

The Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Central School District

# *Moving Forward 2021-2022*



**Update on the Plans for the 2021-2022 School Year  
August 18, 2021**



HFFMCSD

# Four **Guiding** Principles for Our Schools.

1

Ensure the safety and wellness of students, faculty and staff

2

Deliver high-quality in-person instruction to students

3

Be flexible to ever-changing conditions and responsive to students' needs

4

Plan for progress, not perfection

The background of the slide is a grid of video conference windows, overlaid with a semi-transparent purple rectangle. Several names are visible in the windows, including 'Chedier Alcal', 'Gianni Diaz', 'xavier', 'Jenniles Gonzalez', and 'yiray'.

HFFMCSD

# What we have learned over the past year.

- We began our year 100 percent remote last year. Throughout the winter and spring, we moved to more in-person instruction, finishing the year with all of our students in 4 or 5 days per week.
- The mitigation strategies that we implemented proved successful in regards to reducing the risk of COVID-19.
- With modifications, we were able to offer our full program, including instruction, athletics and extra-curricular activities, throughout the year.
- Our community partners proved invaluable in assisting in areas beyond the typical scope of schools.



# Student & Staff Experience



Teaching & Learning



Health & Wellness



Transportation



Facilities



Food Services



Security & Safety

# District Preparation Health & Safety

We will begin the year with a look and feel of last May - In-person instruction with some modifications to our practices.



## Health Questionnaire

COVID screening for staff/students will not be required at the beginning of the year. We will monitor need.



## Temperature Screening

Prior to leaving for school, everyone should check their temperature at home. In addition, the district has installed thermal scan devices at the entrances to the buildings.



## Limited Access

Access to schools will remain limited to students and staff as much as possible.



## Physical Distancing

Physical distance of minimally 4 feet will be maintained between students and 6 feet between students and staff or staff and staff.



## Supply Sharing

HFFMCSD will increase ordering of all school supplies to minimize sharing, particularly at the elementary level.



## Face Coverings

Face coverings will be required **inside** of all schools and facilities and provided to faculty and staff and to any student who may have a need.



## Hand Sanitizer

Hand sanitizer will be provided, with hand sanitizing stations at building entrances, and in classrooms and shared spaces.



## Training

Students and staff will receive information on COVID-19 prevention practices, including social distancing and face covering use.



## HFFMCSD Issued Devices

HFFMCSD will continue to provide Chromebooks to students as needs are identified.



## Hand-Washing

Hand-washing will be encouraged throughout the day and required before and after meals.



## Food Services

We will continue with grab and go options to begin the year as we adjust to additional occupancy within our buildings.



## Transportation

HFFMCSD will work with transportation partner on transportation requirements as per NYSED guidance. **Masks will be required for everyone on District Transportation.**



## Cleaning

Frequent cleaning of all HFFMCSD schools, facilities and buses.



# What we anticipate for this year.

- We anticipate returning to school with all students and faculty and staff masked while indoors. Outdoor masking will not be required, but will be recommended for the unvaccinated. As infection rates for our county change, these guidelines may change.
- We anticipate all of our students attending school in-person.
- We anticipate all of our programs will run this school year, depending, of course, on infection rates and guidance from our governing bodies.
- We anticipate social distancing of at least four feet within our classrooms and use of barriers in areas where this is not possible and/or where students are eating and, thus, unmasked.
- We anticipate individual exposures and will follow county direction as to isolation and quarantine protocols.



HFFMCSD

# What we anticipate for this year.

- We anticipate more normal student density on school transportation with all masked at all times while on the school bus.
- We anticipate continuing to address learning gaps and losses and supporting our students Social and Emotional needs through additional academic support during and after the school day and additional resources including an additional school social worker, additional teachers and an additional library media specialist.
- We anticipate beginning the year with grab and go lunches as we are increasing the number of students served by approximately 30 percent over last year.
- We anticipate virtual meetings whenever possible.

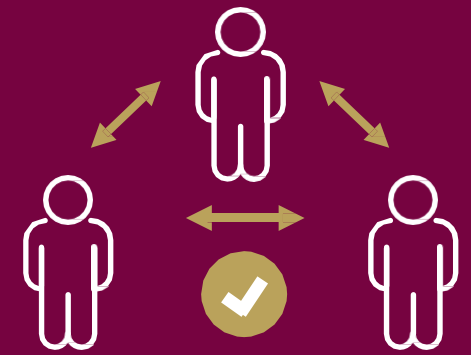
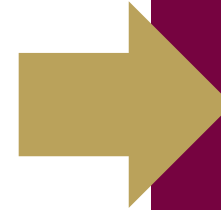
# Building Entry

## ACCESS



- Temperature scanning of all entrants to the school buildings will continue.
- Temperature devices are hooked up to computer monitors which will be monitored by school personnel.
- Students/staff who register as having a temperature will be escorted to the isolation area in the building.
- No-touch thermometers will be used as back up, if needed.

