

# Stay Open Plan

Presented to the GCSD Board of Education 8.19.21

# Goal

To bring our students back into the classroom safely while still providing a rich learning environment.

# PRIORITIES



To allow the Galway Central School District to safely open, our priorities are three-fold:

1. Students will participate in in-person learning at 100% capacity
2. Maintain a safe environment for all students and staff
3. Provide the maximum opportunities for students to participate in co-curricular, extracurricular, and athletic activities

# WHAT WE KNOW

Percentage of Vaccinated by Zip Code

CDC Community Spread Data - High, Substantial, Moderate, Low

CDC Recommendations

APA Recommendations

# Fully vaccinated 12-15 yr old by Zip Code

| Zip Code     | City                | % 12-15 series completed |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 12019        | Ballston Lake       | 76%                      |
| 12020        | Ballston Spa        | 46%                      |
| 12027        | Burnt Hills         | 44%                      |
| 12065        | Clifton Park        | 63%                      |
| <b>12074</b> | <b>Galway</b>       | <b>43%</b>               |
| 12118        | Mechanicville       | 60%                      |
| 12170        | Stillwater          | 26%                      |
| 12188        | Waterford           | 50%                      |
| 12803        | South Glens Falls   | 41%                      |
| 12822        | Corinth             | 44%                      |
| 12835        | Hadley              | 28%                      |
| <b>12850</b> | <b>Middle Grove</b> | <b>74%</b>               |
| 12859        | Porter Corners      | 24%                      |
| 12863        | Rock City Falls     | 88%                      |
| 12866        | Saratoga Springs    | 58%                      |
| 12871        | Schuylerville       | 43%                      |
| 12884        | Victory Mills       | 30%                      |

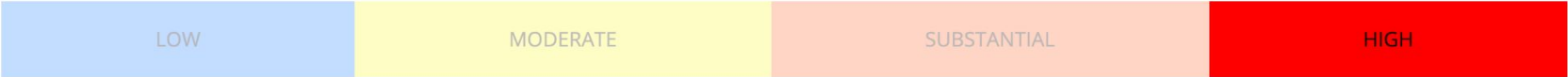
# Fully vaccinated 16-18 yr old by Zip Code

| Zip Code     | City                | % 16-18 series completed |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 12019        | Ballston Lake       | 99%                      |
| 12020        | Ballston Spa        | 55%                      |
| 12027        | Burnt Hills         | 81%                      |
| 12065        | Clifton Park        | 86%                      |
| <b>12074</b> | <b>Galway</b>       | <b>32%</b>               |
| 12118        | Mechanicville       | 87%                      |
| 12170        | Stillwater          | 53%                      |
| 12188        | Waterford           | 64%                      |
| 12803        | South Glens Falls   | 53%                      |
| 12822        | Corinth             | 38%                      |
| 12835        | Hadley              | 70%                      |
| <b>12850</b> | <b>Middle Grove</b> | <b>71%</b>               |
| 12859        | Porter Corners      | 35%                      |
| 12863        | Rock City Falls     | 37%                      |
| 12866        | Saratoga Springs    | 44%                      |
| 12871        | Schuylerville       | 36%                      |

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

| Indicator   | Low Transmission<br>Blue | Moderate<br>Transmission<br>Yellow | Substantial<br>Transmission<br>Orange | High Transmission<br>Red |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days <sup>2</sup>       | 0-9                      | 10-49                              | 50-99                                 | ≥100                     |
| Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days <sup>3</sup> | <5.0%                    | 5.0%-7.9%                          | 8.0%-9.9%                             | ≥10.0%                   |

Level of Community Transmission in Saratoga County, New York



Map Data:

