



Argyle Central School

COVID Response/Opening Plan 2021-22

Approved by BOE on August 12, 2021

Argyle CSD COVID Response/Opening Plan Guiding Principle:

*Our students need to be in school and learning in an environment that is as safe as we are able to make it **for everyone**.*

Primary Goals:

- Return all PreK-Grade 12 Argyle CSD students to in-person instruction
 - Provide a safe learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff
 - Offer all extra-curricular, music, and athletic activities and programs for our students.
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The District's COVID Response/Opening plan is a fluid document that is subject to change based on a variety of factors, including recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), New York State Education Department (NYSED), New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), Washington County DOH, Needham Risk Management, the District's Risk Management and Safety Specialist, Dr. Robert Nielsen, District physician, and Washington County's COVID-19 Community Transmission Rate.*

*CDC Levels of Community Transmission

Community Transmission Rates are measured by the CDC's four-category system of *low*, *moderate*, *substantial*, and *high*. [Click here](#) for the CDC COVID-19 data tracker. Washington County's Community Transmission Rate is currently **substantial** (83.33 per 100k as of Aug. 11, 2021).

Indicator - If the two indicators suggest different transmission levels, the higher level is selected	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days	0-9.99	10-49.99	50-99.99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs ¹ that are positive during the past 7 days	0-4.99%	5-7.99%	8-9.99%	≥10.0%

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COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Vaccination

- The CDC recommends that all faculty, staff, and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Argyle CSD will work with WCDOH to maximize vaccination opportunities for eligible students and staff, including holding voluntary vaccination clinics at ACSD and notifying families, faculty, and staff of upcoming vaccination clinics in the area.

¹ "Nucleic Acid Amplification Tests (NAATs) | CDC."
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/naats.html>. Accessed 10 Aug. 2021.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies (cont)

Masking*

Indoors:

- Masks are required to be worn by everyone in the building when students are present, regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks may be removed during meals and during mask breaks.

Outdoors:

- Masks do not need to be worn when outdoors.

Transportation:

- Masks are required to be worn on school buses at all times and regardless of vaccination status.

***Masking requirements will be revisited whenever there is a change in the Washington County Community Transmission Rate.**

Physical Distancing

- At a minimum, Argyle CSD will maintain three (3) feet of physical distancing between students where possible.
- Seating charts will be maintained in classrooms to assist with contact tracing.
- Faculty, staff, and students will wear masks while in transit and when appropriate physical distance cannot be maintained.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies (cont)

Daily Health Screenings for Students, Staff, and Visitors

- All students will be screened via a daily temperature check prior to entering the school building.
- Argyle CSD will send regular communications/reminders to parents/guardians reminding them to monitor and check their child/children for COVID-19 symptoms, to keep their child/children home when symptomatic and/or sick, and to seek testing when appropriate.
- All staff will be required to complete and submit a digital daily health screening.
- Visitors to Argyle CSD will be limited to only when required and will be required to sign in, complete an attestation, and participate in a temperature screening upon arrival.

Ventilation

Ventilation throughout the building will be increased to the greatest extent possible by:

- Increasing flow of outdoor air.
- Opening windows (when outdoor air temperatures allow) and using fans when possible to increase air flow.
- Ensuring air filters are sized, installed, and replaced according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Cleaning/Disinfection

- The building will be sanitized on a daily basis.
- High-touch surfaces will be sanitized and disinfected on a regular and scheduled basis.
- Areas where symptomatic/positive cases are presumed will be sanitized and disinfected following occupancy.

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies (cont)

Handwashing/Hand Sanitation

- Argyle CSD will teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20-seconds.
- Faculty, staff, and students will be reminded to wash hands frequently.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building.

Routine Screening/Testing

- Washington County is developing a potential screening plan – not anticipated to be completed until mid-to-late September.
- Voluntary participation.
- More information when available.

County-Required Quarantines

Mandatory quarantines are issued by Washington County Public Health (**not** Argyle CSD).

- In the case of an exposure (per Washington County Public Health):
 - Fully vaccinated individuals, if asymptomatic, will not be required to quarantine.
 - Unvaccinated Individuals
 - Separated by 3ft or more:
 - If properly masked: No quarantine required
 - If not masked (*i.e. during meal time*): County-required quarantine

In-School Attendance/Transportation/Activities

- All students grades Pre-K-12 are expected to attend school in-person everyday.
 - Remote instruction will not be an option, except in limited circumstances (such as whole class or large-scale quarantine or quarantine resulting in staff shortage).
 - Classroom setup and student schedules* will be very similar to pre pandemic years*.
 - Locker use info for Jr/Sr High School students will be shared by Mrs. Passaro.
 - Quarantining of symptomatic faculty/students/staff will still occur; vaccination status, proper and consistent masking, and physical distancing will reduce this need. Program options for quarantined students are still being developed.
 - Symptomatic students, faculty, and staff will be sent home and could require a negative COVID test before returning to school.
- * class/section sizes have been reduced to allow for appropriate physical distancing requirements.*

Cafeteria

- The primary eating location will be the cafeteria, with overflow in the gymnasium, fishbowl, or other identified location.
- Students will be separated by, at a minimum, three (3) feet while eating (more when possible).

Transportation

- Busses will return to full capacity seating with physical distancing maximized to the extent possible.
- Masks are required on buses by federal mandate for all students and staff (regardless of vaccination status).
- Windows/vents will be open (weather/temperature permitting and to the extent possible).
- All seats will be assigned and siblings will sit together when possible.
- High touch surfaces will be cleaned/disinfected on a regular basis.
- Bus changes are not able to be accommodated.
- To reduce the population on our busses, **Parents/Guardians who are able to provide transportation to and/or from school are encouraged to do so.**

Athletics

- Outdoor sports do not require masking.
- Inside sports require masking.
- Spectators for indoor sports could be limited and will be required to mask and observe 3-feet physical distancing.

Extracurricular Clubs/Activities

- Extra-curricular clubs will be held.
- Field-trips will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- 9th period and late busses will be offered on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays.

Resources:

[CDC Guidance](#)

[AAP Guidance](#)

[US Department of Education Guidance](#)