



## **FAQs - School year 2021-2022**

**Q: Will all students return for in-school instruction at the same time this year?**

A: Yes. All students will return to school for in-person, full-day instruction five days a week.

**Q: Has the SNEP Return to School Plan 2021-2022 been reviewed by medical professionals, and what resources were used in reference to create this plan?**

A: Our Return to School Plan was designed and reviewed by a committee that includes several health care professionals. In addition, our committee was in consultation with a board-certified infectious disease specialist as well as the public health director for the Niagara County Department of Health. In creating our plan, we utilized the most current guidance from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics), NYSED (New York State Education Department) and the Diocese of Buffalo. Our plan will change as appropriate, according to local infection rates and guidance from these same organizations.

**Q: Will SNEP be offering a fully remote learning option this year?**

A: No, there is not a fully remote learning option. Remote learning is only an option if a student has to be quarantined due to having tested positive for Covid-19 or is identified as a close contact by the health department.

**Q: Will there be any type of health monitoring for students and staff upon arrival every day?**

A: The CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings or screening questionnaires at school. Families should be reminded and are strongly encouraged to be mindful of indications their children may exhibit symptoms of COVID-19 and to seek testing when such symptoms are present. The CDC maintains a list of COVID-19 symptoms on its website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

**Q: If a child/staff has COVID-19 symptoms, will they be required to stay out of school until they produce proof of a negative COVID-19 test?**

A: Students and staff will be allowed to return to school with a negative test, and resolution of symptoms. The CDC created a flowchart to assist schools in decision making if a student becomes sick or reports a new COVID-19 diagnosis at school.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/community/schools-childcare/What-Do-I-Do-Student-Sick-At-School-Flowchart-print.pdf?v=2>

**Q: What if a student or staff member has a fever that has an identified source other than COVID-19?**

A: Students and staff will have to be 24 hours fever free, on treatment (antibiotics), and have a note from the primary healthcare provider.

**Q: If a child tests positive for COVID-19, what will the exposure protocol be for the other children in the school?**

A: SNEP will report all exposures to the Niagara County Department of Health and follow all recommendations once received. Fully vaccinated students do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

**Q: What will happen if a student becomes ill during the school day?**

A: We have set up a health isolation area. All students, regardless of vaccination status, will immediately report to this supervised area where they will be isolated until parent or caregiver pickup.

**Q: Will kids be required to wear masks all day?**

A: At this time, SNEP has a universal masking mandate while indoors. The only exceptions will be during lunch periods where proper social distancing will be ensured; during periodic mask breaks in the classroom; or when participating in recess, gym class, or outdoor education, outdoors. If possible, we ask that your child bring at least one extra mask with them each day.

**Q: What if a child misplaces their mask at school, or forgets to bring one to school?**

A: SNEP has a supply of disposable masks available for any student who forgets to bring one, or whose mask may be lost or contaminated.

**Q: Can students wear masks with logos?**

A: Masks are considered part of the SNEP uniform, and all designs and logos should be appropriate and not offensive or a distraction to the educational environment. Masks supporting local organizations and businesses are acceptable; slogans are not.

**Q: Are bandanas and neck gaiters acceptable forms of face coverings?**

As bandanas and neck gaiters do not fit snugly against the sides of the face, they are not acceptable forms of face coverings according to the CDC.

**Q: Can face shields be used instead of masks?**

A: Face shields worn without other face coverings are not considered adequate protection or source control against COVID-19 and are not acceptable at SNEP.

**Q: Will parents/legal guardians still be allowed to bring their children into the school?**

A: No, not at this time. In order to maximize the safety of our students, teachers will be available to escort young children into the building.

**Q: How will school drop off and pick-up be handled?**

A: We are currently finalizing plans for drop-off and pick-up. These procedures will be communicated to parents/legal guardians in the coming week.

**Q: Will specials be offered this year?**

A: Yes. Specials will be offered, and the students will travel throughout the building as well as outdoors to participate in these classes (music, technology, physical education, library, etc.)

**Q: Where will lunch be held and what will it look like?**

A: Students will be spaced 6 feet apart in line to get their lunch....we have markers on the floor to help them. Everything will be pre-wrapped (silverware), and dressings and/or condiments will be available in small containers. Students will wear their masks coming into the dining room and take them off when they get to their assigned seat.

**Q: What is the cleaning schedule for the dining room?**

A: The dining room will be fully cleaned and disinfected between each lunch period.

**Q: Will clubs be offered this year?**

A: Yes. Clubs are very important to our families and enjoyed by our students. Students will be able choose clubs that interest them; they will not be in their homerooms everyday as they were last year. The fall club schedule will be sent out shortly.

**Q: Will extended care (before and after care) be available this year?**

A: Yes. Before-school care is available from 7:15 - 7:45 and after- school care is available until 5:30, at an additional cost. All safety precautions and requirements (e.g., masks and distancing) will still be in place during extended care. If you are interested in extended care, please contact the school office at 754-4314. Q: Is my child in Montessori expected to wear a mask all day?A:The Montessori team is making program changes to reduce the risk of transmission in the classroom. Our class will be in two rooms this year. Each of the rooms will be capped at 20 students. We are starting the year requesting that students bring at least two (or more) masks per day to school, and a pacifier clip so the face covering can be clipped to their shirt collar. We hope this will be an easy way to keep masks clean and easily available to the student. Children will have to wear them when moving around the building outside of the classroom. Within the rooms in Montessori, the faculty may gently remind students to put it on while moving around the room. These will be reminders only; no student will be reprimanded or disciplined for forgetting. Once a student is seated at a table or work rug with a work, they will not be expected to keep the mask on. The Montessori team will repeatedly teach the students in proper wearing and removal of the face coverings. If the teachers find this system to be developmentally inappropriate or physically unsafe for some students, this plan is subject to change.

**Q: What measures will be in place in the Montessori classroom to reduce the risk of transmission in the classroom?**

A: We will continue to practice social distancing and wearing masks for the time being. Proper hand washing will be taught and reinforced daily. There will be several times per day when all children will be required to wash their hands. Montessori materials will be disinfected daily. The Montessori teachers will utilize the outdoor classroom as much as possible. Our classroom is also equipped with three air purifiers.

**Q: Will First Communion and Reconciliation take place this year?**

A: SNEP will continue to provide preparation for the Sacraments of First Communion and Reconciliation. SNEP will coordinate with families to determine the timing, schedule, and if necessary, alternative location, for the celebration of these sacraments.

**Q: Will students be required to wear their gym uniform or Outdoor Education gear to school on the days that they have these specials?**

A: No, students will bring their gym uniforms and Outdoor Education clothing to school and change at school, as in previous years.

**Q: What if we travel out of state over the Labor Day weekend?**

A: There are currently no travel advisories from New York State Dept of Health. We ask that anyone with signs of infectious illness and symptoms of Covid-19, or a known exposure to someone with Covid-19 contact their healthcare provider for testing and treatment.