged	6' distancing required
14	<b>Recess and Physical Education (Outdoors)</b>	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Social distancing encouraged
15	<b>Ventilation and Air Quality</b>	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)	Increased fresh air circulation (mechanical, open windows, open doors)
16	<b>Bus Transportation</b> District will follow CDC, NYS and ACDOH masking protocols	Optional	Optional	Recommended
17	<b>High Risk Activities (Athletics &amp; the Arts) Indoors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks optional for participants and spectators</li> <li>Weekly Surveillance Testing available for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks optional for participants and spectators</li> <li>Social distancing encouraged for spectators</li> <li>Limited spectators</li> <li>Bell covers for band</li> <li>Weekly Surveillance Testing available for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masks recommended for participants and spectators</li> <li>3' social distancing for spectators</li> <li>50% capacity for vaccinated spectators (Proof of vaccination with Excelsior Pass, Vaccination Card, or signed doctor's note indicating date of full vaccination AND photo ID)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bell covers for band</li> <li>• Vaccination or medical exemption for eligible students participating in modified, junior-varsity, or varsity high-risk extracurricular sports</li> <li>• Weekly Surveillance Testing for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>
18	<b>High Risk Activities (Athletics &amp; the Arts) Outdoors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks optional for participants and spectators</li> <li>• Weekly Surveillance Testing available for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks optional for participants and spectators</li> <li>• Social distancing encouraged for spectators</li> <li>• Weekly Surveillance Testing available for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masks optional for participants and spectators</li> <li>• 3' social distancing for spectators</li> <li>• 50% capacity for vaccinated spectators (Proof of vaccination with Excelsior Pass, Vaccination Card, or signed doctor's note indicating date of full vaccination AND photo ID)</li> <li>• Vaccination or medical exemption for eligible students participating in modified, junior-varsity, or varsity high-risk extracurricular sports</li> <li>• Weekly Surveillance Testing for <b>unvaccinated</b> students in High Risk Sports</li> </ul>

## CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicator – Use the Highest Level that Applies to Your Community	Low Community Level	Medium Community Level	High Community Level
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.1-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html>

CDCs Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools, please see <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

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