**With exceptions for school events, we anticipated restricting access to our buildings to our students, faculty and staff, and essential visitors.**



## **NYSDOH GUIDANCE**

The District is collaborating closely with the District Physician, Dr. Peter Gergely, as well as the Orange County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health in all matters relating to its COVID-19 response.



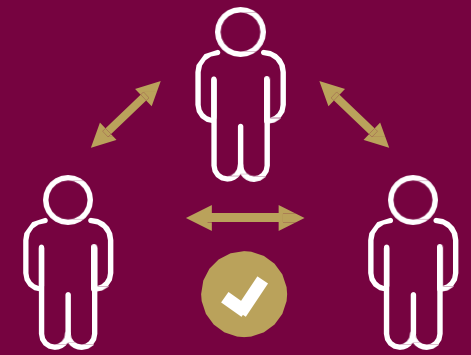
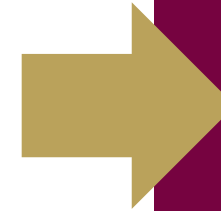
# Health Services



## COVID-19 Guidance

If your child has presented to the School Nurse with symptoms that are consistent with being identified as a concern for COVID-19, you will be called to pick up your child immediately as per NYSED law 906. Please be advised that should your child exhibit any of the below symptoms they will be placed in an isolation room, again as per NYSED/DOH guidelines. The longer your child is here, the more at risk we put our students and staff. We appreciate your understanding.

**It is essential that we have up-to-date emergency contact information for all students!**



## NYSDOH GUIDANCE

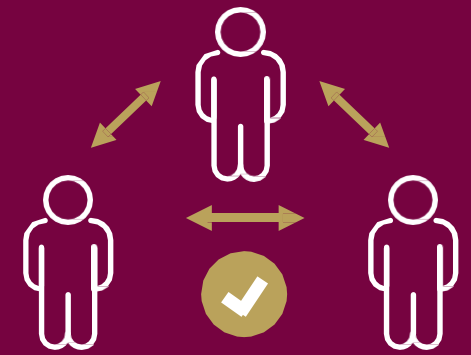
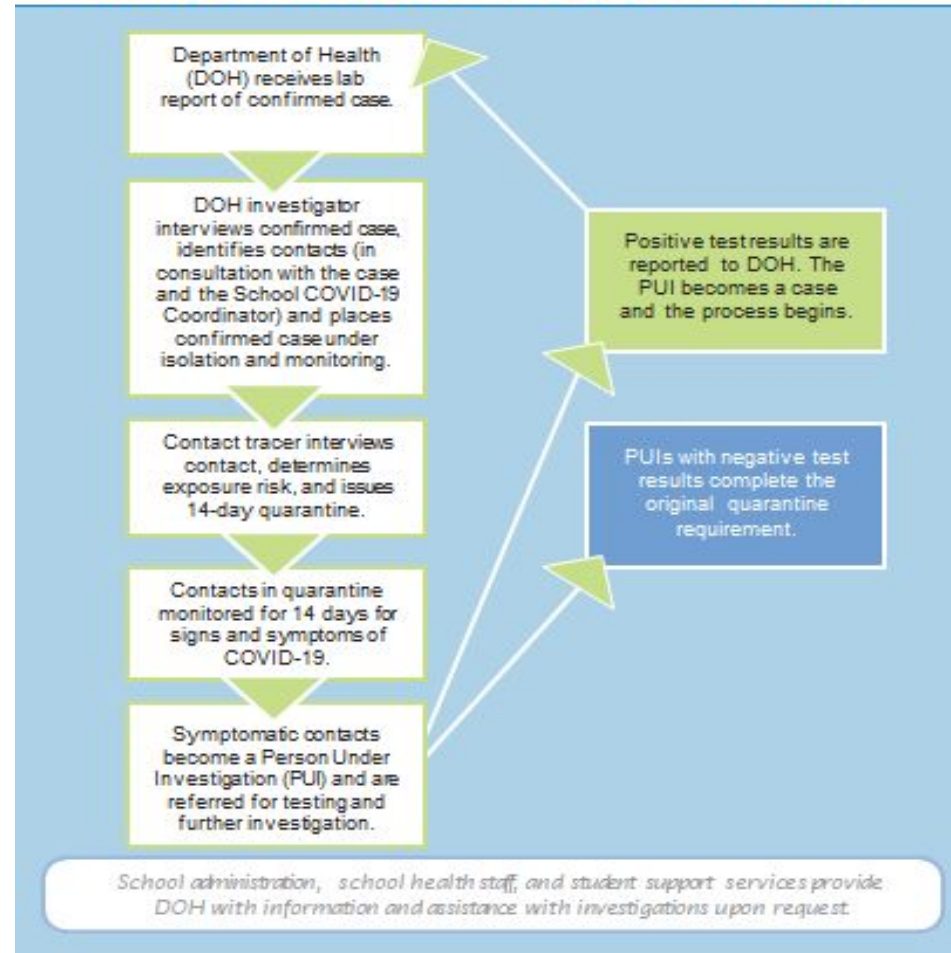
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# Health Services



Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery Central School District

## COVID-19 SCHOOL CONTACT MONITORING PROCESS



## NYSDOH GUIDANCE

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# Health Services

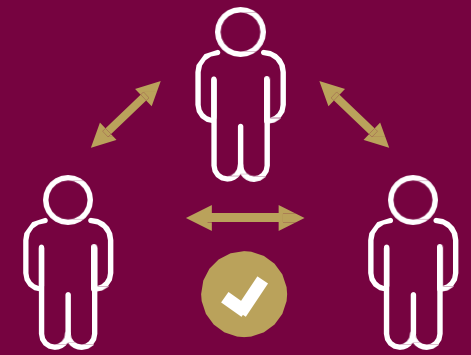
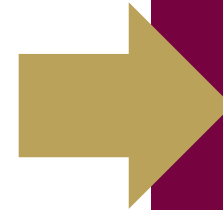


## COVID - Guidance

Families must take responsibility for daily screening of their children for symptoms of COVID-19, including:

- Fever or chills (100 degrees or greater)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea and/or vomiting
- Diarrhea

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# Health Services

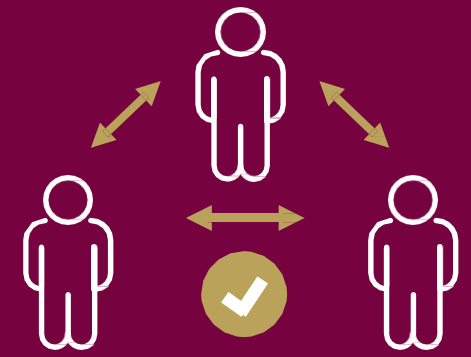
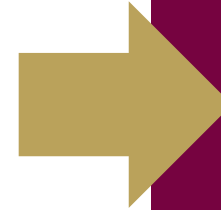


## COVID - Return to School After Illness

As per the NYSED, the return to school/learning protocol must include at a minimum:

- documentation of evaluation by a healthcare provider (healthcare provider note clearing a person to return to school) and symptom resolution, or if COVID -19 positive,
- release from isolation from healthcare provider as required by DOH and NYSED.

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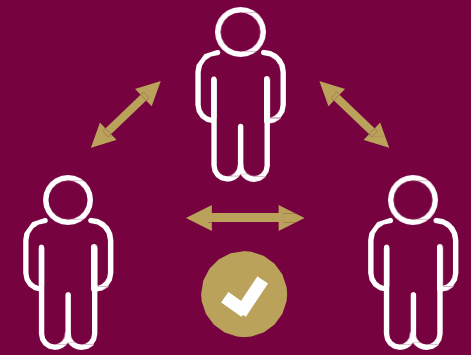
# Health Services



## Special Information - Asthma

- Current CDC Guidance recommends the use of spacers/valved-holding chambers and an MDI instead of nebulizer delivered asthma medication when feasible, to reduce the chance of aerosolization and transmission of COVID. Please ask your child's physician.
- Should your child be in need of a nebulizer, we will be administering any nebulizer treatment outdoors as this is the safest area.
- If your child is able to self-carry an inhaler, we are going to ask them to remove themselves from the classroom as they have to remove their mask to administer. Of course at any time, the student may come to the Health Office and go outside to take their inhaler.

