

ND-BG Covid-19 FAQ for the 2021-22 School Year

This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page addresses common questions and concerns related to the opening of schools in September 2021.

What is the current level of community transmission in our area today?

The level of community transmission in Schenectady County is currently High, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Health and safety protocols are based on this CDC transmission level.

Where and how will students learn during the 2021-22 school year?

All students at ND-BG will return to in-person learning five days per week.

Is there a fully virtual learning option for those who want it?

Only students who are deemed medically vulnerable with sufficient medical documentation from a healthcare provider or medical professional are eligible to participate in a fully virtual learning program offered through Catholic Virtual. Remote learning programs will not be taught by ND-BG faculty and course options may be limited at the 7-12 level.

How will instruction take place if the school temporary closes due to Covid-19?

We will have plans in place to shift to fully remote learning if a complete closure of our school buildings is needed due to COVID-related issues. Live virtual classes for all students would take place through the Microsoft Teams application.

What safety precautions and mitigation strategies will be implemented?

The CDC identifies multiple prevention strategies in a layered approach to promote safer in-person learning and care. This is particularly significant due to the fact that students under age 12 cannot receive a vaccine at this time. These strategies include but are not limited to:

- Consistent and correct use of masks indoors.
- Physical distancing (3ft)
- Improving ventilation by leaving classroom doors and windows open
- Temperature screenings
- Encouraging Proper hand hygiene – Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Regular cleaning and disinfecting of schools and buses

Will students and staff be required to wear masks?

Yes. As mandated by the NYS Department of Health there will be universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors inside schools, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels. Like last year, face masks over the nose and mouth will be required indoors, when entering/exiting the school, riding school buses and walking in the hallways. There will be “mask breaks” with appropriate physical distancing during the school day.

Will there be daily temperature screening?

Yes. Students and staff will undergo a daily temperature screening. Students who have a fever of 100.0°F or higher will need to be picked up and seen by a healthcare provider. The daily Covid-19 Attestation that needed to be filled out last school year is not required at this time.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The primary symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, coughing, and new loss of taste or smell. Other symptoms may include shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea. Do not report to school if you have new or worsening symptoms.

If a student or staff member does not feel well, what should they do?

Anyone who is experiencing new or worsening symptoms should not come to school. Students and staff members who do not feel well at school should go to the nurse's office. The student/staff members will need to leave school and follow-up with their healthcare provider.

What do students or staff members need to return to school/work after experiencing COVID-like symptoms?

In order to return to school/work after COVID-like symptoms, students or staff members will need either a negative Covid-19 PCR diagnostic result **or** an alternative medical diagnosis from a health care provider and resolution of symptoms. Home rapid test results are not acceptable. In the event a student or staff members is COVID positive, they can return to work/school when the following take place: 10 days after the initial onset of symptoms and fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.

Will notification be provided if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Yes. Similar to last year, when the school is notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19, notification will be made to all families and staff members about the positive case.

How will contact tracing and quarantining be handled?

ND-BG will follow all contact tracing and quarantine protocols required by the Schenectady County Department of Health. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine as long as they do not display symptoms and should get tested 3-5 days after the exposure and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until a negative test result. Unvaccinated contacts will need to quarantine for 10 days from the date of exposure, based on local public health guidelines.

Does a fully vaccinated person need to quarantine if they are exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19?

No, if you are fully vaccinated and exposed to a COVID-positive individual, you do not need to quarantine unless you develop symptoms. You should monitor your health closely and if you develop any symptoms, stay home from school, and contact your healthcare provider.

It is recommended that vaccinated people be tested 3-5 days after an exposure and continue masking indoors for 14 days or until they received a negative diagnostic result.

Will there be remote learning for students on who are sick or miss school due to an appointment?

No. When students miss school because they are sick or because they have an appointment, they will not receive livestream instruction. Students who are ill should take the time to rest and recover so that they can return to school as soon as possible. In these situations, it will be very important that families stay in regular communication with the school. Once a student has returned to school their teachers will work with them to help to them catch back up on the assignments that they missed.

How will learning take place when a student is put on quarantine?

If a student is put on quarantine by the Schenectady County Department of Health the administration and faculty will put together an individualized learning plan to ensure that the student's learning needs are met.