

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

SYOSSET CSD
AUGUST 2021



OVERVIEW

- Universal Pre-K Grant Program Status
- Reopening Protocols

“UNIVERSAL” PRE-KINDERGARTEN GRANT

Background

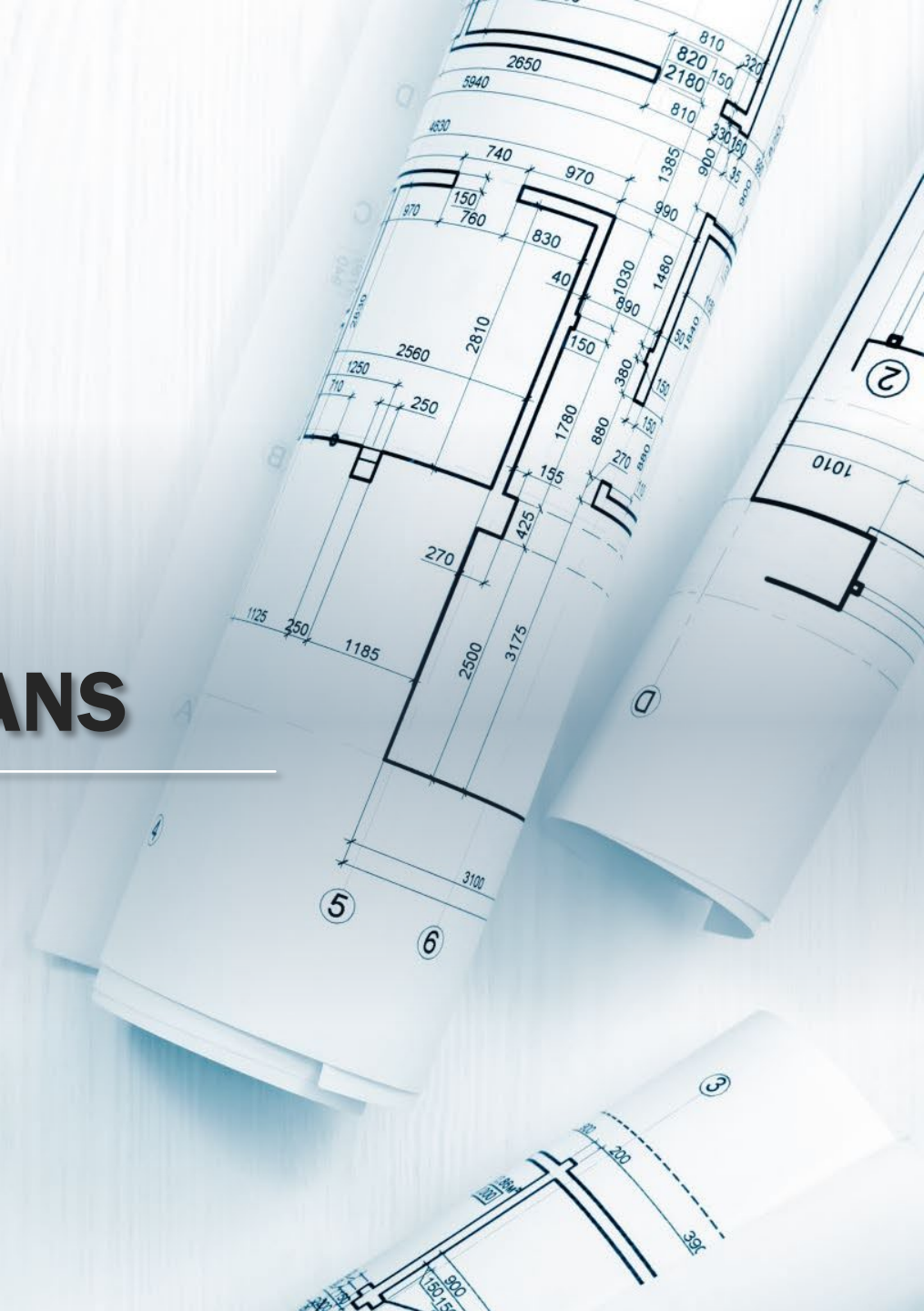
- State budget included an allocation for Universal Pre-K of \$642,600
- \$5,400 per student for 119 Full-Day 4-year-old students
 - Federal funds to NYS available for two years; after that NYS is expected to fund
 - Program must be Full-Day (minimum of 5 hours for 180 days)
 - In year 1, Districts can do a 90-day program (mid-year start for ½ allocation)
 - Participation would be by lottery if interest exceeded slots

