
Commack U.F.S.D. Board of Education

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

AUGUST 19, 2021





Agenda

School Reopening

Guiding Principles

- Maintain the health and safety of students and staff
- Provide continuity of instruction
- Create student schedules to meet the needs and/or requirements of all students



Health and Safety



We will be increasing the number of temperature sensors in the Middle School and High School to accommodate a full return of students.

Focused on preventive actions in schools:

Health Checks

Temperature Sensors



schools must instruct staff to recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff, and health screenings per DOH guidance.

Management of ill persons



- requires persons with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 to be isolated until they can be sent home.

Social Distancing



- Students will be in classrooms with desks no less than three (3) feet apart whenever possible.

What are the top symptoms of the Delta variant in children?

[Yale Medicine](#) reported that cough and loss of smell are less common with the Delta variant, while headache, sore throat, runny nose, and **fever** are among the top symptoms.

“It’s a little too soon to see high quality studies in the pediatric literature reflecting the current rise in the Delta variant,” said [Dr. Michael Grosso](#), the chief medical officer and chair of pediatrics at Northwell Health’s Huntington Hospital.

“The most common symptoms in children and teens seem to be fever and cough, with nasal symptoms, gastrointestinal symptoms, and rash happening much less often,” Grosso added.

Source: <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/what-does-the-delta-variant-look-like-in-kids#What-are-the-top-symptoms-of-the-Delta-variant-in-children?>



Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Transportation

All eligible students will be able to ride the school bus

- Depending on the bus, students may need to share seats with other students
- Parents can drive their child to school if they so wish

Transportation: *Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in the CDC's Order.*

Source: [Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs | CDC](#)



Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.



Students Entering Commack Schools

If you are not feeling well or have a temperature you must stay home!

- Upon arrival, all students must approach entrances while socially distancing, wearing a face covering and listening to the directions of Security and staff members
- As students enter the building, they will pass through a temperature scanner, one at a time, and hold their right wrist up to the sensor
- If you do not have a temperature, you will continue to your classroom
- Students with a temperature of 100.0°F or higher will be escorted to an Isolation Room (Isolation room is a negative air-pressure, separate location supervised by a nurse equipped with the necessary PPE)



Health and Safety

Focused on preventive actions in schools:

Health Hygiene



schools must instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene and provide necessary supplies.

Hand Sanitizing Stations



Cleaning and Disinfecting



- reviews cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the school in accordance with DOH recommendations.





Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Elementary School Programming

These things will take place as long as the State does not change regulations!

- All students will have live in-person PE, art, music, library, etc.
- Elementary students will have recess and other recreational activities.
- Field trips and other inter-school activities such as, second graders visiting Burr and Sawmill, will take place.

**Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.*

Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Secondary School Programming

These things will take place as long as the State does not change regulations!

- Middle and High School students will have every day live, in-person schedules.
- All students will have live, in-person PE, art, music, library, etc.
- Before and after school clubs and activities will run and there will be more opportunities than in years past.
- All College and Career level as well as elective classes will run

Updated Information:

