

COMING OUT OF COVID: WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021-22

Beginning September 1, 2021, all students will attend school full-time, in-person 5 days per week. On August 23, 2021, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) released its 2021-22 school year guidance. Ken-Ton Schools will comply with all ECDOH requirements which are summarized in this document. This guidance is subject to change.

Updated 8/23/21



MASKS

- Masks will be required indoors for all students, staff and visitors regardless of vaccination status. This includes any time after school inside our buildings such as evening events, supply drop-offs, etc. Acceptable masks are cloth-based or surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Bandanas, gators, and clear face shields are not considered acceptable face coverings.
- Masking is not required outdoors but is recommended for unvaccinated individuals in crowded outdoor settings.

DISTANCING

- Schools will maximize and prioritize distancing to the greatest extent possible.
- A minimum of 6 feet is strongly recommended to the extent possible between staff and students and between staff (regardless of vaccination status).

MASK BREAKS

- Mask breaks will be provided for students and staff during the day. Teachers will coordinate mask breaks for students once every hour for approximately 5 minutes when needed. Students will be seated at their desks during the mask break. Mask breaks will be coordinated to ensure when students are participating in mask breaks they are seated six feet apart.

QUARANTINE

- Close contacts who need to quarantine are defined as any unvaccinated students regardless of mask usage within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. For adults, this measurement is 6 feet.
- In the event that a student is quarantined, they will be provided asynchronous work from their teachers. Work will be accessible on the student's device/learning management system. K-12 instruction will be virtual in the event that a class or school is shut down per consultation with ECDOH and will follow a regular school day schedule.

DAILY HEALTH/TEMPERATURE SCREENING

- Families and staff will be required to complete the daily health screening questionnaire. Schools will continue to use temperature scanners at entrances. Students, families and staff must stay home when sick. Students/staff observed to be demonstrating symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be isolated (TLC Room) and sent home.

BREAKFAST & LUNCH

- Students will be distanced as much as possible when moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors) without compromising the feasibility of daily in-person instruction. Assigned seating will be utilized.

CLEANING & SANITIZING

- Schools will continue the extensive daily cleaning/disinfecting protocols including the use of electrostatic disinfectant sprayers in each building. Cleaning will be completed daily as per CDC guidance by our custodial staff.

VENTILATION

- The District's HVAC systems are designed to provide appropriate ventilation per applicable codes, using fresh air. The District will continue to closely monitor airflow/ventilation. During times of warmer weather, opening windows will be encouraged in classrooms and on school buses.

COVID-19 TESTING

- The District will partner with ECDOH to provide **voluntary** in-school testing. Parents will receive additional information as to how to sign up to consent for their child to be tested. The test is a molecular PCR test (cheek swab).
- Surveillance testing will be conducted in the building as a proactive measure. Proximal testing will be conducted in a classroom in the event of a confirmed positive case.

MUSIC & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Distancing will be maintained and masks required indoors during PE and music following established protocols. 6 feet is required for students playing wind instruments, singing and between performers and the audience at concerts. Schools will have outdoor tents and music/PE will be prioritized for these tents.

CONTACT TRACING

- All ECDOH contact tracing protocols will be followed. Students shall be assigned seats in all classrooms, lunchrooms, on the school bus, etc. to assist ECDOH with contact tracing and quarantine decisions.

TRANSPORTATION

- Masks shall be required for all riders while on transportation. Assigned seating will be utilized. During times of warmer weather, windows will be encouraged to be opened.

TLC (ISOLATION) ROOMS

- Each school will continue to have a TLC (Tender Loving Care) room for isolation purposes. All isolation room protocols previously put in place shall continue for those who demonstrate a fever or symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Families will need to be prepared to make arrangements to bring their child home if sick when contacted by the school.

ATHLETICS

- Ken-Ton athletes will participate in Niagara Frontier League and Section VI sports. Spectators will be able to attend. Masks will be required indoors for spectators but optional outdoors. Masks are required for coaches. Masks are required for athletes when not engaged in physical activity. ECDOH has established protocols for possible pausing of a sport for 10 days in the event of multiple positive cases.

SCHOOL EVENTS & FIELD TRIPS

- School events, extracurricular activities, internships and field trips may proceed as long as they are able to follow all ECDOH guidelines including masking and distancing.

TECHNOLOGY

- K-12 students will each be assigned a district owned device. Teachers will ensure all students are set up on Seesaw, Google Classroom or Canvas learning management to access classroom instruction/materials by the end of the first full week of instruction.

RETURN-TO-SCHOOL PROTOCOLS

- If sick, regardless of vaccination status: A negative COVID PCR test (at-home tests are not eligible), OR a note from a doctor, OR 10 days since the onset of symptoms.
- If tested positive: At least 10 days since the 1st positive test, AND fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, AND symptoms are improving.