



Spencer-Van Etten Central School District

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 9/9/2021

Communication: General Information

- **What is S-VE's learning plan for 2021-22?**
S-VE will be open for in-person learning 5 days a week.
- **Do parents still have a Distance Learning Option?**
The district will work formulate an off-site distance learning option for those approved by our school physician.

Health and Safety

- **Will students be required to wear masks in school?**
Yes. Our policy is to follow the CDC recommendation for masks. 2-ply cloth face coverings that completely cover your nose and mouth and fit snugly but comfortably against the sides of your face without gaps. Students may wear their own cloth mask.
Indoors: Universal indoor masking for all students, staff, teachers, and visitors regardless of vaccination status.
Outdoors: People who are not fully vaccinated should wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people.
Transportation: Masks are required while on buses regardless of vaccination status.
Meals: Masks may be removed while eating and socially distanced.
Band/Chorus: Masks may be removed while playing an instrument or singing during chorus. Social distancing will be implemented.
- **Will masks be required to be on while students are sitting at their desks?**
Yes.
- **How can we ensure that students wear masks?**
Trainings will be provided to staff, students and families on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings. We will continue to stay current with the most recent guidance and let staff, students and families know of any updates.
- **How will school staff handle situations when students come close together or remove their masks?**
We will use such teachable moments to remind and retrain students on the current mandates. Insubordination will be handled according to the Code of Conduct.
- **Will the district conduct health screenings of students and staff?**
Regular health screenings are no longer required. Cayuga Health continues to offer a Virtual Care Option for COVID related concerns.
- **Will staff be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE)?**
Yes, as per the Governor's order, unless an individual is declared medically unable by our school physician.
- **Will personnel be trained to look for signs of illness in students and staff?**
Yes.
- **What if a student or employee develops symptoms suggestive of COVID during the school day?**
Students or staff who show symptoms suggestive to COVID during the school day will be evaluated by the school nurse and sent home immediately.

Feel free to reach out by email at sveinfo@svecsd.org with any further questions you may have.

- **What if a student or employee tests positive for COVID?**
The Superintendent or designee shall immediately notify a local public health agency of any disease reportable under the public health law. The school nurse may make such evaluations of teachers and any other school employees, deemed necessary to protect the health of the students and staff.
- **What happens if there is a spike in COVID cases in our community? Do you have plans in place for closure?**
Should we be forced to close, we will transition to remote instruction for the duration of the closure.
- **What are the steps for a child to return to school after an illness? Will they need to get tested for COVID?**
The ill student(s) can return to school and end isolation once the following are met: 10 days out from the start of the symptoms, AND fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, AND symptoms have improved. If no test is performed, individual is presumed positive. Members of the ill student(s)' household and staff who had close contact with the student are advised to quarantine according to local health department requirements.
- **If a child misplaces their mask while at school, do you give them another mask, or should parents send them with extras?**
If a child is without a mask, a disposable mask will be issued. We encourage families to have more than one mask on hand per child.
- **Will my child be required to perform a COVID test?**
Should the district enter into a moderate, substantial or high transmission zone, the district will offer screening testing for students who are not fully vaccinated at least once per week. Families must provide parent permission for their child to be tested. The actual test performed will be contingent on test availability. More information will be provided should this happen.

Before and After Care

- **Will children be able to stay for afterschool programs?**
The PAVE program and after school activities and academic help with teacher permission are currently available.

Facilities

- **What is the district's cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing protocols?**
The S-VE School District will clean and disinfect its educational programs following CDC guidance.

Visitors

- **Will visitors be allowed in the building?**
Access to the buildings will be limited to essential visitors. All visitors will follow the necessary protocols and practices in place to ensure the safety of our staff and students. If COVID cases increase, more preventative strategies may be put in place which could reduce access. All others will be met at the entrance or visitors may call the main office upon arrival and a staff member will provide assistance.

Signage

- **How can we ensure that students stay physically/socially distanced in school?**
Signage will be posted in the following areas: entrances, hallways, restrooms, cafeteria or other dining areas, classrooms, administrative offices, auditorium and janitorial staff areas.

Food Service

- **Where will students eat school meals?**
Students will eat in the cafeteria or alternate location as necessary while social distancing.

Transportation

- **Will students be required to wear masks on the bus?**
Yes. Students who are medically and physically able are required to wear masks at all times when on the bus.

Teaching and Learning

- **What are the expectations for Distance Learning when in quarantine?**
Students will learn either asynchronously or synchronously from their teacher while in quarantine.

Extra-Curricular Activities

- **Will children be able to stay after school for any activities, such as PAVE?**
PAVE is currently available to students in grades 3-8.