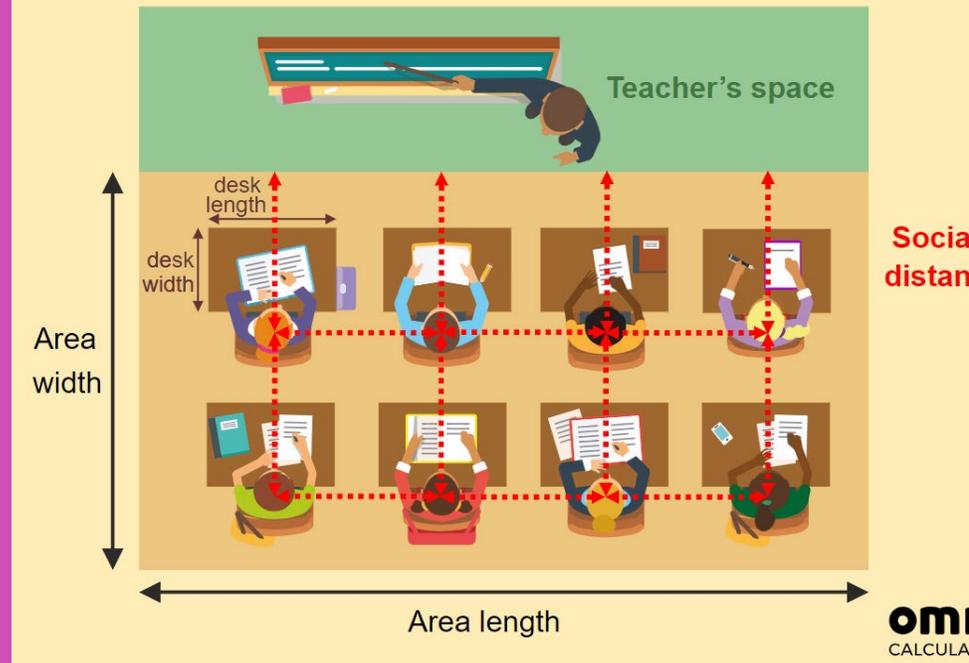
- Students in Grades 6 (**August 30**) and 9 (**August 30 & 31**) will have live, in-person orientation programs prior to the start of school, information was sent to parents regarding the details.
- All Elementary (**September 2**) and Secondary (**August 30 & 31**) students will have the opportunity to visit their respective school buildings prior to the opening of school.
- Athletics will run according to Section XI guidance and at this time we have been informed that we are moving forward with a regular fall season. High School Fall season begins on August 23, Middle School athletics begin September 9.
- BOCES and Wilson Tech programs are scheduled to run brick and mortar, in person pending the receipt and review of NYSED guidance.



***Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.**

Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Social Distancing in Classrooms

- Students will be in classrooms with desks three (3) feet apart
 - Sneeze guards available upon request



Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.

Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Social Distancing in Cafeterias

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria

We have developed social distancing plans for each school cafeteria to maximize social distancing as appropriate

Elementary Schools	Middle School
<p>50 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25 minutes cafeteria time• 25 minutes rec time <p>Students will wash/sanitize hands before eating</p> <p>Tables will be disinfected between seatings and social distancing will be maximized</p>	<p>41 Minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 21 minutes cafeteria time• 20 minutes rec time <p>Students will wash/sanitize hands before eating</p> <p>Tables will be disinfected between seatings and social distancing will be maximized</p>

Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.

Commack Plan for Re-Opening: Social Distancing in Cafeterias

Students will eat lunch in the cafeteria

We have developed social distancing plans for each school cafeteria to maximize social distancing as appropriate

High School

- 40 Minutes
- Students can wash/sanitize hands before eating
- Tables will be disinfected between seatings and social distancing will be maximized

In order to meet State guidance for social distancing in the Cafeteria in 21-22, the first lunch period in the High School will begin at 9:15 am (in 20-21, the first lunch period began at 9:30 am).

Note: Many students begin boarding buses for school as early as 6:30 am and last period ends at 2:25 pm

Note: We continue to monitor guidance from Health Officials and the Governor's Office for any changes that may impact our plans.

