



VALLEY STREAM 13 SCHOOL DISTRICT

Superintendent's Task Force Update

The health and safety of Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen staff, students and families is the number one consideration in planning for the reopening of our schools. This week all public school districts in New York State received guidance from both Governor Cuomo's Office and the New York State Department of Education regarding the choices that we can offer our school community. This week we have also met with our four Focus Groups including support staff, parents, teachers and Board members. With these groups, we have been able to make some decisions that represent broad ideas to be described in greater detail in the Reopening Planning Report, which we will submit to the State Education Department by July 31st and present to our school community by August 5th.

Health Screening

All employees and students will be expected to complete a daily health screening process before participating in any in-person activities in our schools. All individuals must have their temperatures checked each day.

Physical (Social) Distance

All employees and students will be expected to maintain social distancing (of at least 6 ft. or use of a physical barrier) while in school facilities and on school grounds.

Face Covering

All Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen employees and students will be required to wear a face covering (mask) while inside the building unless medically exempt. As guided by the state regulations, there will be allowances made for staff and students to remove their face covering during meals, instruction, and for short breaks so long as they maintain appropriate social distance.

Students must wear a face covering to ride the school bus and wear it while entering, exiting, and seated.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment will be provided to all Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen employees including face shields and masks. The Valley Stream Teacher's Association is collaborating with the district to assist with this effort.

COVID Response

There will be clear and documented procedures provided for a presumptive or confirmed COVID cases that may emerge in our schools. These procedures will be included in the comprehensive communication plan and reopening report that is also under development.

Cleaning

All cleaning and disinfecting of our schools will be conducted on a regular schedule and comply with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health guidelines. Additionally, the cleaning protocols for the 2020-2021 school year have been enhanced, supported by the purchase of additional equipment to promote efficiencies as it relates to sanitizing.

Social Emotional Health

The psychologists, social workers and guidance counselors will work collaboratively with building principals and staff to address the social emotional and mental health needs of our students, families and staff. Much preparation and outreach will occur prior to the opening of school to assist in the transition process. A three-tiered model of support will be implemented to monitor individual and family circumstances as necessary.

Transportation

Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen will continue provide bus transportation to eligible students. The Walk-Back Pass Program must be suspended for the 2020-2021 school year to meet the guidelines associated with social distancing.

District Thirteen will continue partnering with PTA Leadership to establish other options including "[walking school buses](#)" to expand safe transportation options.

Initial Steps Completed

- Face Coverings have been purchased for every VS13 employee.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) (i.e., face shields) has been purchased for every employee in our district.
- A hand sanitizer dispenser has been installed in every classroom that does not have a sink. Hand sanitizer dispensers have also been installed in every nurse's office and strategically installed throughout each school building.
- Infrared Thermometers have been purchased for schools to increase our capacity to identify and confirm symptoms of COVID-19.

- Signage has been increased throughout our buildings; this will continue throughout the summer.
- Guidance has been developed on health and safety return-to-work procedures for employees.
- Custodial supply inventory minimums have been achieved (i.e., 10 weeks of supplies secured) in coordination with our Director of Facilities and multiple vendors.
- Focus Groups have met with District Administration and summaries have been developed to share with our public (See “Focus Group Summary Report,” also attached).
- Resources that promote the maximum safety and healthful environment for Valley Stream UFSD Thirteen have been reviewed.

Next Steps in the Process

- Survey our school community regarding the models of learning that we now have the authority to provide within state guidelines (underway).
- Utilize survey information to further develop a plan focused first on health and safety of our staff and students for returning to school.
- Develop draft instructional plans that are responsive to critical feedback from Focus Groups considering different models of instructional delivery; these discussions have been ongoing for months.
- Finalize plans with busing companies prioritizing safe transportation of our students.
- Further develop employee health and safety return-to-work training to provide an understanding of COVID procedures for our district.
- Further develop training and communications plan related to all of the new systems and responsive actions that will be in place regarding enhanced safety protocols for reopening schools for our families and staff.