Status

- Request for Proposals (RFP) Issued
 - 2 viable proposals received, recommend BOE tentatively award.
 - Negotiating contracts for up to 60 seats.
 - Reopening RFP process to try to identify additional providers for remaining seats.
 - Information for parents about how to apply to be in the lottery forthcoming shortly.
- No space available for in-District program.

REOPENING PLANS

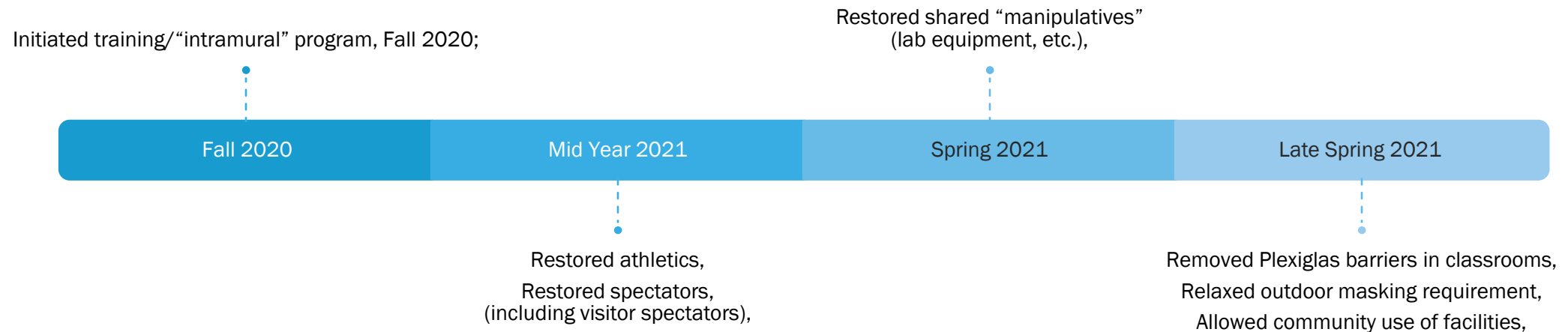
FALL 2021



REOPENING GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS

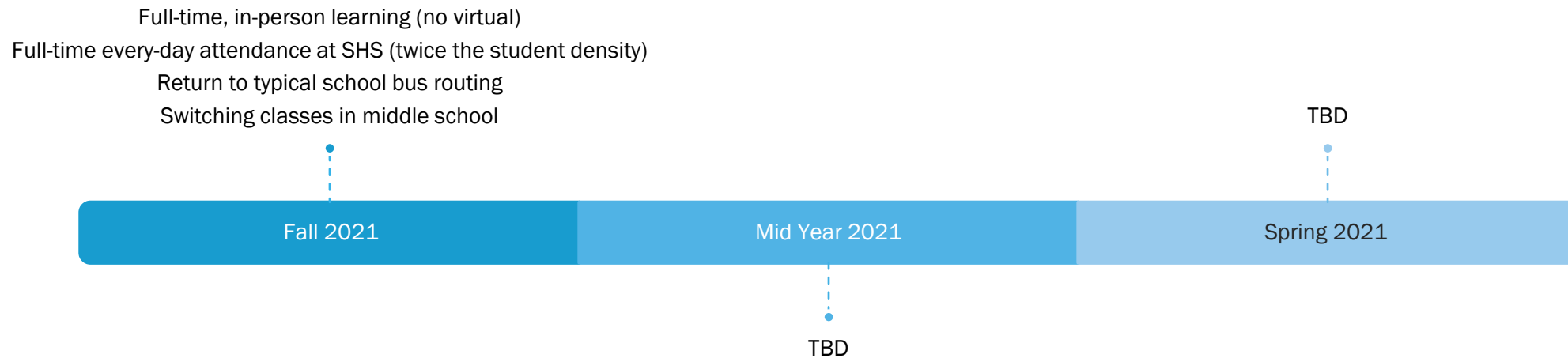
- [CDC Guidance to Schools](#) – Updated 8/5/21
 - “Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.”
 - “Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.”
 - “In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.”
- [NYS Education Department](#) – Released 8/12/21
 - “Consistent and correct mask use is particularly important indoors and when physical distancing cannot be maintained and in areas of high transmission of COVID-19. When teachers, staff, and students (ages 2 years and older) consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves.”
 - “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.”
 - “Schools are strongly encouraged to use COVID-19 screening testing for student athletes, students participating in extracurricular activities or other activities with elevated risk.”
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) – Updated 7/18/21
 - “All students older than 2 years and all school staff should wear face masks at school (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use)”

