

# VIRTUAL LEARNING, TESTING and TRACING

Syosset Reopening Plan Excerpt - 8/14/20

## Overview

As [required](#) by NYS, in addition to the comprehensive reopening plan, school districts must post prominently on the website an excerpt from their reopening plans that highlights 3 subsections of the plan regarding:

1. **Remote Learning**
2. **COVID-19 Testing**
3. **Contact Tracing**

Syosset School District has created a comprehensive resource for parents and staff to guide the reopening process. All reopening resources can be accessed at this link:

<https://www.syossetschools.org/reopening>.

Specific links to the plan and detail presented to the Board of Education can be found here:

- [Full Reopening Plan](#)
- Reopening -- [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ)
- Board of Education [Workshop #1](#) (July 23, 2020)
- Board of Education [Meeting #2](#) (July 29, 2020)
- Board of Education [Meeting #3](#) (August 10, 2020)

The District is holding three virtual meetings for parents to further discuss our reopening plans and answer questions.

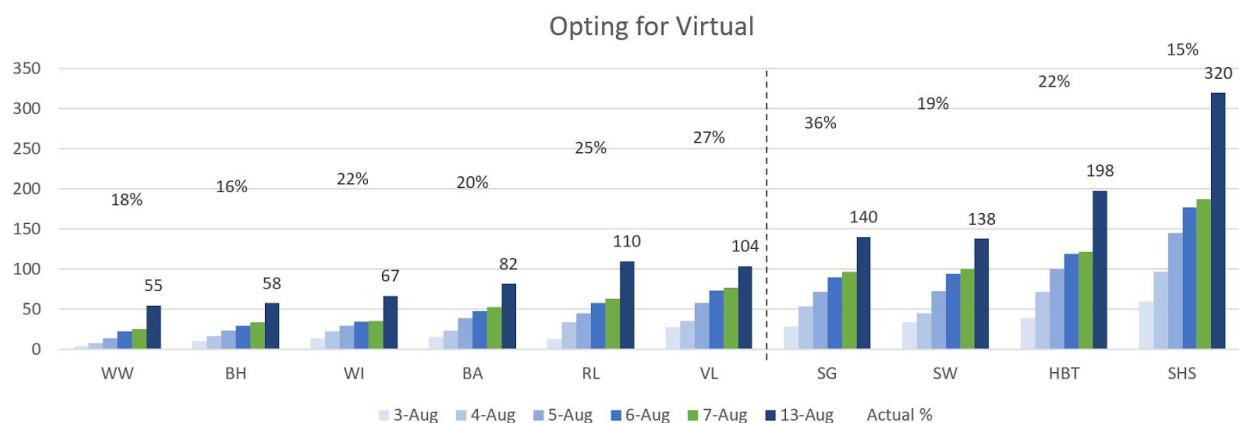
<p><b>Elementary</b> <b>Tuesday, August 18, 2020</b> <b>7 p.m. – 9 p.m.</b></p> <p>Click to view the live stream: <a href="https://youtu.be/sexOI1UhCpl">https://youtu.be/sexOI1UhCpl</a></p> <p><a href="#">Please provide your questions by using this link.</a></p>	<p><b>Secondary</b> <b>Wednesday, August 19</b> <b>7 p.m. – 9 p.m.</b></p> <p>Click to view the live stream: <a href="https://youtu.be/BKwWuQ2Wsh4">https://youtu.be/BKwWuQ2Wsh4</a></p> <p><a href="#">Please provide your questions by using this link.</a></p>	<p><b>All Grade Levels</b> <b>Thursday, August 20</b> <b>10 a.m. - 12 p.m.</b></p> <p>Click to view the live stream: <a href="https://youtu.be/90U7-9q1IR4">https://youtu.be/90U7-9q1IR4</a></p> <p><a href="#">Please provide your questions by using this link.</a></p>
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# Remote Learning

**State Guidance Requirements:** “Explain how the Responsible Party will accomplish remote learning, especially considering closing inequity gaps. This must include details outlining the numbers of students, mode of remote learning, asynchronous and synchronous learning opportunities, internet and device access among students, and alternatives available for students who have neither a device nor consistent access.”

## State Guidance Questions

**Numbers of students:** As of 8/12/2020 1,272 students have opted for virtual learning. This is approximately 19.7% of Syosset students:



**Class Sizes:** Class sizes are set by Board of Education resolution. Virtual class sizes will be the same as in-person class size limits:

- Grades K-3: 25 students;
- Grades 4-5: 27 students;
- Grades 6-12: 30 students.