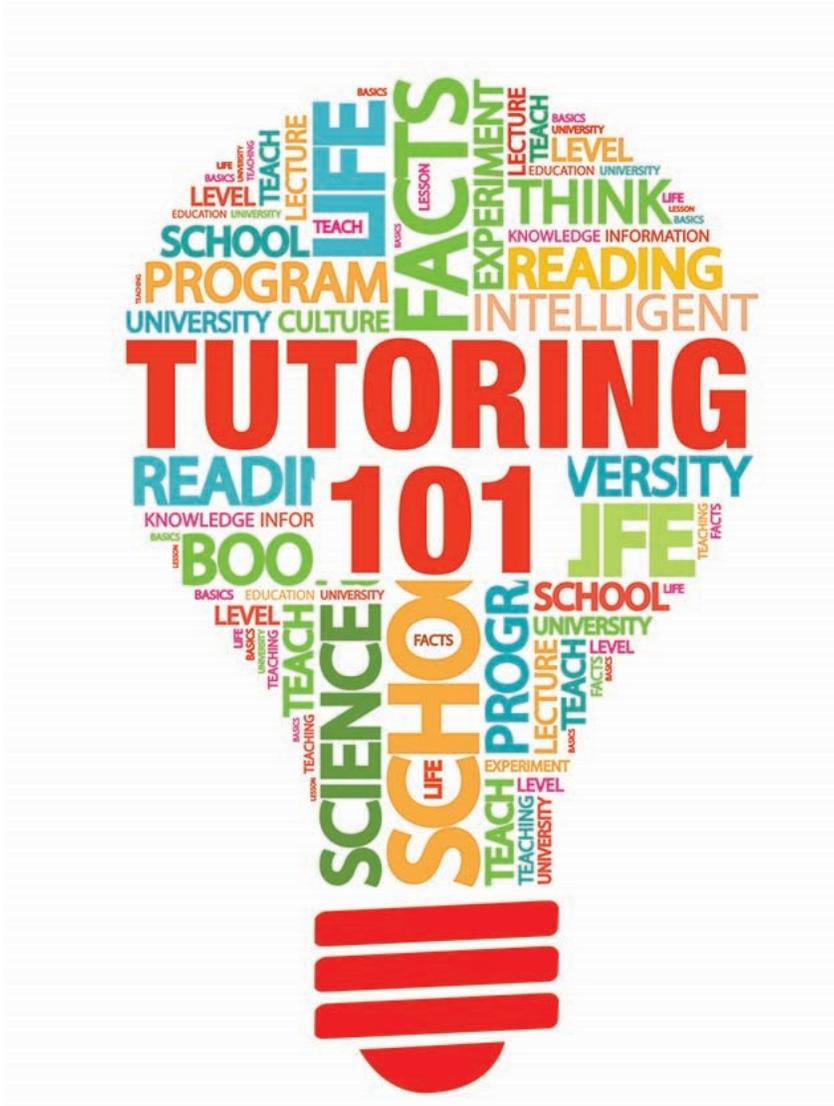
Emotional Support Programs 2021-22



For students in need during the 21-22 school year, please reach out to your school's mental health provider or counseling center for further details.

For 2021-2022, our mental health COVID response plan includes; expanding our mental health staff and offerings to students and families

- Teachers and staff will engage in professional development on; trauma-informed teaching and coping in a pandemic.
- We will expand our drug and alcohol prevention and intervention groups, emphasizing prevention and positive coping.
- We have identified curricula to support coping, and executive functioning skills.
- Commack will be providing additional counseling groups focused on: socialization, anxiety, transition, and executive functioning skills for students across all grade levels.
- We have hired additional mental health staff who's work will include providing counseling services before and after school for students.
- Parent Resource Center will be available to families and will provide parent support. If necessary, the Resource Center will connect parents with outside community resources.



Free Tutoring Programs 2021-2022

Elementary

- After school, synchronous, online tutoring based on student need and parent request

Secondary

- After school, synchronous, online tutoring based on student need and subject specific

Tutors will be grade and subject specific

Sessions after school will include evening sessions i.e., 6:00 pm sessions for students in athletics and club sessions

Access to online tutoring will be communicated to parents by individual buildings once the schedule is complete.

Utilizing Assessments to Support Student Growth

How will the district support students who are struggling in the Fall?

- We ran our Reconnecting and Discovery program where students received project-based academic programming along with collaborative art, music and movement programming to support re-acclimation to a school setting. Students also received academic programs and additional support where needed.
- For 21-22, teachers will utilize assessment data to determine whether there are any gaps and make adjustments if necessary.
- Further, in-school and after school extra support and tutoring will be available to all students.



Masking Protocols and Remote Instruction

Already Determined

Masking Protocols

- Recess/Physical Education: In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors (e.g., participating in outdoor play, recess, and physical education activities).
- Exceptions can be made for the following categories of people:
 - A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of reasonable accommodation with workers who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.
 - A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.

Yet to be Determined

Masking Protocols

- Classrooms
- Hallways

Remote Instructional Programs

- Full Remote

Options for the Board: Universal Masking

Students and Staff always wear face coverings when indoors with the following exceptions:

- A person who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Discuss the possibility of reasonable accommodation with workers who are unable to wear or have difficulty wearing certain types of masks because of a disability.
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the relevant workplace safety guidelines or federal regulations.
- Mask breaks as necessary while always maximizing social distancing (staggered masks breaks, every other student).