Level of Community Transmission

▼

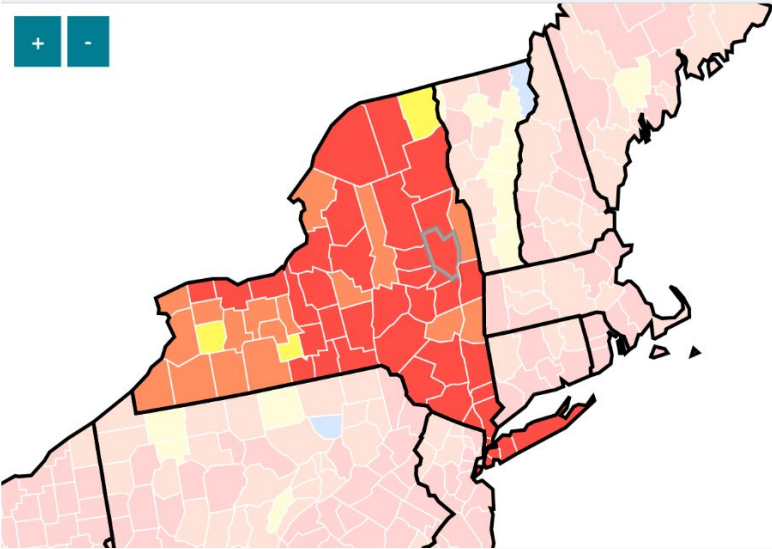
Level of Community Transmission

▼

Back to U.S. Map



Time Period: Tue Aug 10 2021 - Mon Aug 16 2021





# WHAT WE DON'T KNOW

1. How the rise of the Delta variant will affect the return to school. More children are becoming infected during the Delta variant surge.
2. Incoming Governor Kathy Hochul (Aug. 25) has made it clear that she believes masks are necessary in news media interviews. On **NBC's TODAY** last week she said, "I believe that there will end up being mask mandates. I just don't have the authority at this moment."
3. Quarantine/close contact rules currently being developed by the DOH. How does masking factor in?
4. Liability of District when not following CDC Guidelines.

# ATTENDANCE

All students in the GCSD are expected to attend class on campus every day.

GCSD students and staff who are not able to attend school due to: 1) specific medical need; or 2) a DOH assigned quarantine should contact their school nurse or principal.

Remote learning/tutors will only be provided if a student is mandatory quarantined by the Saratoga County Department of Health.

# DAILY SCREENING FOR STUDENTS, STAFF AND VISITORS

The GCSD staff will be required to complete a daily health screening.

GCSD will send weekly communication to parents/guardians to remind them to monitor and check their child/children for COVID-19 symptoms and keep their child/children home when sick, and seek testing where appropriate.

GCSD will take temperature checks of all students entering the building.

Visitors to GCSD will be required to sign in, complete an attestation, and do a temperature check prior to entering the building.

# MASKS

During the past academic year, mask wearing was shown to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in schools.

Do not disrupt the school day in the way other measures do, such as cohorting and hybrid schedules.

Two options - Universal or Level of Community Transmission

Indoors - Masks are required indoors when students are present.

1. Masks may be removed during meals when eating.

Outdoors - In general, students and staff do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.

**Masks will be required based on the rates of Community Transmission or Low, Moderate, Substantial and High. These protocols also apply to extracurricular activities, recess, physical education classes, athletics and spectators at athletic events.**

# MASKING BY COMMUNITY LEVEL OF TRANSMISSION

**Low** - No masks are required inside or outside regardless of vaccination status.

**Moderate** - During transition times students and staff will wear masks. (could change to recommended)

1. Masks encouraged inside for unvaccinated students and staff.

**Substantial** - During transition times students and staff will wear masks.

1. Masks required inside for all students and staff.
2. Masks not required outside for vaccinated individuals, encouraged for unvaccinated individuals.

**High** - Universal masking regardless of vaccinated status. Exception: vaccinated students participating in outdoor athletic activities.

# PHYSICAL DISTANCING

As a baseline, GCSD will maintain three feet of physical distance between students when possible.

1. Seating charts will be maintained in classrooms to assist with contact tracing.



# TRANSPORTATION

Masks are required by all drivers and passengers at all times.

1. Seating charts will be maintained for each bus.
2. Windows/vents will be open to the extent possible.
3. High touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected between bus runs.

# USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

1. No indoor use of school facilities by outside groups during county designation of CDC high and substantial community transmission.
2. Outdoor use of facilities by outside groups will be permitted.

