OPERATION KIDZ-IN

IN-PERSON LEARNING GUIDE

STAYING SAFE

NAVIGATING OUR WAY FORWARD

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

WWW.ARLINGTONSCHOOLS.ORG

APRIL 2021
“Operation Kidz In!” supports our mission to educate our students and to support social emotional learning, while doing all we can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As always, our top priority is the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

The purpose of this guide is to share what we are doing to protect our school community and to remind families about their important role in helping us continue to maintain safe and healthy schools for everyone.

We continue to monitor the COVID-19 landscape in our community, new or changing guidelines from the CDC, and all new recommendations from the New York State and our local health departments.

As we have learned during the past year, new information causes the need to adapt and change. While we have presented our best plans, as we now know them, please keep up-to-date by referring to our COVID-19 Hub for the latest changes and developments. Thank you for your flexibility and your commitment to the education of all Arlington students.

Where do I go if I have questions?

Important Links

To help you navigate the wealth of information available, we have included this list of links:

Arlington COVID-19 Hub
Student Daily Health Screening Form
CDC COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit
CDC COVID-19 Website
NYS COVID-19 Updates
NYS Travel Advisory
Dutchess County COVID-19 Website

• For help with your District-issued Chromebook, please visit our Parent Technology Help Desk.

• For questions about your child’s schedule or classroom activities, please contact your child’s teacher or school counselor.

• For questions about contact tracing, quarantining, illness, or COVID-19 exposure, please contact your school health office.

• For questions about your school’s procedures for COVID-19 mitigation (e.g. mask breaks, cleaning, physical distancing), please contact a school administrator.

• For general questions, please email keycommunicator@acsdny.org.
Arlington Central School District’s Contact Tracing

Based on guidance from the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health, contact tracing and quarantine protocols have been updated. The 48-hour look-back window is the 48 hours prior to symptom onset for the positive person. If the positive person was asymptomatic, it is 48 hours before the date of the positive test result.

Cafeteria:
Students and staff in the cafeteria with a positive case within the 48-hour look-back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes without a barrier).

Bus/Vehicle:
Students and staff on the bus with a positive case within the 48-hour look-back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 6 feet for bus rides over 10 minutes). Six feet is measured by anyone sitting directly in front, behind or next to the positive case.

Classrooms:
Students and staff in classrooms with a positive case within the 48-hour look-back window are quarantined if they fall under the definition of a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes without a barrier). This will require us to contact staff to understand the context of the classroom experience.

Quarantine Guidance
At this time, the current guidance related to quarantining for those who are fully vaccinated or were previously positive is:

- If the individual exposed (close contact) has had a positive lab confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last three months, then the individual does not have to quarantine.
- If an individual, who is fully vaccinated for at least 14 days and within the last three months, is exposed (close contact), they do not need to quarantine.
In our Classrooms:
• Our classrooms are set up with two-sided, clear desk barriers on each student’s desk wherever 6 foot spacing cannot be maintained.
• Desks are arranged in either small groups or rows.
• Air purifiers are provided for every classroom.
• We will continue our practice of wearing a face covering/mask at all times, except when eating and during designated breaks.

Masks/face coverings are required in classrooms, hallways, buses, and all school grounds, except when eating and during designated breaks.

On our Buses:
• Students are required to wear a face covering/mask at all times on the bus.
• The seat behind the driver will remain empty at all times.
• Students will sit one per seat when possible. If it is not possible to have one student per seat:
  ▪ Household members will share a seat
  ▪ Students will sit two per seat
  ▪ Seats will be assigned to ensure efficient and expeditious contact tracing.
• Whenever weather permits, bus windows and the roof vents will be partially opened to create a continual flow of fresh air.
• Drivers will disinfect their bus once per day. They will wipe down high contact areas, such as step well hand rails and seat backs, between their secondary and elementary school bus runs.
We have comprehensive plans and procedures in place to keep everyone safe. Please continue to follow these important safety protocols. They are working!

In our Cafeterias

Since students cannot wear masks when they are eating, we will continue to take special care in our school cafeterias to keep the environment as safe as possible.

- Custodial staff will wipe down all cafeteria tables (in many schools they have been substituted with desks and chairs) and then sanitize the tables and high touch areas on the chairs after each lunch period.
- The majority of elementary students will be spaced 6 feet apart in the cafeterias. If this is not possible, 2-sided barriers will be placed between the seats or desks.
- Markers have been placed in the lunch lines to help students remain physically distanced while waiting to purchase their lunch.

Remember...

- Complete the Student Daily Health Screening Form before you send your child to school. Parents must first log into their child’s Arlington Google account to complete the form.
- Please do not send your child to school if they are sick. Check this link for symptoms of COVID-19: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Remind your child about the proper use of face coverings. Check out our resources on the proper use: Face Coverings/Masks on the Arlington COVID-19 Hub.
- Remind your child to wash their hands frequently. When hand washing is not possible, hand sanitizer is available.
- Have alternative child care plans in place in case your child and/or the class has to isolate or quarantine.
Summary: Ongoing Efforts

Daytime Cleaning/Disinfecting Common Areas
Before students arrive, playgrounds are sanitized with backpack electrostatic sprayers. During the day, high touch areas are disinfected several times a day by custodial staff. This includes handrails, light switches, doorknobs, handles, entrance push bars and water fountains.

Bathrooms
High touch areas in the bathrooms are disinfected several times a day. There are scheduled shutdowns and re-openings to ensure there is time to disinfect toilets/urinals, faucets/sinks, soap/paper towel dispensers, and partition handles.

Cafeteria
Custodial staff will wipe down all cafeteria tables (in many schools they have been substituted with desks and chairs) and then sanitize the tables and high touch areas on the chairs after each lunch period. After the last lunch period, floors are swept and mopped and every cafeteria table, desk, and chair is disinfected.

Nurse’s Office
Cleaning and disinfecting the nurse’s office is done as requested during the day. A full cleaning and disinfecting takes place every night. Isolation areas are disinfected as soon as it is practical after use.

Staff equipped with proper protection (gloves, mask, eye protection) clean the entire area and then spray down the entire isolation area with an electrostatic sprayer.

Nighttime Cleaning/Disinfecting
Great care is taken by the custodial staff to clean/disinfect the entire school. In addition to routine cleaning and care, all classroom/office desks, chairs, faucets, sinks, and pencil sharpeners are cleaned and disinfected. Bathrooms are entirely cleaned and disinfected and handrails in hallways and stairways are cleaned and disinfected.

We have purchased additional electrostatic sprayers to allow us to incorporate thorough and regular disinfecting.

Remember the three “Ws”

1. wear a mask
2. wash your hands
3. watch your distance!
What does the Research Say?

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, schools are crucial to children’s educational, social, physical and emotional development. Schools are also a source of special services including nutrition and can help reduce disparities for some students.

Data indicates that schools can reopen safely if they develop and adhere to specific COVID-19 prevention practices such as mask wearing, quarantining after exposures, and other safety practices.

COVID-19 Cases and Transmission in 17 K–12 Schools
Wood County, Wisconsin
August 31 – November 29, 2020

Study: In-school transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Rare in schools implementing safety measures