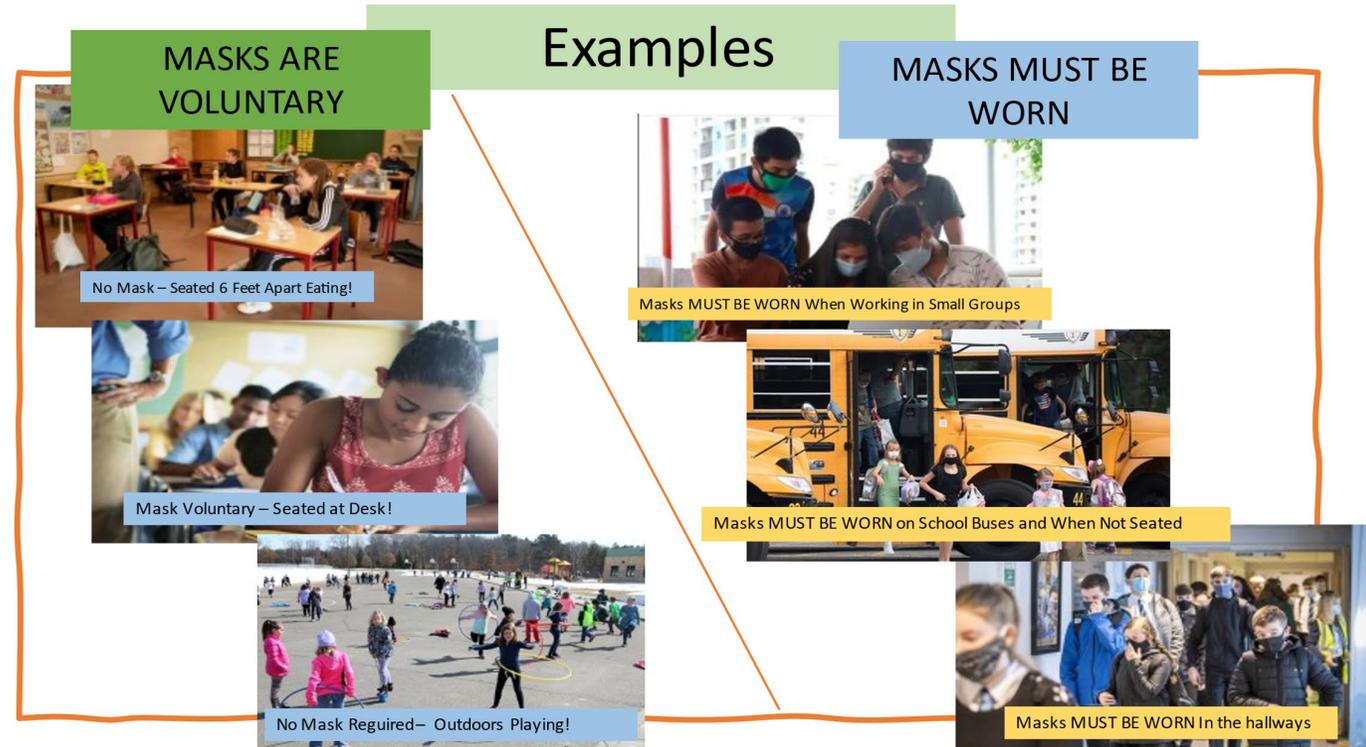
Options for the Board:

Voluntary Masking At All Times

- Students and staff wear masks voluntarily and as determined by the individual and/or their parent/guardian while in school.
 - Teachers may require students to wear face masks/face coverings when they are circulating the room checking on students or when students are working in groups or clusters.
- Face Masks/Face Coverings **MUST** be Worn
 - On School Buses.

