

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

The intent of this letter is to provide an overview of practices that Blind Brook schools will employ at the start of the 2021-22 school year to keep our students and staff members healthy. These strategies are being implemented to mitigate COVID transmission in our schools so that our schools can remain safely open.

We recognize the immeasurable value of in-person learning experiences and seek to safeguard in-person learning for our students throughout the upcoming school year. There are three key elements that we intend to provide Blind Brook students. They include our commitment to physical health, rigorous intellectual engagement, and social-emotional wellbeing.

Our team of teachers and administrators have reviewed guidance from the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) and have consulted with our new school physician, Dr. Ann Engelland. Blind Brook pandemic safety practices are grounded in their recommendations and based on research from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP).

The following summary of points detail practices that were in place last year as well as additional measures being introduced this school year. Any of these protocols are subject to change based on any revised guidance from the WCDOH, CDC, or AAP.

Dr. Patrick Brimstein
Superintendent of Schools

Continuing this year:

- All students and adults will wear masks indoors. This includes indoor sports.
- Masks are not required to be worn outdoors.
- Students are encouraged to eat lunch outdoors as much as possible. Six foot distancing or barriers will be used when eating is indoors.
- Teachers will be encouraged to bring classes outside.
- While outdoors, students will be encouraged to maintain social distancing.
- Regular cleaning for school buildings and buses.
- Opportunity for voluntary participation in COVID testing .
- Restriction on visitors permitted in school buildings.
- Students who are ill must stay home until symptoms subside.
- Contact tracing protocols are still in effect.
- Air filtration systems remain in place.

New for this year:

- Students and adults will not have to complete a daily health attestation (i.e. no EZSCRN)
- All Middle School/High School students will enter the building through the main entrance. BMPRSS students will enter through their designated grade level door.
- Vaccinated individuals without symptoms will not have to quarantine.
- Unvaccinated students who are exposed to a person with COVID while unmasked will have to quarantine for ten days regardless of COVID test results. These students should still get tested to see if they have contracted COVID.
- No plexiglass barriers in classrooms. Barriers may be used to some extent in lunch rooms.
- Social distancing is not required on school buses. (Mask wearing is)
- Maintenance of 3' distance between students in classrooms.
- A fully remote learning program will not be an option for students. Appropriate accommodations will be made for students with medical concerns.
- Group meetings will be held in person when social distancing requirements can be met.
- Schools will follow their normal class schedules.
- Options for meeting the educational needs of students under mandated quarantine are currently being explored.
- Music classes can be held inside with the appropriate use of bell covers (for brass instruments), masks and social distancing.
- Masks are not required for outdoor sports. Discussions with Section One are still ongoing.

A full version of Blind Brook's 2021-22 school opening plan will be available on the [District website](#).