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# Health Services



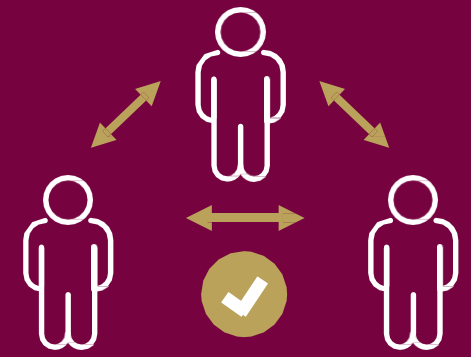
## Special Information - Immunizations

Please be aware that mandated immunizations are still required by NYS regardless of the instructional model. Immunizations are due within the first 14 days of school or your child will not be allowed to attend school.

- All of the required Kindergarten vaccines should be completed or in process as per NYS guidelines.
- The Tdap booster for students entering 6th grade.
- 7th and 12th grade requires meningococcal vaccine.

There are no exemptions for immunizations except medical which needs to be renewed every year.

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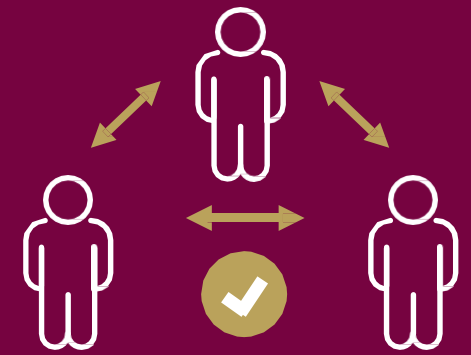
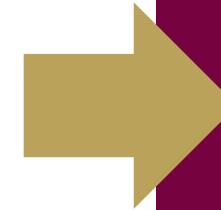
# Health Services



## Special Information - Physicals

Health physicals for grades K, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 are mandated and should be sent to the Health Office within the first 30 days of school. Mandated physicals can be dated one calendar year from the beginning of the previous school year. In other words, any physical dated after September 1, 2020 would be acceptable.

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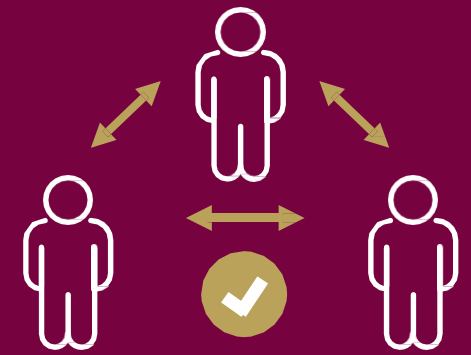
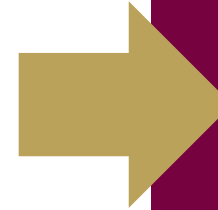
# Cleaning Protocols



## Preparing for the school year

The custodial staff underwent refresher training on CDC cleaning protocols for classrooms, office areas, and toilet rooms. These trainings will be repeated and enhanced as necessary.

The District hired additional workers to support the cleaning and sanitation of the buildings last year and has retained them for this coming year.



## CDC & NYSED

Cleaning protocols are in alignment with CDC and NYSED guidance for school cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection.



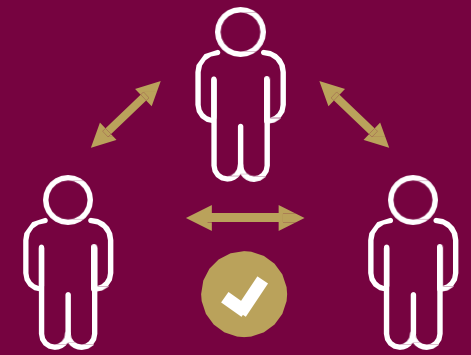
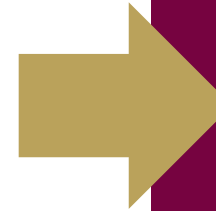
# Cleaning Protocols



## Daily Practices

Custodial staff will work during each school day to support the learning environment.

- Hand sanitizers will be available strategically throughout the buildings. Supervision at sanitizer stations with alcohol based sanitizers will occur as per NYSED & NYS Department of Health guidelines.
- Following meal service and consumption, food service items will be removed from classroom areas. Trash cans will be located in the hallways and students will be asked to dispose of their trash in the appropriate receptacles.
- Water fountains with bubblers and water bottler fillers: bubbler will be turned off and the ability to fill water bottles will remain on. Water fountains with only bubblers will be turned off.
- Emergency drills are required and will be staggered.