Options for the Board: Voluntary Masking While At Desks

- While at desks and outdoors, face masks/face coverings will be voluntary for all students and staff; however
- Face Masks/Face Coverings **MUST** be Worn
 - On School Buses.
 - Anytime a student is up from their desk, in the classroom, halls, restroom, etc.
- Exceptions:
 - Anyone wishing to continue mask use may do so.
 - Teachers may require students to wear facemasks/face coverings when the teacher is circulating the room checking on students or when students are working in groups or clusters



Making Adjustments to Mask Protocols

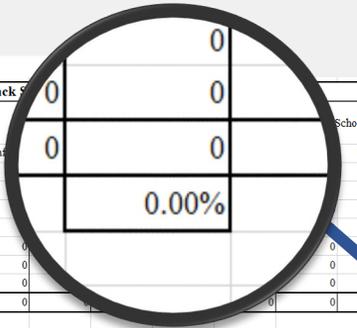
Calculating the Numbers: As we did last year, we will continue to track the number of positive cases officially reported to the district and calculate the percentage related to the total population (students and staff). Below are suggested figures that would trigger shifts in practices:

If Masks are not mandated:

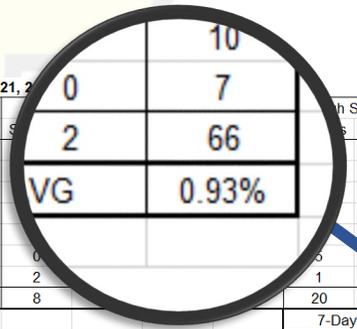
Positivity Rate: If the seven (7) day positivity rate average reaches **0.75%**, in any particular school or the District, masks may be universally required for the class, school or District depending on the numbers. The masks will be required for 10 days beyond the date the positivity rate returns to below 0.75%. *E.g., the High School has 2,000 total staff and students, 0.75% is 15. Rolling Hills has 225 total staff and students, 0.75% is 2 +/-.*

Quarantine Rate: If the seven (7) day quarantine rate average reaches **2%**. The masks will be required for 10 days beyond the date the quarantine rate returns to below 2%. *E.g., the High School has 2,000 total staff and students, 2% is 40. Rolling Hills has 225 total staff and students, 2% is 4-5.*

Number of Positive and Quarantine Cases Reported to Commack Schools													
	Indian Hollow		North Ridge		Rolling Hills		Wood Park		Burr		School Staff	Total Positive Cases	Total Students in Quarantine K-12
	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff			
6/4/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/5/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/6/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/7/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/8/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/9/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
#####	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Number of Positive Cases Reported: As of Jan. 8, 2021, 2020												
	Indian Hollow		North Ridge		Rolling Hills		Wood Park		Burr		School Staff	Total
	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff	Students	Staff		
1/2/2021	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	3	1	10
1/3/2021	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	9
1/4/2021	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
1/5/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	14
1/6/2021	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
1/7/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
1/8/2021	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Total	0	2	4	0	2	2	0	1	6	3	8	66



When do we shift to Remote Learning for All?

Remote for All:

Entire School Moves to Remote Instruction:
5% - 7-day average

Entire School Moves to Remote Instruction:
Staff Rate too High to Run School

Elementary Classroom Moves to Remote Instruction:
2+ cases in same 10-day period

We will track the local and regional rates and make decisions based on information specific to individual schools and circumstances

Standardization of Remote Learning

Schedule – will run as in school

- Attendance - mandatory
- Participation – counted
- Grading – grades will be assigned
- Assessments – students will be responsible for tests/quizzes, etc.
- Communication/Feedback
- Shift in Instructional Practice



SCDOH Close Contact and Quarantine Requirements

Close Contact Defined by the CDC

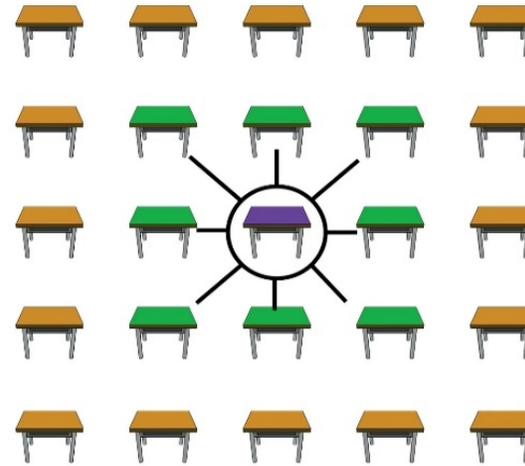
- Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more *over a 24-hour period* (for example, three individual 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).
- Exception: In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if **both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.**
 - This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.

