



Newcomb Central School District

Christian M. Fisher, Superintendent of Schools

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| Secretary to Superintendent Pamela Bush | School District Clerk Melissa Yandon | School District Treasurer Colleen Sage |
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April 16, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

On April 9th, the New York State Department of Health issued interim/revised Guidance for In-person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 schools. The purpose of this guidance is to facilitate the transition of school districts statewide to full in-person learning. Since then we have been in communication with our education and health department partners to discuss and determine locally appropriate decisions and implementation.

One message was loud and clear. Masks are to be worn AT ALL TIMES, except for meals, by staff, students, and visitors. Therefore we are changing our School Plan to reflect this. We ask that you assist us in this effort with consistent messaging at home. There will no longer be any 5-minute mask breaks for each class period. Masks should consist of at least 2 layers of breathable fabric, and should cover both the nose and mouth. They should fit well so that they do not slide off the nose, and do not gape.

As you probably are aware, there have been some changes allowing for 3 foot versus 6 foot social distancing. However the protocols for quarantine have NOT changed. In other words, if someone has been within 6 feet of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 for more than 10 minutes, they need to be quarantined. Therefore reducing to 3 feet of social distance can significantly increase the number of people who would have to quarantine if there was a positive case. In addition there are **exceptions** where a minimum of **6 feet must** still be maintained. These include:

- 6 ft is always required between adults and between students and adults.
- 6 ft is required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or at any time a mask is removed.
- Individuals participating in activities that require voice projection (eg. singing) or playing a wind instrument must be 6 ft. apart, and there must be 6 ft. between the performers and audience.
- 6 ft must be maintained in common areas such as lobbies, hallways, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and atrium.
- 6 ft must be maintained in all directions between individuals while engaging in aerobic activity resulting in heavy breathing (eg. gym class)

Given that we have the capacity to accommodate all our students as full-time in-person learners with our current 6 foot social distancing, and we have not had to close due to any COVID-19 related incident, we feel it prudent to continue our existing distancing protocols.

Finally, we would like to inform you that anyone 16 years and older is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. The only vaccine that can be administered to 16 to 18 year olds is the Pfizer brand, which is available at state-run vaccination sites. Currently there is such a site at the Aviation Mall in Glens Falls. You can make an appointment by visiting:

<https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov>

As always, please feel free to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Christian Fisher
Superintendent of Schools