PROGRESSIVE RISK BALANCING 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR



Our approach has been to add back incrementally and evaluate each change in protocol to determine any increased incidence of COVID cases or elevated risk.

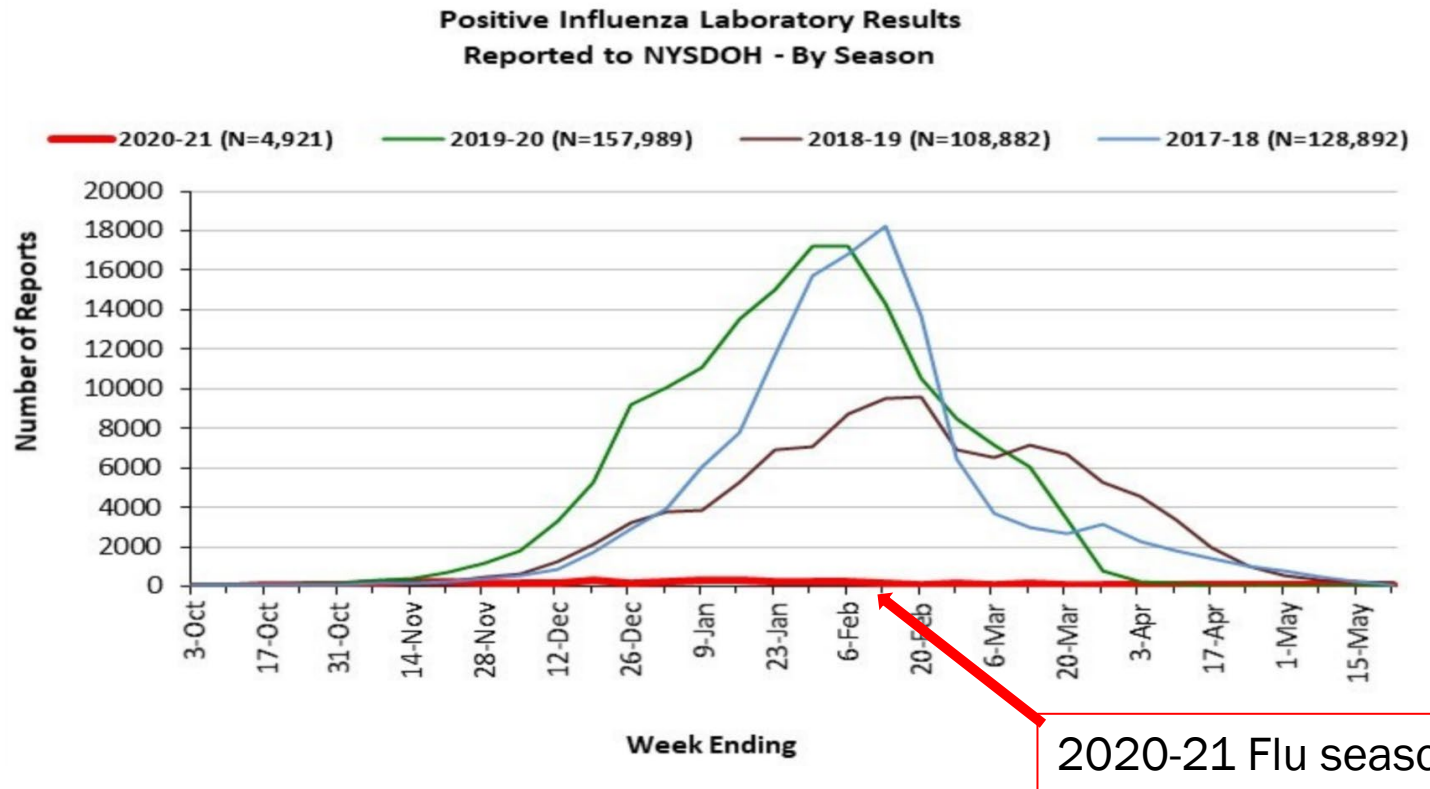
PROGRESSIVE RISK BALANCING 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