**Internet and Device Access:** We conducted a survey of our parents and families and found that no families lacked access to the Internet at this time. All secondary students have been provided with a District-issued Chromebook and a take-home case as part of our 1:1 device initiative. 3,642 secondary student Chromebooks were already deployed at home prior to March 19, 2020. All elementary students were offered a District-issued Chromebook during the Spring 2020 remote learning period and 2,686 Chromebooks were deployed on the elementary level. For Fall of 2020, we are providing incoming 9th graders with new Chromebook devices as part

of our replacement cycle process. All remaining elementary students and all new Kindergarten students will also be provided with a District-issued Chromebook so that they may be taken home from school on a daily basis in the event that an individual classroom or building must close suddenly due to an outbreak of COVID-19.

We will periodically survey families to ensure that they continue to have uninterrupted Internet access as we know that some families' financial situations may change during the pandemic. If a family loses access to the Internet, we will provide them with a District-issued "hotspot".

All teachers have a District Chromebook. For Fall 2020, the District has purchased 650 Laptops for teachers along with a "Classroom To-Go" Kit that includes a USB-based document camera, a digital drawing/annotating tablet, a personal whiteboard, and a microphone.

**Platforms and Support:** Syosset teachers are well-versed in the use of technology to enhance instruction. Software has been purchased to support curriculum and diversify learning in all models of instruction. Syosset has also invested in augmentative and adaptive technology and devices for students with disabilities.

In the virtual and hybrid models, teachers will use various digital platforms to enhance learning.

- Classroom teachers, through the use of Learning Management Systems (Google Classroom, CANVAS, and SEESAW), are enabled to continue the robust learning environment of the Syosset in-person classroom remotely.
- Students participate in learning through video conferencing classroom experiences and blended environments using Google Classroom, CANVAS, Google Meet, SEESAW and GoGuardian Teacher.
- Whole Class instruction is provided through Google Meet and individual conferencing/assistance to students is provided through GoGuardian teacher.
- Digital Resources such as Castle Learning, Test Wizard, Think Central, McGraw-Hill Connect Ed, Google Forms and Alex Learning provide opportunity for formative assessment
- Digital resources such as NearPod, PearDeck, Google Slides, Google Docs & Google Rubrics, Discussion Groups in CANVAS provide for opportunities for summative assessment

Support for Remote Learning

- The District reaches out at the building level to every household through the Library Media Specialists to analyze Internet capabilities.
- The Library Media Specialists provide digital resource online support and first-line technical support of at home devices and WIFI.
- The District provided 1:1 expert technical support to every household through dedicated technicians who are available online during the school day.
- The District communicated a mechanism to apply for free WIFI service from Optimum based on need.

## Virtual Learning Models

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### **Fully Virtual Elementary (Grades K-5) Model**

Elementary level students opting to attend virtually will be instructed by a certified elementary teacher. Grade level classrooms will be developed based on the size of the cohort of students choosing this option and may include students from more than one building.

Students will experience a combination of whole group and small group instruction as well as independent work assigned by the teacher. In addition, a full complement of special area classes, special education, and ENL services will be provided.

Students will be instructed remotely based on the following schedule:

- Kindergarten and First Grade will begin with approximately two and a half hours of instruction scheduled throughout the school day. This abbreviated length of time allows for transition for kindergarteners to the school environment and adjustment for the first grade students coming back to this environment from last spring. These timeframes will be evaluated monthly and be expanded as appropriate. A schedule for students in kindergarten and first grade will look as follows:

<b>Grades K-1 Virtual Schedule SAMPLE</b>	
9:15-9:45	Morning Meeting Community Building/SEL
9:45-10:15	ELA
10:15-10:30	Break/Snack
10:30- 11:00	Math
11:00-11:30	Social Studies / Science
11:30-12:30	Lunch & Break
12:30- 1:00	Specials Area
1:00- 3:15	For students who require additional small group instruction and support

- Grades 2 - 5 will have a full day of instruction scheduled throughout the school day (between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.), inclusive of planned break time and lunch. Students will receive a full day of content instruction, small group work, special area classes, special education services, and ENL services.

<b>Grades 2-5 Virtual Schedule SAMPLE</b>	
8:30 - 9:00	Special
9:00 - 9:15	Break
9:15 - 10:00	Math
10:00- 10:15	Break
10:15- 11:15	ELA
11:15-12:30	Break and Lunch
12:30- 1:00	MTSS
1:00- 1:45	Social Studies / Science
1:45-2:00	Break
2:00-3:00	Writing / Small Group Work

- Specific grade level schedules will be posted on Google sites for easy access and planning for parents.

### Fully Virtual Middle School (Grades 6-8) Model

Middle School students opting to attend school virtually will remain connected to their home school wherever possible.

Students will virtually follow the same 8 period day as their in-school peers, participating in online instruction with other students learning from home. Teachers will plan breaks for students at home beyond the five minute “passing time” if needed.