# PARENT/GUARDIAN VISITATION

Parents/Guardians will be allowed in the building if masked (regardless of vaccination status).

# HANDWASHING AND RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

1. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
2. Reminders to wash hands frequently and assist young children with handwashing.
3. Supply and use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer). Hand sanitizers will be stored up, away, and out of sight of young children and used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

# PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

GCSD will provide appropriate PPE to staff and students as appropriate, i.e., masks, gowns, gloves, hand-sanitizer, etc.

1. GCSD will maintain an appropriate supply of PPE.

# ROUTINE SCREENING

In an effort to mitigate potential cases of COVID-19, GCSD intends to work with the Saratoga County Department of Health to implement occasional screening testing. Parental or staff member consent will be necessary for individuals to participate in the testing.

|                                   | Low Transmission <sup>1</sup><br>Blue   | Moderate Transmission<br>Yellow   | Substantial Transmission<br>Orange | High Transmission<br>Red |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Students                          | Do not need to screen students.   | Offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.   |                                    |                          |
| Teachers and staff                | Offer screening testing for teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week.   |   |                                    |                          |
| High risk sports and activities   | Recommend screening testing for high-risk sports <sup>2</sup> and extracurricular activities <sup>3</sup> at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated. |   |                                    |                          |
| Low- and intermediate-risk sports | Do not need to screen students participating in low- and intermediate-risk sports. <sup>2</sup>   | Recommend screening testing for low- and intermediate-risk sports at least once per week for participants who are not fully vaccinated. |                                    |                          |

## SYMPTOMATIC SCREENING

In an effort to mitigate potential cases of COVID-19, Galway CSD intends to implement the following protocols for the testing of symptomatic students and staff:

1. Students or staff members who are symptomatic will be sent to the nurses office for evaluation.

High risk symptoms include fever over 100.4, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell/taste.

2. The Galway CSD will use Quadrant Biosciences COVID-19 saliva tests for symptomatic students.

Tests come back within 24 hours.

Parents must consent to testing of students at school.

Should a parent or staff member not agree to the diagnostic testing, the individual will be allowed to return to school/work following an official notification of a negative test or upon the end of a quarantine period as determined by the Saratoga County Department of Health.



# GCSD NURSE'S COVID-19 PROTOCOL

The Galway CSD Nursing Staff will send home a student and perform a diagnostic test (with parent approval) when a student exhibits any of the following symptoms:

Fever over 100.4

Vomiting or diarrhea

Loss of smell or taste

# HEATING, VENTILATION AND FILTRATION

## 1. OUTDOOR AIR VENTILATION

The Galway Central School District has increased outdoor air ventilation rates well above minimum code requirements, especially in outdoor air temperature conditions above freezing. Once freezing temperatures are approached, the district will evaluate what the maximum outdoor air rate the individual system can handle while still meeting heating demands and avoid potential coil freezing conditions. Outside air-intakes are located directly behind each heating unit in all classrooms.

## 2. FILTRATION

TBS, as part of their contract, changes district filters every six months. Currently our filters are rated from MERV 13 to MERV 14. The HVAC system, the rooftop units, filters are rated MERV 13 and 14.

## DAILY CLEANING AND DISINFECTING STRATEGIES

The district Operations and Maintenance Staff will continue regular cleaning and disinfection daily or more frequently, as needed, along with frequent cleaning and disinfection of shared objects and surfaces, as well as high transit areas, such as restrooms and common areas.

1. High touch surfaces will be cleaned several times a day.
2. Areas where symptomatic/positive cases are presumed will be disinfected following occupancy.
3. Classrooms will be provided with additional cleaning/disinfecting supplies for staff use during the day.
4. Shared equipment will be cleaned between use.

# ADDITIONAL MITIGATION STRATEGIES

## **Encourage Vaccinations**

CDC recommends that all teachers, staff and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible.

## Next Steps

Post on our District Website

Send a School Messenger to our School Families

Revise our Stay Open Plan to align with new CDC, DOH, or SED guidance