The above represent significant changes that should be studied before any additional changes are contemplated.

EFFECTIVENESS OF LAYERED MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- In the 3 preceding flu seasons, seasonal influenza rates have ranged from 108,882 cases to 157,989 cases;
- For the 2020-21 flu season, cases were under 5,000.
- Conclusion: mitigation effective against respiratory viruses.

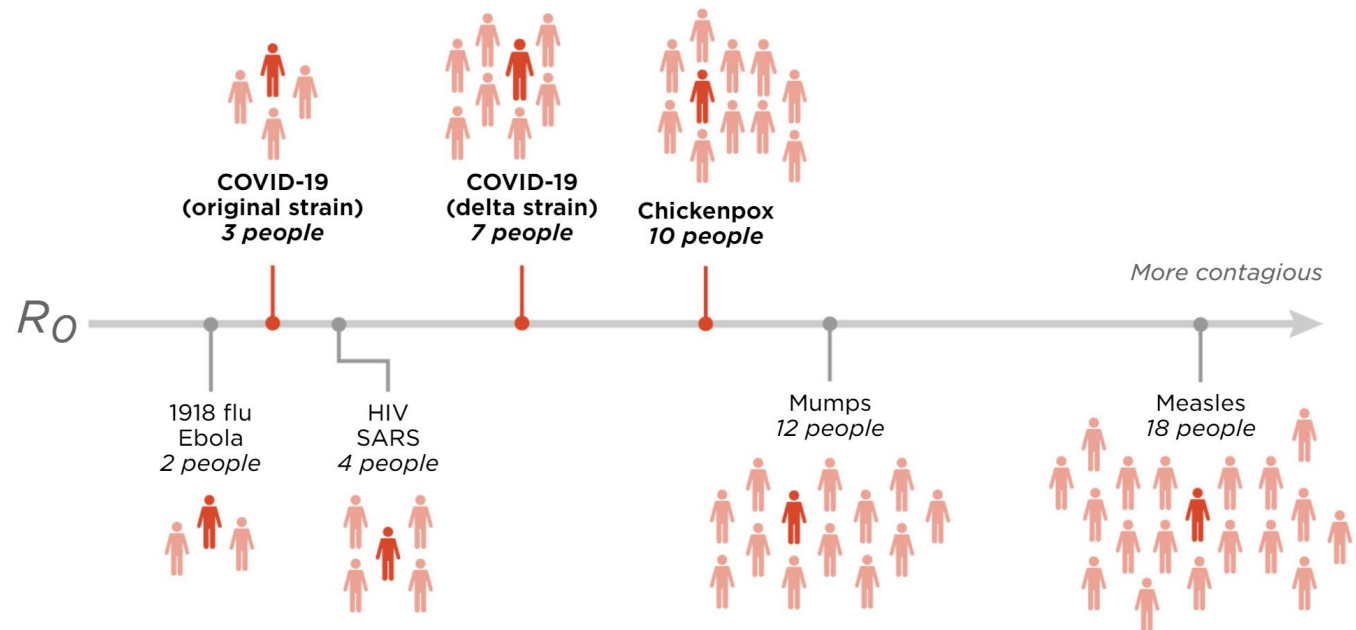


Graphic Source: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/2020-2021/flu_report_current_week.pdf

TRANSMISSIBILITY OF DELTA VARIANT

- Can layered mitigation still protect schools in 2021-22?
- 2009 Influenza Pandemic
 - $R_0 = 1.7$ ([The Lancet](#))
- Typical Seasonal Flu
 - $R_0 = 1.28$ ([BMC Infectious Disease](#))

The number of **people** that **one sick person** will infect (on average) is called R_0 . Here are the maximum R_0 values for a few viruses.

