

Presentation to the Board of Education
Reopening Schools

2021-22

Reassessing the 20-21 Reopening Plan

Review 20-21 Health and Safety Protocols

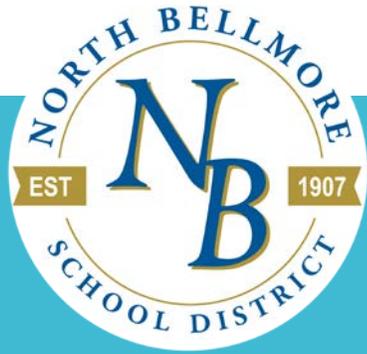
Results: Parent Health and Safety Survey August 21

Results: Staff Health and Safety Survey August 21

Considerations for the BOE for Opening School

August 12, 2021





Timeline of Events: Guidance for Schools

July 30: Still Awaiting NYS Guidance; Education Dept. Tells Schools to Focus on CDC Suggestions

"Therefore, the best the department can offer to schools when it comes to health-related preparations for September is that **CDC guidelines** should be the basis of preparing for the 2021-2022 school year until further information is issued by the governor or DOH," said Betty Rosa, NYSED Commissioner.



August 5: NYS DOH Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker

"With the end of the state disaster emergency on June 25, 2021, school districts are reestablished as the controlling entity for schools. Schools and school districts should develop plans to open in-person in the fall as safely as possible, and I recommend following guidance from the CDC and local health departments."



August 5: Letters to the DOH

- NYSED Commissioner Betty Rosa sent a letter urging the NYSDOH to reconsider and share guidance with school districts.
- The North Bellmore School District, in partnership with the BMCHSD, sent letters to the state and county DOH requesting that they provide school districts with detailed plans regarding how to safely reopen our schools for the 2021-22 school year.



August 10: Memorandum from Commissioner of Education, Betty Rosa

- Commissioner Betty Rosa sent a memorandum to school districts indicating the NYS Education Department will be issuing health and safety guidance with respect to reopening schools for the 2021-22 school year.
 - The guidance will be based on **CDC Guidelines** and guidance from the **American Academy of Pediatrics**.
 - The guidance is expected to be released sometime next week.



August 11: Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) Letter

- Recommends school districts follow the forthcoming guidance from NYSED.

August 12: Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul Interview

- Believes there will be mask mandates in schools; at this time, she does not have the authority and it is only an opinion.



NYSED Forthcoming Guidance for Reopening

NYSED Memorandum (8/10/21)—UPDATE Released at 4PM Today

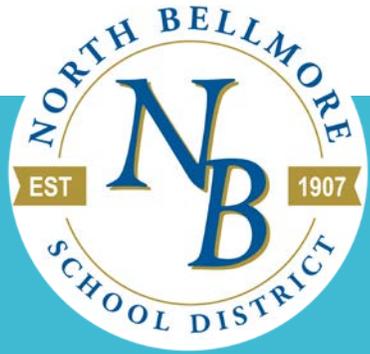
"We anticipate the **forthcoming guidance** will address questions around the wearing of masks, social distancing, remote learning, transportation, community transmission tracking and potential funding sources available to schools and districts that may help with preparing for the upcoming school year and beyond."

Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) Letter (8/11/21)

"...NYSED (New York State Education Department) is the **jurisdictional body overseeing schools**, and as NYSED reported in their letter that they intend to make the guidance consistent with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, **NCDOH recommends school districts follow the forthcoming guidance from NYSED.**"

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul Interview (8/12/21)

While Ms. Hochel believes there will be mask mandates in schools, at this time, she does not have the authority and it is only an opinion. She also stated that the data changes daily and she is watching the numbers closely. Ms. Hochul met with the Department of Health Commissioner this afternoon to discuss these items in more detail.



North Bellmore UFSD Next Steps

1. We issued a parent health and safety survey to ascertain feedback.
2. We issued a faculty and staff survey to ascertain feedback.
3. The Board and district will continue to review and assess guidance from the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics and will review and consider the survey results to inform school opening decisions. In addition, the Board will review NYSED's guidance when received.
4. After a thorough assessment process, the Board of Education will provide a 2021-22 reopening plan for the North Bellmore School District.
5. Schools will reopen fully for all students starting Wednesday, September 1, 2021.