2020-2021 Middle School Bell Schedule (8 Period Day):

Arrival	7:55-8:15
Advisory	8:15-8:35
Period 1	8:40-9:18
Period 2	9:23-10:01
Period 3	10:06-10:44
Period 4	10:49-11:27
Period 5	11:32-12:10
Period 6	12:15-12:53
Period 7	12:58-1:36
Period 8	1:41-2:19
<b>Dismissal from cohort homebase</b>	2:24-2:44

Students will be provided with parallel learning experiences to their in-school peers. Some adjustments to online special area courses may be needed.

Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school. All school District expectations for student attendance, grading, participation, and conduct apply.

### **Fully Virtual High School (Grades 9-12) Model**

High school students opting to attend school virtually will be expected to attend every class, every day, for which they are regularly scheduled. They will be attending the same class virtually, with their peers, as if they were attending in person.

Regular Daily Bell Schedule:

<b>Period</b>	<b>Time</b>
1	7:39 am - 8:19 am
2	8:24 am - 9:07 am
3	9:12 am - 9:52 am
4	9:57 am - 10:37 am
5	10:42 am - 11:22 am
6	11:27 am - 12:07 pm
7	12:12 pm - 12:52 pm
8	12:57 pm - 1:37 pm
9	1:41 pm - 2:21 pm

All classes will be conducted via live instruction and accessible on-line through either Canvas or Google Classroom. Students must log in, be an active participant in the class, and complete all assignments in a timely manner, the same as if they were in-person. All of the classroom guidelines and practices, including grading, will remain in place regardless of whether attending school in person or virtually.

Faculty and staff will be available to support all aspects of student learning. Teachers will provide daily live instruction, Monday through Friday. Students may attend extra help virtually as teachers will make their extra help schedule available.

Students learning at home will be supported with the same mental health, counseling, and other resources as students learning at school.

For all secondary students, attendance will be taken each period, and students are expected to adhere to the Syosset CSD [Code of Character, Conduct & Support](#), [Digital Learning Chromebook User Agreement Grades 6-12](#), [Acceptable Use Policy](#), and [Internet Safety Policy](#).

## COVID-19 Testing

The Syosset School District is committed to providing the safest environment possible for our staff and students. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it may be necessary for students or staff to ascertain whether they may have become infected with the virus that causes COVID-19. The following protocols have been developed with the assistance of the Nassau BOCES Health and Safety Service.

Individuals exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should remain at home and not come to school. Persons arriving with symptoms will be prohibited from entering school buildings, or, if symptoms appear during the school day, be isolated in accordance with NYS guidance until a parent or guardian arrives to take them home.

The School District Physician, School Nurse COVID-19 Manager, and the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator (Lead Nurse) will refer the student to be evaluated by their personal physician for determination of appropriate treatment and the need to be tested. For example, students exhibiting fever may need to be screened for COVID-19, influenza, and/or strep throat.

Students or staff who have been tested for COVID-19 or who have signs and symptoms of COVID-19, must remain home. This is referred to as a “pending case”. Any close contacts (as defined by NYSDOH) of a pending case results should also remain at home and quarantined until the results of the test are known. Further quarantine and/or notification will be determined by the health department in conjunction with the school district.

The District has been in contact with the following testing centers which are prepared for testing students and staff from the Syosset School district.

1. **City MD Urgent Care** -- 358 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, Hours: 8AM - 8PM;  
(516) 677-9200
  - a. Rapid Testing is anticipated before the first week of September, awaiting kits
  - b. Testing is free to patients, but they do submit a bill to insurance company
  - c. Wait times vary, but they are willing to work with us if we call ahead to give an approximate wait time and will advise if Plainview location is available quicker
2. **PM Pediatric**, Syosset, opens at 12 noon each day to 10 PM. 516-677-5437
3. **Go Health Urgent Care Center** Syosset 103 Jackson Ave. 8AM-8PM 516-537-9062

Parents are not required to use these testing sites. This link from NYS provides all local testing sites, <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.



# Contact Tracing

## Overview

Syosset School District will support the efforts of the Nassau County Department of Health to perform contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19 among members of the school community. We have taken proactive measures in the areas of staffing, training, communications, data collection and retention, and privacy management.

The below protocols and language were developed with the assistance of the Nassau BOCES School Health and Safety Service. In addition, they note:

“The Nassau County Department of Health receives all confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Nassau County residents that are electronically transmitted from laboratories, by law. This does not include rapid tests (done at points of cares (sic) such as Urgent Cares) for which reliability and validity test (sic) are still on-going and are not automatically reported to Nassau County Department of Health, at this time. Confirmed cases in faculty, staff and administrators that live outside of Nassau County will be investigated by the jurisdiction that they reside in. In these cases, close communication will need to occur between the health departments of other jurisdictions, Nassau County and the school districts. Once the health department conducts its investigation, the school nurse or COVID-19 Safety Coordinator ... will be called and notified. Depending on the specifics of the case and potential exposures, additional close contacts will be elicited, and quarantine and/or notification may be determined. Very often, these determinations are made in partnership with the health department.”