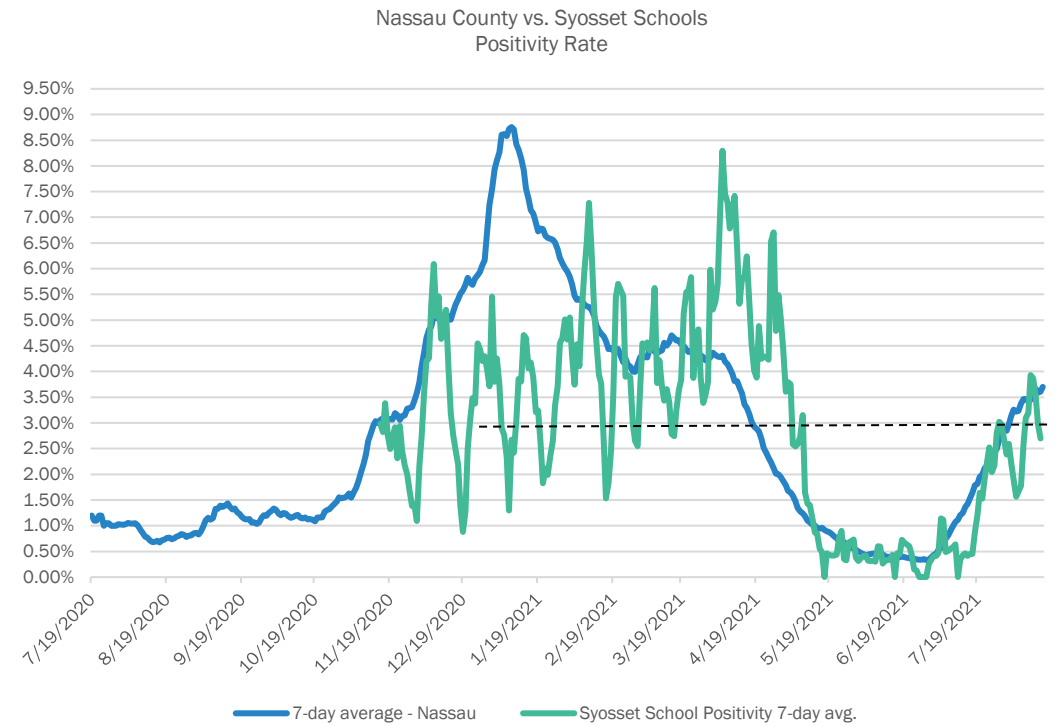
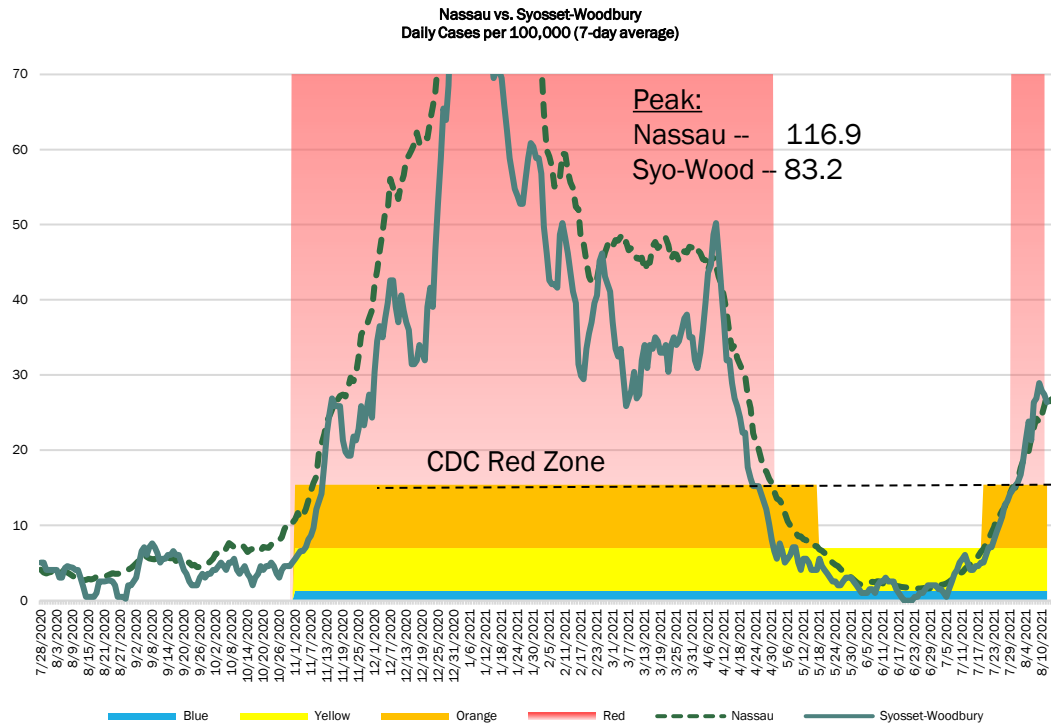