Vaccinated Individuals: If **asymptomatic**, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). Note: vaccinated individuals if symptomatic demonstrating symptoms should stay home and should see their doctor before attending school.

Unvaccinated Individuals: Close contacts who are not fully vaccinated should be referred for COVID-19 testing. Regardless of test result, they should quarantine at home for 10 days after exposure and monitor symptoms for 14 days. Options to shorten quarantine provide acceptable alternatives of a 10-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine combined with testing and a negative test result.

Class 1 (with desks 3' apart)

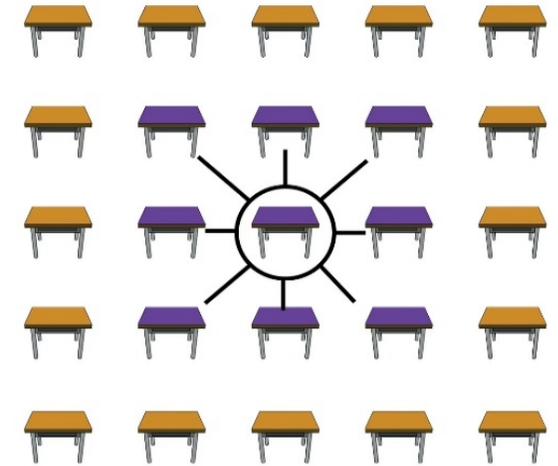
Students Masked and Student Tests Positive for COVID 19



If the circled student is **masked** and tests positive for COVID-19, **all exposed students with masks** will not need to quarantine. Students **without masks** exposed within 6ft, will need to quarantine.

Class 2 (with desks 3' apart)

Unmasked Student Tests Positive for COVID-19



If the circled student is **unmasked** and tests positive for COVID-19, **all students** with desks within six feet will need to quarantine for 10 days — regardless of mask status of the students within proximity.

1 case = 8 additional students with interrupted in-person instruction



Quarantine Instructional Models

Elementary School

School Day: Two (2) hours of remote instruction, which will consist of Math, ELA, Science and/or Social Studies. Assignments and classroom materials will be posted on Google Classroom.

Middle and High School

Screenshare and live audio from classrooms will be available for all students under official quarantine. Further, assignments and relevant information will be posted on Google Classroom. Teachers will be available during regular extra-help sessions and access to afterschool tutors will be available daily (subject dependent). Please note, tutors may not be the actual classroom teacher for some students.

Notes:

- *After school tutoring sessions will be available for all students (quarantined or not) to provide support with homework or tutoring services.*
- *Students who are absent for medical reasons other than COVID-19 may qualify for "Home Instruction."*



Virtual School Options for Medically Fragile Individuals

The plan in Commack is to have five days per week of in-person instruction for all students.

Commack is not offering a district-run remote learning option for students and all students who are not medically excused are expected to attend school and participate in-person daily.

In an effort to accommodate students who are medically unable to attend school in-person, Western Suffolk BOCES is planning to offer a Regional Virtual School beginning on September 9, 2021. We have been informed;

- This program will meet all New York State Learning Standards;
- Will provide students with the opportunity to meet all graduation requirements along with their grade-level peers;
- Instruction will be live (synchronous) each day and will be led by educators from within the region;
- Participating Districts will be required to offer some level of staffing and a support fee, each of which qualify for BOCES State aid at an approximate rate of 50% (approx. \$10K-\$15K per student).

Homebound

Homebound instruction is a form of tutorial services, provided to students who are unable to attend school because of physical, mental, or emotional illness or injury. Parents requesting these services must comply with local board of education requirements to provide medical verification of the student's inability to attend school for a time that exceeds the number of days required by the district (about 10 days).

Homeschool

Student is NOT enrolled in a public school system because the parent opted not to enroll in a public or a private school and instead will deliver all instruction at home in accordance with state homeschool guidelines.