## How the New York State Contact Tracing Program Works (From NYS DOH via Nassau BOCES)

“If you test positive, a COVID Contact Tracer will connect you with the support and resources you may need through quarantine, such as help getting groceries or household supplies, child-care, medical care or supplies. The Tracer will work with you to identify and reach out via phone and text to anyone you’ve been in contact with while you were infectious to trace and contain the spread of the virus.

“People who have come in close contact with someone who is positive are asked to stay home and limit their contact with others. By staying home during this time, IF you become sick yourself, you have not infected many others along the way. This is how we stop the spread!

“Testing, medical and quarantine support for yourself and your loved ones will be arranged. We will not release your name to anyone. Your information is strictly confidential and will be treated as a private medical record.

“This nation-leading program will place emphasis on areas with the highest rates of infection and on regions ready to open. The program will operate through the next flu season. It will be implemented in coordination with New Jersey and Connecticut.

**“Your caller ID will say “NYS Contact Tracing” (518-387-9993).** Please answer the phone so we can keep NY moving forward and stop the spread of COVID-19.”

## Definitions of “Close Contact”

According to the [CDC](#), [NYSDOH](#), and Nassau BOCES School Health and Safety Service, a close contact is defined as:

1. within 6 feet of a positive case for more than 10-15 minutes for 48 hours before case’s symptom onset to case’s isolation;
2. exposed to or give care to positive case;
3. direct touching;
4. shared food;
5. exposed to sneezing or coughing or talking.

Close contacts are required to be quarantined for 14 days according to the NYS Department of Health and are monitored by Nassau County and NYS contact tracing efforts. In some cases, we may decide to make notifications to other students and staff in the classroom or building who are not close contacts. NYSDOH considers these individuals “[proximate contacts](#)”. They are not required to be quarantined, but should be monitored for signs and symptoms. They are not part of the contact tracing effort.

## Staffing

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### COVID-19 Safety Coordinators

The Syosset school district lead nurse is certified as an RN and is designated as the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator. The COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will also work closely with the Nassau County Department of Health and other schools to monitor public health conditions and jointly develop monitoring strategies. This individual will also be critical, along with our school nurses and medical director, in assisting the Nassau County Department of Health with contact tracing efforts.

Each school building is staffed by at least one nurse certified as an RN and in schools with only one building nurse, a second certified LPN will be assigned daily. In every building, the RN on staff is designated as the building-level COVID-19 Manager.

## Training

To better support the NCDOH's contact tracing efforts, the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator lead school nurse and several school administrators have been trained in COVID-19 contact tracing through Johns Hopkins University. <https://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing> (currently free of charge). The COVID-19 Manager building nurses will complete the contact tracing program upon return to school for the 2020-2021 school year.

## Communications

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The Nassau County Department of Health is the lead agency for contact tracing. NCDOH has identified a primary point of contact for school districts.

Often, a staff member or student (parent) may know the results of a COVID-19 test before the health department. The school district will immediately inform the NCDOH of any self-reported case of COVID-19 among staff or students. In this situation, the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator will report the case to the Nassau County Department of Health, which will attempt to confirm the case. If it is confirmed, then additional close contacts may be determined depending on the specifics of the environment, case and potential exposures. If the case is not able to be confirmed, then the Syosset school physician in consultation with NCDOH may make a determination regarding close contacts/potential exposure and exclusions/quarantine at that time until further information is known.

## Privacy

Syosset will inform the community only to the extent permissible under strict privacy laws. General questions from the public will be referred to the New York State Coronavirus Hotline at 888-364-3065 or the Nassau County Department of Health COVID Hotline at 516-227-9570. Updates on Coronavirus in Nassau County can be received by texting COVID19NC to 888777 or by going to the Nassau County Website at <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov>. Under no circumstances will Syosset schools release protected individual health information.

## Data Collection

Syosset School District will support the efforts of the Nassau County Department of Health to perform contact tracing for positive cases of COVID-19 among members of the school community by:

- Maintaining accurate and up-to-date class lists and schedules,
- Keeping logs of (and contact information for) visitors.
- Keeping attendance records and schedules up to date
- Assisting the NC DOH in contacting any affected families and staff.

## Additional References

### **NYSDOH School Guidance**

[https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K\\_to\\_Grade\\_12\\_Schools\\_MasterGuidance.pdf](https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/Pre-K_to_Grade_12_Schools_MasterGuidance.pdf)

### **NYSED Guidance**

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/reopening-schools/nys-p12-school-reopening-guidance.pdf?source=email>

### **North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

*Reference Guide for Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 (K-12)*

<https://www.nc.gov//covid19#education>.

Note: The District is also holding a virtual meeting for faculty and staff to further discuss our reopening plans and answer any questions they may have. This meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2020 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.