Source: [The Lancet](#) (1918 flu, SARS), [University of Michigan School of Public Health](#) (COVID-19, ebola, measles), [Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health](#) (chickenpox), [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#) (HIV), [Tom Wenseleers at the University of Leuven](#) (COVID-19 delta variant), [Australian Government Department of Health](#) (mumps)

Credit: [Michaeleen Doucleff](#), [Alyson Hurt](#) and [Adam Cole/NPR](#). Icon by [Gerard Higgins/The Noun Project](#).

Graphic Source: https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2021/08/11/1026190062/covid-delta-variant-transmission-cdc-chickenpox?utm_medium=social&utm_term=nprnews&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=npr

LOCAL TRANSMISSION DATA



CDC Guidance: “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).”

REOPENING COMPARISON – LAST YEAR/THIS YEAR

What Remains the Same

- Indoor mask requirement for all students K-12 and all employees
- Physical distancing recommendations for adults (6 feet)
- Management of students/staff with suspected and/or confirmed COVID-19 Cases (isolation rooms)
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols
- Contact Tracing/Quarantining
 - No quarantining for vaccinated individuals with close contact
 - 10-day quarantine for unvaccinated persons
- Weekly testing for unvaccinated student athletes in high-risk sports
- Daily temperature screening
- No vaccination mandate for staff or students

What is New

- Full-time, in-person learning (no virtual)
- Full-time, every-day attendance at SHS
- Physical distancing for students (3 feet)
- Contact tracing for students
 - Reduced from 6 feet to 3 feet for students – but only if all are masked
- Normal school bus seating/routing
 - Masks and ventilation still required
- Athletics teams have normal seasons
- No daily attestation forms
- 9-period day at middle school, students switch classes/rooms

REOPENING COMPARISON – LAST YEAR/THIS YEAR – MORE...

What Remains the Same

- Mask breaks;
- Cleaning protocols;
- HEPA and MERV-13 filters in every air handling unit that can accommodate;
- Portable handwashing stations;
- School contact tracing teams;
- Outdoor classes and tents;
- Plan to pivot to virtual in the event of an outbreak.

What is New

- DOAS ventilation system in secondary schools goes on-line at end of September.
- New Chromebooks, as part of a replacement cycle for older, slower models.
- More cafeteria use during mealtimes.

REOPENING FOCUS

Student Academic Focus

- Supplemental instruction to help any students needing to “catch up”
- Return instruction as closely to pre-pandemic as possible
- Always prepared to pivot to virtual

Student Socio-Emotional Health

- Hired 2 additional social workers using federal grant funds.
- Professional development days prior to school for teachers on supporting student mental/emotional health.
- Social integration of previously all-virtual students