NYSED Health and Safety Guide for the 2021- 22 School Year

August 12, 2021

- The overall goals for the 2021-2022 school year are to keep students and staff healthy and safe, be responsive to student needs, and maximize in-person teaching and learning.
- The CDC and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission levels.
- The CDC recommends that schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing, to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
- The CDC states that, permitting large groups of students to eat in the cafeteria should be based on community transmission rates. Schools should maximize physical distance as much as possible when students are moving through the food service line and while eating (especially indoors).
- The CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings or screening questionnaires at school. However, schools should be proactive that children experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should be tested for COVID-19 and stay home.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to screen for COVID-19 symptoms prior to their child attending school each day.
- Reminding everyone in school to wash their hands frequently and to assist young children with handwashing. When handwashing isn't possible, providing hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol for all adults and students who can safely use it.
- In case of school closures due to a declared public health emergency, schools must be prepared to provide remote instruction.
- The Department will not require schools that are open for full-time, in-person instruction to provide on-line or remote instruction.



CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

August 5, 2021

- Students benefit from **in-person learning**, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.
- CDC recommends schools maintain at least **3 feet of physical distance** between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.
- When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to **layer multiple other prevention strategies**, such as cohorting.
- Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends **universal indoor masking** by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with **quarantine and isolation**, and **cleaning and disinfection** are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.
- Students, teachers, and staff should **stay home when they have signs** of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- **Localities should monitor community transmission**, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).
- **School Transportation: CDC's Order** Under Section 361 of the Public Health Service Act applies to all public transportation conveyances including school buses. Passengers and drivers **must** wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, regardless of vaccination status.



American Academy
of Pediatrics

American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools

- All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).
- All eligible individuals should receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Schools must continue to take a multi-pronged, layered approach to protect students, teachers, and staff (i.e., vaccination, universal mask use, ventilation, testing, quarantining, and cleaning and disinfecting).
- School districts must be in close communication and coordinate with state and/or local public health authorities, school nurses, local pediatric practitioners, and other medical experts.
- The AAP strongly advocates that all plans should start with a goal of keeping students safe and physically present in school.



Survey Results

1023 Completed the Parent/Guardian Survey

163 Completed the Faculty/Staff Survey

Thank You!



21-22

Consideration:

Student
Temperature
Checks

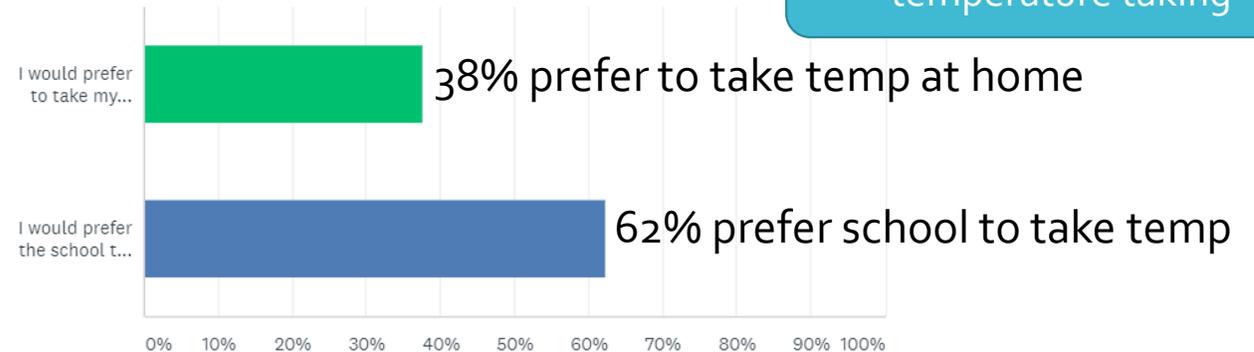
CDC: When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to [layer multiple other prevention strategies](#).

Survey Results:

If daily temperature taking is required, would you prefer to take your child's temperature at home or would you prefer the school to take your child's temperature upon entry to the building?