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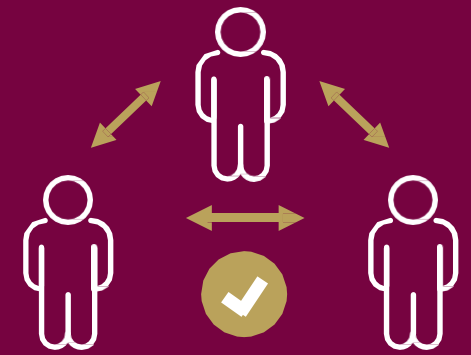
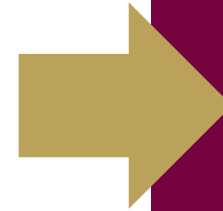
# Cleaning Protocols



## Enhanced Cleaning

Custodial staff will work between student cohorts to clean and disinfect all high-touch surfaces throughout the school. Nightly cleaning will occur to ensure the wellness of our students and staff, utilizing approved cleaning and sanitizing materials.

- During the course of the day, the cleaning and disinfecting of most frequently touched surfaces (handrails, door handles, door jambs, etc.) will occur. In addition, other objects or areas will be cleaned and disinfected, as required, due to daily circumstances or conditions.
- End of school day: each classroom and office will be cleaned and disinfected using foggers.



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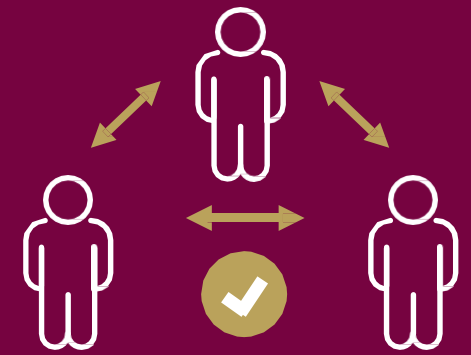
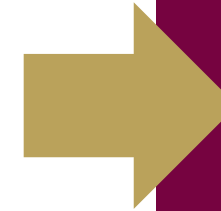
# Cleaning Protocols



## Disinfectant Cleaning

In the event of a COVID-19 confirmed positive, Buildings & Grounds will initiate a deep cleaning of the impacted area within a school.

As NYSED guidance suggests, any area where an individual who tests positive for COVID 19 has been for at least ten minutes over a 24 hour period would be closed until it can be disinfected.



## CDC & NYSED

Cleaning protocols are in alignment with CDC and NYSED guidance for school cleaning, sanitation, and disinfection.

# Instructional Model

## Prepare for Flexibility:

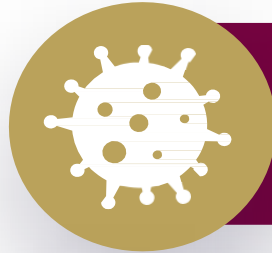
- We are committed to in-person instruction for all students.
- We recognize that we may face COVID-19 related disruptions to individual classes, grades, or even buildings.
- In the event of those occurrences, we must remain flexible and be prepared to adjust. Google Classroom will remain a vital tool for instruction.
- Individual students with documented and verified health conditions which preclude their in-person attendance at school will be provided virtual homebound instruction as any medically fragile child would, as per NYSED guidelines.

## Gauging the Reopening of Schools



### STUDENT EXPERIENCE

*INCLUDES ACADEMIC, EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL EXPERIENCE*



### POTENTIAL HEALTH RISKS

*INCLUDES THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF COVID-19*

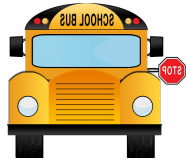


### PIVOT BETWEEN PHASES

*AGILITY TO GO TO VIRTUAL LEARNING AND BACK TO IN -PERSON*

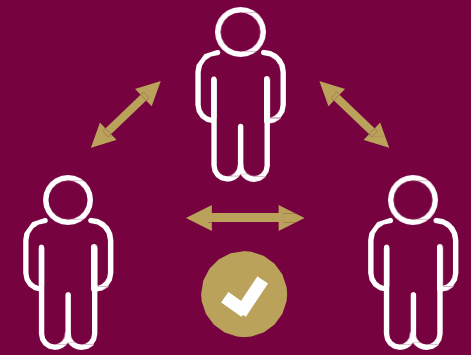
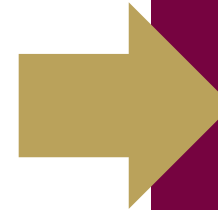


# Transportation



## Transportation Protocols

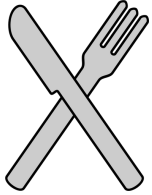
- All students and adults on school transportation must wear a mask for the entire duration of the bus ride.
- There is no longer a reduced capacity on school buses.
- Drivers/Monitors will wear gloves if it is necessary to physically assist a student.
- Starting with the first bus stop the students should load the bus from back to front.
- Unloading will start from front to back, observing social distancing.
- High touch areas will be wiped down between the runs.
- Buses will be disinfected at the end of each day.



