



Lewiston-Porter Central School District

Our Purpose, Your Pathway, Our Promise.

Paul J. Casseri
Superintendent of Schools

August 30, 2021

Dear Lewiston-Porter School Community,

Once again, we hope you are all enjoying the final days of your summer and have found time with family and friends. All of us at Lewiston-Porter are excited to welcome your child(ren) back to school for full-time (5 days/week) in-person learning. It is going to be a great year!

I previously wrote to you regarding our initial Health and Safety Protocols for the 2021-22 school year. These were developed working with all Niagara/Orleans County Superintendents in consultation with the Niagara County Department of Health (NCDOH) and were adopted by our Board of Education on Monday, August 23, 2021. The LP plan was based on CDC transmission levels and as a school district governance team, we felt the protocols, as developed, were responsive to the feedback received from the school community. Since the adoption of those protocols, COVID-19 positive cases and COVID-19 transmission levels in Niagara County have continued to rise. Currently, Niagara County is at the **RED** transmission level.

As you may be aware, Governor Hochul has maintained that she would issue a full mask mandate for schools once in office. As anticipated, on Friday, August 27th the New York State DOH issued a full mask mandate for all K-12 public schools.

Per NYSDOH Health Commissioner:

***“Effective immediately, in accordance with the Commissioner’s Determination issued pursuant to 10 NYCRR 2.60, any person over the age of 2 (including all students, personnel, teachers, administrators, contractors, and visitors) must wear masks at all times indoors in P-12 school buildings, regardless of vaccination status. People with medical or developmental conditions that prevent them from wearing a mask may be exempted from mask requirements, as documented by a medical provider.*”**

After careful review and consideration of CDC recommendations for face coverings/masks in school settings, the NYSDOH, hereby adopts such recommendations, imposing them as requirements, where applicable, until this determination is modified or rescinded. Accordingly, universal masking of teachers, staff, students, and visitors to P-12 schools over age two regardless of vaccination status, is required until this determination is modified or rescinded. With the importance of in-person learning, schools should implement physical distancing to the extent possible within their structures but should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirements.”

Pursuant to NYS law, Lewiston-Porter CSD and the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education will enforce the NYSDOH Health and Safety and School Reopening protocols, effective immediately. We apologize for the late notice from the NYSDOH; this unfortunately has been the New York State modus operandi since this all began in March 2020. (It should be noted these are the same protocols that the Lewiston-Porter Board of Education adopted for the **RED** transmission level.)

NYSDOH Health and Safety Protocols

Area of Impact	Protocol
Instructional Model	5 days per week, full-time instruction for all students
Classrooms	Face coverings/mask - Mandated (per NYSDOH order)
	3 ft' of distancing (to extent practicable)
Indoor congregate areas (e.g., hallways, passing between classes)	Face coverings/masks - Mandated (per NYSDOH order)
Transportation	Face coverings/masks - Mandated (per NYSDOH/CDC order)
Cafeteria	3 ft' of distancing (to extent practicable)
	Face coverings - Mandated when not eating/drinking (per NYSDOH order)
Outdoors	No Face coverings required

Please understand that all students attending a Lewiston-Porter Central school building for in-person learning will be required to follow these protocols at all times. This is required under New York State law much the same as certain vaccinations are required under law for attendance at school.

Enjoy the final week of the summer break. We look forward to welcoming our students and families back to Lewiston-Porter for 5 days/week, full-time instruction on Tuesday, September 7th.

Sincerely,



Paul J. Casseri,
Superintendent of Schools