Answered: 1,011 Skipped: 12

CDC no longer recommends temperature taking



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I would prefer to take my child's temperature at home prior to school.	37.69% 381
I would prefer the school to take my child's temperature upon entry to the building.	62.31% 630
TOTAL	1,011

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #1: Students and faculty have their temperature taken at the doors prior to gaining entrance to the school building.



21-22

Consideration:

Faculty / Staff
Temperature
Checks

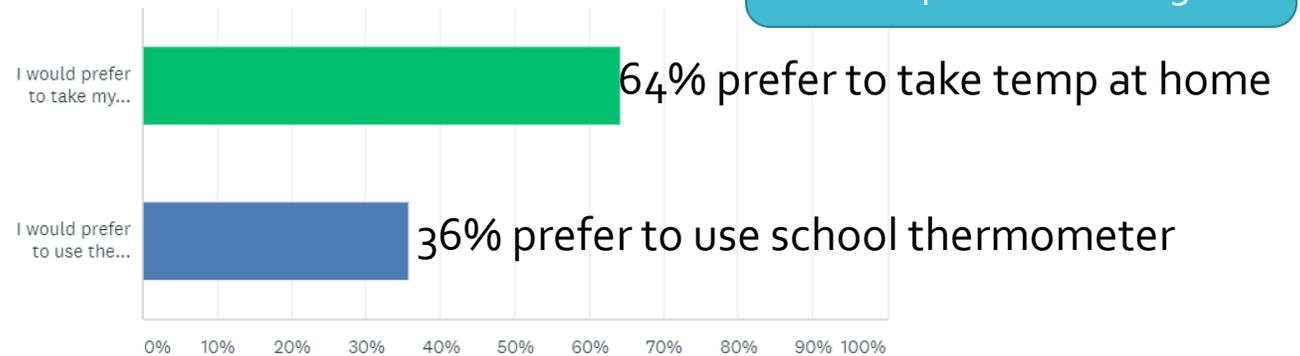
CDC: When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to [layer multiple other prevention strategies](#).

Survey Results:

If daily temperature taking is required, would you prefer to take your temperature at home or would you prefer to use the school thermometer upon entry to the building?

Answered: 162 Skipped: 1

CDC no longer recommends temperature taking



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I would prefer to take my temperature at home prior to reporting to school.	64.20% 104
I would prefer to use the school thermometer upon entry to the building.	35.80% 58
TOTAL	162

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #1: Students and faculty have their temperature taken at the doors prior to gaining entrance to the school building.



21-22
Consideration:
Student
Health
Screening
Questionnaire

CDC: When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to [layer multiple other prevention strategies](#).

Survey Results: Please provide feedback on your experience using the weekly health screening app last year?

857 Respondents

- **50% – Positive / Favorable Responses**
 - “App was easy to use and don’t mind doing it again”
 - “Feel it is an important tool and it should be done daily rather than weekly”
- **29% – Negative / Unfavorable Responses**
 - “Feel the app is useless and redundant as temperatures were taken daily upon student arrival”
 - “Concerned that people are not truthful when completing the survey”
- **21% – N/A** (New Students and/or Virtual in 2020-21)

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #1:

Students: Once per week parents completed a digital health screening questionnaire prior to arrival.



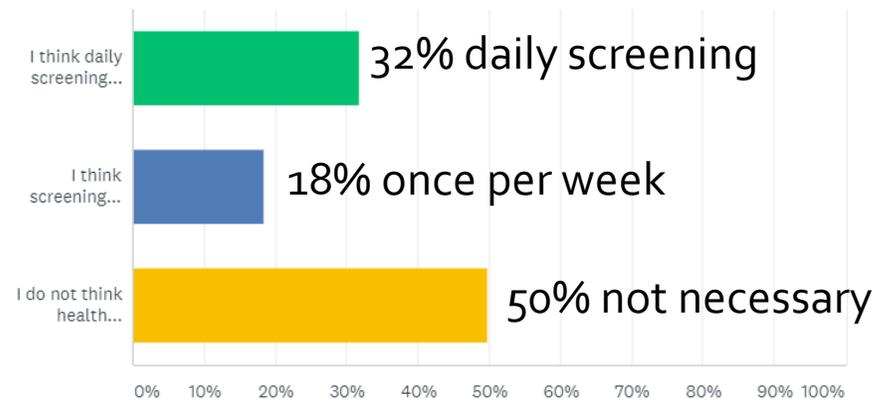
21-22
 Consideration:
 Faculty / Staff
 Health
 Screening
 Questionnaire

CDC: When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to **layer multiple other prevention strategies**.

