



## **Horseheads Central School District**

### ***Revising the Current Educational Plan***

On March 19, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) released [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#). The recommendations in this document include the following:

- Revises physical distancing recommendations to reflect at least three feet between students in classrooms and provides clearer guidance when a greater distance (such as six feet) is recommended.
- Clarifies that ventilation is a component of strategies to clean and maintain healthy facilities.
- Removes recommendation for physical barriers.
- Clarifies the role of community transmission levels in decision-making.
- Adds guidance on interventions when clusters occur.

In addition, these “Key Points” are outlined by the CDC:

- Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have strictly implemented prevention strategies have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.
- CDC’s K-12 operational strategy presents a pathway for schools to provide in-person instruction safely through consistent use of prevention strategies, including universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- All schools should implement and layer prevention strategies and should prioritize universal and correct use of masks and physical distancing.
- Testing to identify individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination for teachers and staff provide additional layers of COVID-19 protection in schools.

The district continues to work closely with the Chemung County Health Department. While the data show that the COVID virus is lessening its impact, we remain in a global pandemic. We must continue to follow proven safety measures including masking, hand-washing, and safe distancing so that we can keep our schools open.

**The district is awaiting official guidelines from New York State based on the document released by the CDC. In preparation, key facets of work are being addressed, as described in the following pages.**

# ***Potential Changes to HCSD Educational Plan PK-12***

*Dependent upon official guidelines from New York State*

## **Four Day In-Person Learning Plan:**

With a potential movement to three-foot distancing, students currently in the hybrid model would attend school in person four days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday). If NYS provides clear guidelines to meet CDC guidance, the district hopes to accomplish this shift to four days of in-person instruction a week after the updated guidelines are released. Depending on the timing of notification and district situation, the timeline may be adjusted.

Our 100% remote students will continue to attend their classes online according to their schedules, whether it be the teacher schedule established in grades PK-6 or the student's schedule in grades 7-12. Many of these students' families committed to 100% remote learning at the mid-semester shift for the remainder of the year. Using the recent survey results, buildings at all levels will reach out to the 100% remote families that have expressed interest in returning to in-person instruction. If the district is able to accommodate, there may be students who will be able to attend in-person. This is pending guidelines for physical distancing, room capacities, and transportation requests. A process will be developed to facilitate any possible transitions for 100% remote learning to four day in-person learning once guidelines are established.

We continue to reflect upon best practices in age-appropriate instruction in both the in-person and remote learning environments. The district has worked to address the needs of both in-person learners and those on remote instruction under the current NYS guidelines.

## **Wednesday Educational Plan:**

### ***Elementary and Intermediate Schools (Grades PK-6)***

On Wednesdays, the elementary schools will continue their morning meeting with a focus on social-emotional learning and our building-wide assemblies, which students are expected to attend. Current instructional blocks with small groups, individual students, and entire classes, will be a continued expectation for student engagement on Wednesdays. The district is in the process of discussing our Wednesday approach, ensuring we are meeting the needs of our 100% remote students.

### ***Middle School (Grades 7-8)***

On Wednesdays, all students will attend class remotely on the Middle School's current abbreviated schedule. Students are expected to attend the live stream instruction during their scheduled class time. Students needing extra assistance should also meet with their teachers during their afternoon office hours. This Wednesday schedule will continue as of April 14, 2021 regardless of whether the state changes distancing requirements.

### ***High School (Grades 9-12)***

On Wednesdays, all students will attend class remotely according to their daily class schedule. Students are expected to attend the live stream instruction during their scheduled class time. Students needing extra assistance should meet with their teachers during available periods throughout the week. The return to the Wednesday remote is to ensure we are giving adequate time to our 100% remote learners. It also provides uniformity across the district, allowing flexibility in meeting the needs of all students and those who require food delivery. If the state does not provide changes to the distancing requirements as of April 14, 2021, the High School will continue the three-day in-person/two-day remote rotations until changes in distancing are authorized by the state.

## **Operational Considerations/Challenges:**

### ***Cafeteria***

The CDC's guidance removes the recommendation for physical barriers. It also maintains current distancing when unmasked. Therefore, there will be capacity challenges in our cafeterias given the increased number of students in our schools four days a week and not having the space for them to eat six feet apart. Logistically, this same situation applies to snack breaks in our elementary grades. Again, adjustments will need to be made pending final state guidance.

### ***Transportation***

Student transportation may also be affected by the increase in students/transportation requests and depending on final state guidance for transportation. The CDC's guidance offers some additional flexibility as to distancing requirements on school transportation. If NYS guidelines remain the same and do not allow for flexibility, our busses cannot increase their ridership, therefore making it challenging to pick up and drop off students in a timely manner. In addition to bussing, parent drop-off and pick-up will see an increase in traffic at our buildings as we maintain our temperature check protocol.

### ***Seating***

To establish the anticipated distancing requirements, the district has had to seek out additional desks to replace tables that are not appropriately sized to distance students in cafeterias and classrooms. This is especially true at our elementary schools where flexible seating has been implemented as a best practice. It is expected that we will receive the appropriately sized furniture (individual desks) in early April to reset our elementary classrooms for new distancing requirements.

The remainder of the CDC guidance addresses factors that we currently have in place and can be adjusted if required (e.g., filtration, ventilation, air flow, testing, disinfecting, etc.)

## **Home School and Private School Students:**

Any district home school or private school students who wish to return to the district will be re-enrolled and placed in the 100% remote cohort for the remainder of the year. These students will remain in the remote cohort unless the district has sufficient capacity after all current remote students who wish to move to in-person learning have been addressed. Home school and private school families would then have the opportunity to move to in-person learning on a first-come basis, based on the date that they re-enrolled in the district.