



COVID-19 Layered Mitigation Protocols: 2023-2024
 (Updated: 9/17/23)

The Watervliet City School District effectively implemented a full return to school, 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 recommendations of public health authorities. The plan is designed to be flexible based on updated guidance and any changes in [COVID-19 community levels](#).

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

9	Contact Tracing and Quarantine	District shall follow applicable DOH protocols	District shall follow applicable DOH protocols	District shall follow applicable DOH protocols
10	Stay Home When Sick (Staff and Students)	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Return to School/Work Protocols (following illness)	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols	Return per ACDOH protocols
12	Cleaning and Disinfection	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	Cafeteria	No Restrictions	3' distancing encouraged	6' distancing required
14	Recess and Physical Education (Outdoors)	No Restrictions	No Restrictions	Social distancing encouraged
15	Ventilation and Air Quality	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	Bus Transportation	District will follow CDC, NYS and ACDOH protocols	District will follow CDC, NYS and ACDOH protocols	District will follow CDC, NYS and ACDOH protocols
17	High Risk Activities (Athletics & the Arts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks optional for participants and spectators • COVID screening for athletic participation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks optional for participants and spectators • Social distancing encouraged for spectators • Limited spectators • Bell covers for band • COVID screening for athletic participation • Weekly Surveillance Testing for students in High Risk Sports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks recommended for participants and spectators • 3' social distancing for spectators • 50% capacity for spectators • Bell covers for band • Vaccination or medical exemption for eligible students participating in modified, junior-varsity, or varsity high-risk extracurricular sports • COVID screening for athletic participation • Weekly Surveillance Testing for students in High Risk Sports

CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

New COVID-19 Hospital Admissions	Low Community Level	Medium Community Level	High Community Level
New COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in past 7-day	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0

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>

Adopted: 8/12/2021; Revised: 9/15/2021; 11/18/2021; 3/1/2022; 10/17/2023