Survey Results:

Please select one of the following choices relative to the daily health screening for faculty and staff (MyWorkbadge App):

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I think daily screening should continue for faculty and staff.	31.90% 52
I think screening should occur once a week for faculty and staff.	18.40% 30
I do not think health screening is necessary for faculty and staff.	49.69% 81
TOTAL	163

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #1:

Faculty/Staff: Each day all faculty and staff members completed a digital health screening questionnaire prior to arrival.



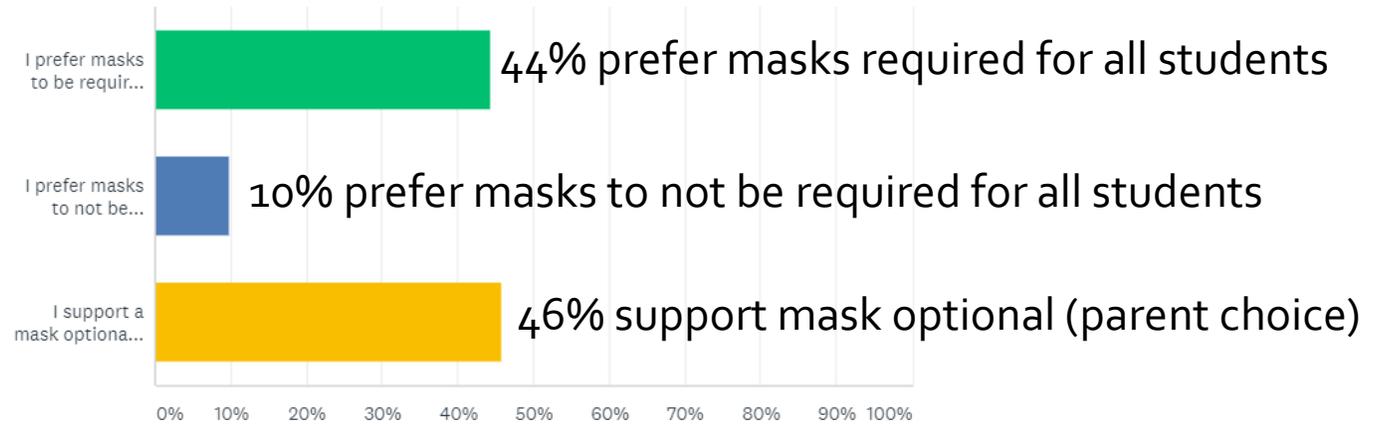
21-22 Consideration: Student Mask Requirement

CDC: Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Survey Results:

What is your preference regarding students wearing masks in school?

Answered: 1,017 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I prefer masks to be required for all students.	44.25% 450
I prefer masks to not be required for all students.	9.93% 101
I support a mask optional protocol for all students (parental choice).	45.82% 466
TOTAL	1,017

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #3: All students and staff members must wear cloth face coverings whenever they are within 6 feet of someone, in hallways, in restrooms, and in other congregate, settings, including buses and school entrances.