## CDC & NYSED

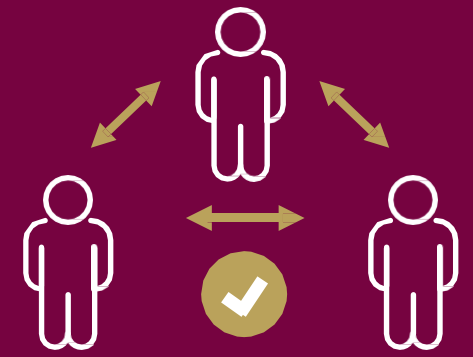
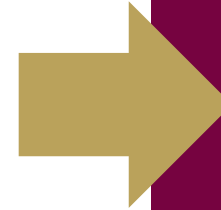
Transportation protocols are in alignment with CDC and NYSED guidance for school transportation including hygiene, distancing, capacity.

# Food Services



## Food Service Protocols

- Breakfast will be available in each school for students who need their morning meal. Breakfast will be cold and individually wrapped. Aramark will work with each building to set up an area in or near the entrance where students can pick up and take a pre-bagged meal to their classroom.
- Lunches will be delivered to the classrooms or designated meal areas for student pickup.
- Lunches individually wrapped.
- Once again, the District will be operating with the “Seamless Summer Option” which allows us to offer meals at no cost to all students. The only thing money will be required for is a second lunch or ala carte items.



**CDC, USDA, & NYSED**

Food Services protocols are guided by CDC, USDA, NYSED regulations considering issues of hygiene, distancing, capacity.

# Athletics

## Athletic Protocols

Section IX will conduct the fall 2021 season in all sports.

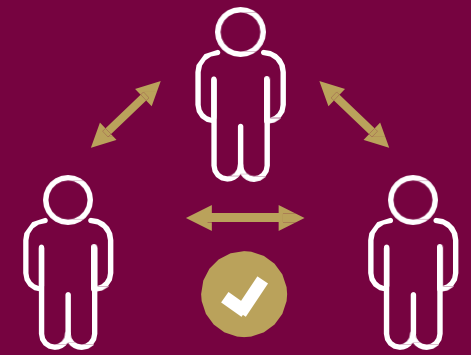
Indoor sports of Volleyball and Girls Swimming (except when in the water) are required to wear masks. This includes players, coaches, site personnel and officials. Game Day Cheerleading will follow the guidelines based on whether a competition is held indoors or outdoors.

Indoor sports will allow spectators. Spectators will be required to wear masks.

Outdoor sports will not require masks for players, coaches, site personnel and officials.

Outdoor sports will allow spectators with no mask requirements.

Section IX reminds all schools to follow social distancing and all other mitigating protocols to keep all participants as safe as possible.



## Section IX & OCIAA

The Section IX Protocol Committee has developed a set of guidelines for the Fall 2021 season. These guidelines are subject to change based on any future mandates from the Governor, the State Department of Health, the local County Departments of Health, the State Education Department or the NYSPHSAA.



# Well-being Reporting Protocols



## Prior to Departure from Home

Parents/guardians should be proactive and check student temperature at home to rule out fever and/or signs or symptoms of illness prior to departure from home.

All will complete a COVID screening prior to reporting to the buildings. **Anyone who is ill should stay home.**



## Arrival to School

The temperature of all students and adults entering a district building will be monitored using a thermal scanning system. All students and adults must wear a face covering. Physical distancing will be observed at all times as students and adults enter and move throughout the building.



## Arrival or Any Time of Day

Staff will refer any student or adult with obvious signs or symptoms of illness to the Health Office

21/22



A person wearing a white lab coat, a black cap, and blue gloves is cleaning a laptop with a spray bottle. The person is also wearing a lanyard with 'NECSD' on it. In the background, there are stacks of laptops and boxes. The text 'Final Preparations' is overlaid on the image.

# Final Preparations

The Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Central School District

# *Moving Forward 2021-2022*



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