



## Returning to School in Livingston County – 2021 COVID-19 Edition

Release Date: July 21, 2021

School leaders in Livingston County have worked collaboratively with the Livingston County Health Department to create a simple plan for returning to school this year that recognizes the impact COVID-19 has had on our community. As the school year gets underway, the number of COVID-19 cases in our communities and guidance provided by the Livingston County Health Department will continue to inform our practices.

There may be changes to this plan as different authoritative organizations establish new enforceable mandates or as laws change through the legislative process. When we confront such changes, we will try to communicate clearly and quickly and minimize disruption to our students, their families, and our staff while also achieving consistency across all schools in Livingston County.

Having schools open for in-person learning is extremely important to the more than 28,000 students in Livingston County. A complete move to remote learning is only expected this year when mandated, or a significant number of student or staff absences are attributable to COVID-19.

The key strategy for keeping in-person learning available in Livingston County is through achieving high levels of COVID-19 vaccination within our community. As education leaders, we strongly recommend that all eligible students, teachers, staff, and household members get the COVID-19 vaccination as soon as possible when supported by their medical advisor.

Key Return to School Components:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Primary Plan</b>
<b>Mask Use</b>	Not required (*). The voluntary wearing of masks is encouraged.
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	Not required.
<b>COVID-19 Screening / Testing</b>	Not required.
<b>Ventilation</b>	Ventilation systems in buildings will continue to operate to original design specifications. On school buses, windows may be opened slightly when safe and practicable.
<b>Staying home when sick/getting tested</b>	Students or staff with symptoms of infectious illness such as COVID-19 should stay home.
<b>Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b>	In collaboration with the Livingston County Health Department schools will continue to do contact tracing and quarantine students exposed to COVID-19 in a school setting when necessary.
<b>Cleaning &amp; Disinfection</b>	Standard daily cleaning protocols using products approved by the CDC to be effective against the COVID-19 virus.

*(\*) The current CDC order requiring masks for anyone riding a school bus is expected to be canceled prior to the start of school.*