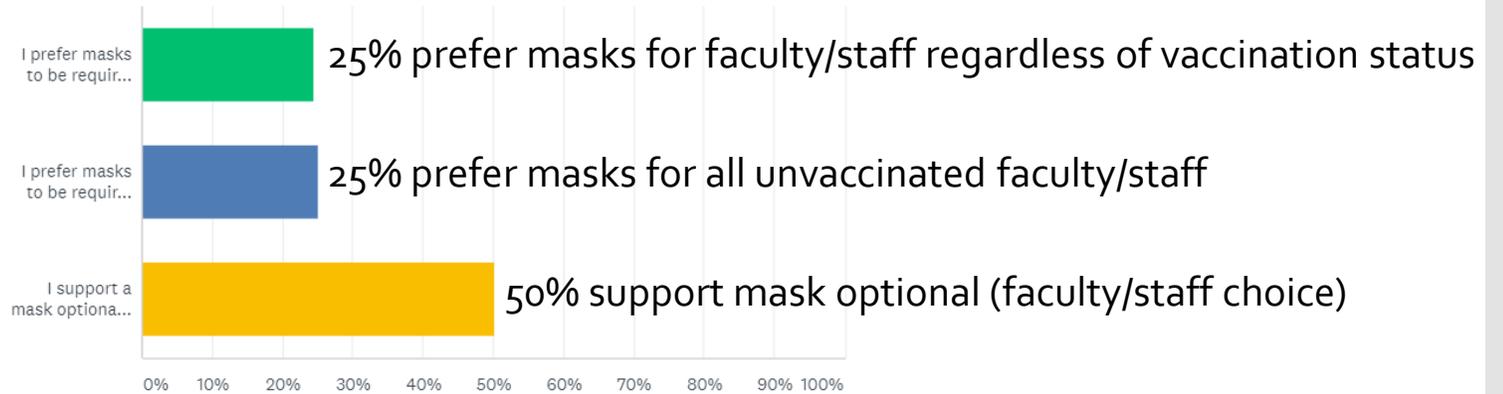
21-22
 Consideration:
 Faculty / Staff
 Mask
 Requirement

CDC: Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Survey Results:

What is your preference regarding the wearing of face masks in school for faculty and staff?

Answered: 163 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I prefer masks to be required for all faculty and staff regardless of vaccination status.	24.54% 40
▼ I prefer masks to be required for all unvaccinated faculty and staff.	25.15% 41
▼ I support a mask optional protocol for faculty and staff regardless of vaccination status. (Faculty/staff choice)	50.31% 82
TOTAL	163

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #3: All students and staff members must wear cloth face coverings whenever they are within 6 feet of someone, in hallways, in restrooms, and in other congregate, settings, including buses and school entrances.



21-22

Consideration:

Masking Options / Quarantine Protocols

CDC and Nassau County Department of Health:

When a Student Tests Positive for COVID-19

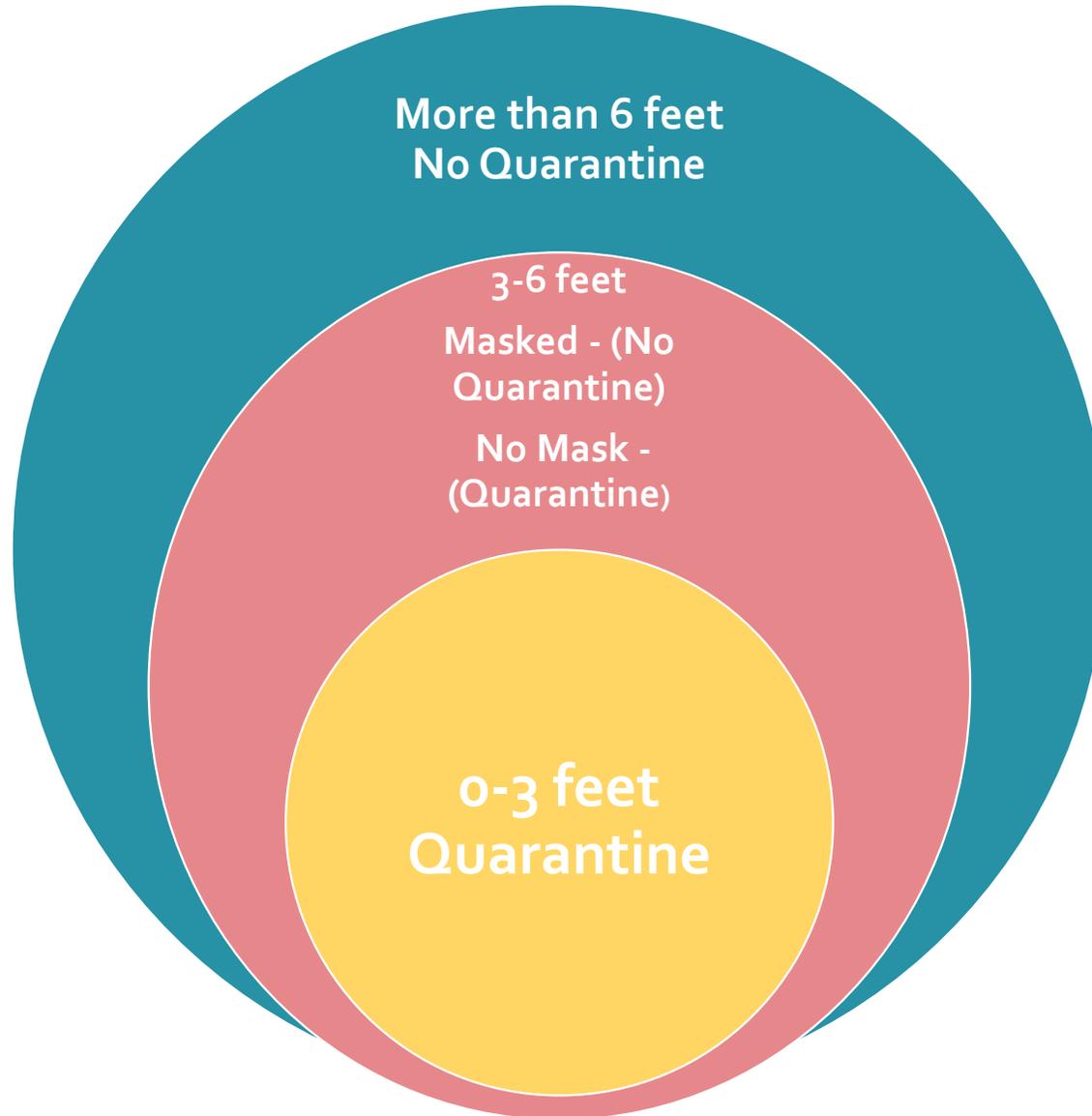
- ***Masks Optional*** – Those students not wearing masks within a **6 ft radius** from the positive student for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period will be quarantined.
- ***Masks Required*** - Those students wearing masks within a **3 ft radius** from the positive student for more than 15 minutes in a 24 hour period will be quarantined.
Note: Students within 3-6 ft radius will not be quarantined if wearing a mask.