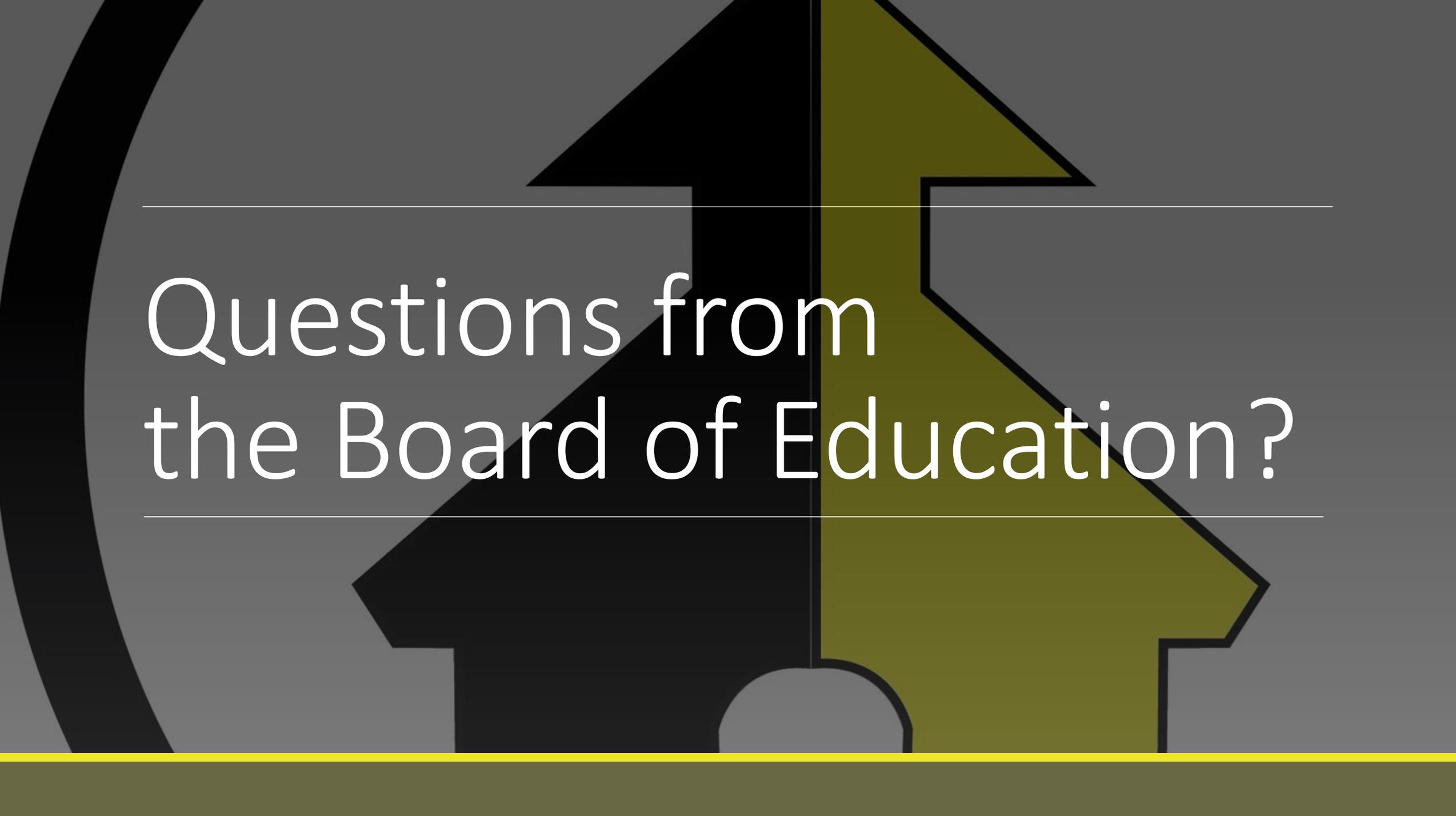
Entrance Criteria for Full Remote Program

The purpose of this school is to provide medically excused students with the opportunity to continue their education in a remote / virtual environment.

Parents must provide a written, doctor approved, medical exemption from regular school, for each child they wish to enroll in the BOCES virtual school.

Registration for the virtual school requires a full year commitment (September 2021 - June 2022) and students will not have the opportunity to transition back to their home school until the following school year (September 2022).





Questions from the Board of Education?

A stylized graphic featuring two upward-pointing arrows. The left arrow is black, and the right arrow is olive green. They are set against a grey background. On the left side, there is a white circle. At the bottom, there is a yellow horizontal bar.