The 3ft radius will apply to students that choose to wear masks optionally as well.

- ***While the quarantines and contact tracing are different for students that are masked as opposed to those not wearing masks, the difference in the spread of COVID-19 at these radius' is still yet to be known.***



21-22
Consideration:
Students
Close Contact
Quarantines





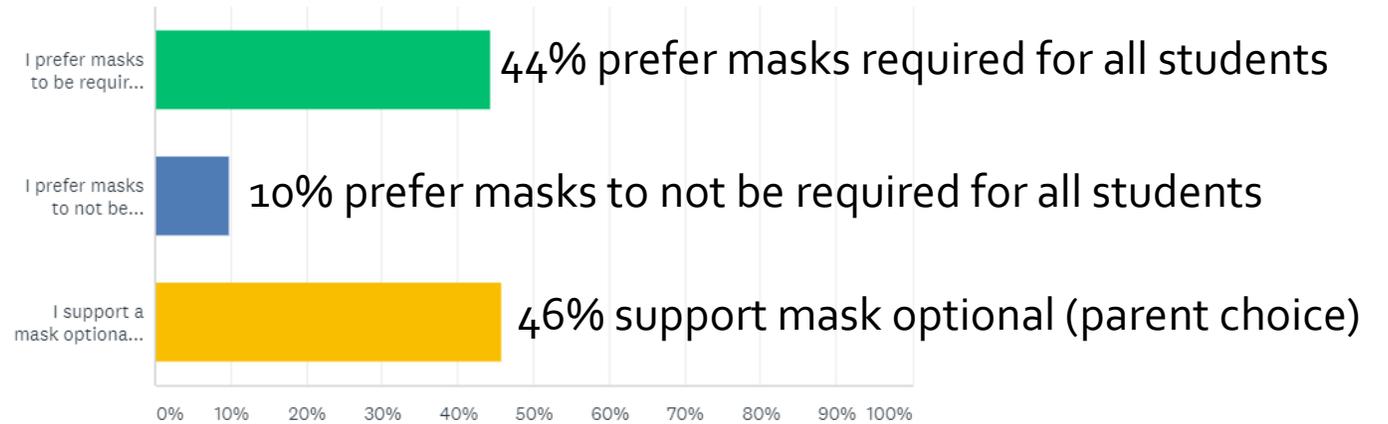
21-22 Consideration: Student Mask Requirement

CDC: Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.

Survey Results:

What is your preference regarding students wearing masks in school?

Answered: 1,017 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I prefer masks to be required for all students.	44.25% 450
I prefer masks to not be required for all students.	9.93% 101
I support a mask optional protocol for all students (parental choice).	45.82% 466
TOTAL	1,017

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #3: All students and staff members must wear cloth face coverings whenever they are within 6 feet of someone, in hallways, in restrooms, and in other congregate, settings, including buses and school entrances.



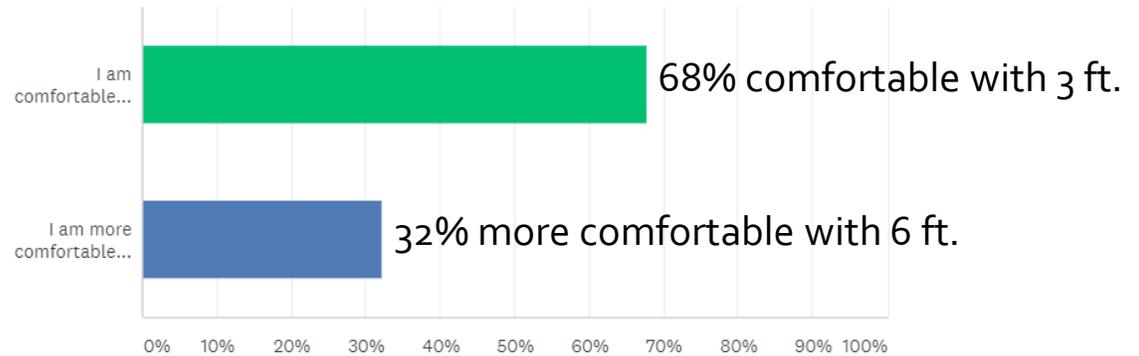
21-22
Consideration:
Social
Distancing
While Eating

CDC: CDC recommends maximizing physical distance as much as possible while eating (especially indoors).

Survey Results:

Do you feel more comfortable with 6 ft. or 3 ft. of spacing when your child is eating snack and lunch?

Answered: 1,021 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am comfortable with 3 ft. of spacing when my child eats.	67.78% 692
I am more comfortable with 6 ft. of spacing when my child eats.	32.22% 329
TOTAL	1,021

2020-21 NB Procedure: All students consumed their meals in their respective classrooms. Their desks were equipped with clear barriers to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and comply with social distance requirements.



21-22

Consideration:

Cohorting Parent Survey Results

CDC: CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to **layer multiple other prevention strategies**, such as screening testing, **cohorting**, improved ventilation, handwashing, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

Survey Results: While cohorting (not mixing classes) is recommended to the extent practicable to limit potential exposure, what is your comfortability with mixing cohorts for certain events? (Ex: recess, Alpha program, chorus, band, instrumental lessons, assemblies, etc.)

Note: *Many responses indicated they were ok with mixing cohorts as long as students were masked and/or socially distanced. These percentages would be different depending on the health and safety protocols decided.*

With Mask Requirements and Social Distance Protocols

- 77% – In Favor of Mixing Cohorts
- 13% – Not In Favor of Mixing Cohorts
- 10% – Outdoor Mixing of Cohorts Only

With No Mask Requirements and Limited Social Distancing

- 62% – In Favor of Mixing Cohorts
- 28% – Not In Favor of Mixing Cohorts
- 10% – Outdoor Mixing of Cohorts Only

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #3: Student groupings will be as static as possible by having the same group/cohort of students stay together.



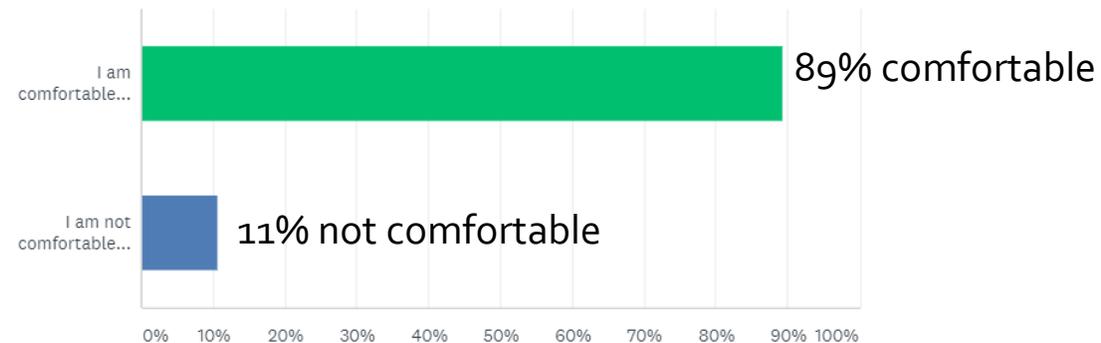
21-22 Consideration: Cohorting Faculty / Staff Survey Results

CDC: CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms, combined with indoor mask wearing. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, it is especially important to layer multiple other prevention strategies, such as screening testing, **cohorting**, improved ventilation, handwashing, and regular cleaning to help reduce transmission risk.

Survey Results:

While cohorting (not mixing classes) is recommended to the extent practicable to limit potential exposure, what is your comfortability with mixing cohorts for certain events? (Ex: recess, Alpha program, chorus, band, instrumental lessons, assemblies, etc.)

Answered: 160 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I am comfortable with mixing cohorts of students for certain events.	89.38% 143
I am not comfortable with mixing cohorts of students for certain events.	10.63% 17
TOTAL	160

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #3: Student groupings will be as static as possible by having the same group/cohort of students stay together.



21-22
Consideration:
Contact
Tracing &
Quarantines

CDC:

- Student(s) found to have COVID-19 and begins home isolation.
- COVID-19 POC starts a list of **close contacts** of the ill student(s) and informs staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts of possible exposure.
- COVID-19 POC works with local health officials to assess spread and support follow up with staff, parents, guardians, or caregivers of student(s) that had contact with the ill student(s).
- Parents, guardians, or caregivers of close contacts are advised to keep their children home (quarantine according to local health department requirements) and to consult with the student(s)' healthcare provider for evaluation and possible COVID-19 test.
- 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.
- 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.

2020-21 NB Health and Safety Protocol #5 : Same as CDC recommendation above, except the previous DOH guidelines required the individual to be symptom free for three days prior to returning to school.



21-22 Consideration: Close Contact

CDC:

Close Contact Defined

Someone who was within **6 feet of an infected person** for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. An infected person can spread SARS-CoV-2 starting from 2 days before they have any symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date), until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation.

Exception: In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.

This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting.



21-22 Consideration: Close Contact

Public Health Recommendations:

Except in certain circumstances, people who have been in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 should quarantine.

However, the following people with recent exposure may NOT need to quarantine:

- People who have been **fully vaccinated**
- People who were **previously diagnosed with COVID-19** within the last three months.



21-22

Consideration:

Quarantine
Continuation
of Student
Learning

2020-21 NB Quarantine Options for Continuation of Student Learning:

- Parents had the option to have work sent home from the classroom teacher to complete independently; OR
- Parents had the option to enroll their child in one of the ongoing fully remote classes (Alternate Virtual Learning Model); OR
- If the entire class was quarantined, the class converted to remote learning together.

2021-22 NB Quarantine Options for Continuation of Student Learning:

- Parents will have the option to have work sent home from the classroom teacher to complete independently; OR
- Parents will have the option for their child to livestream directly into their child's classroom for live instruction and participation for parts of the day; OR
- If the entire class is quarantined, the class will convert to remote learning together.



Opening North Bellmore Schools 2021-22

The Board of Education will:

- Consider all information received including survey results, guidance from NYSED, CDC, AAP, and Nassau County DOH;
- Work with surrounding districts;
- Communicate with the community and NBRT; and
- Issue the 2021-2022 Reopening Plan.



Thank you to the NBRT
and the community for
sharing your voices!