

THE ARC OF MID-HUDSON RE- OPENING/RE-ENTRY PLAN FOR BROOKSIDE SCHOOL AND PARKSIDE PRESCHOOL

Revisions to the Plan
Dates: Brookside
School moves to
Reopening on May 19,
2021

May 19, 2021 – pg.
4,5,10,11, 12, 17, 18, 19,
22, 24, 25, 27, 30, 31, 32

August 14, 2020 – pg. 7,
8, 9, 10 and 13

*To empower people with intellectual and other developmental
disabilities to achieve and experience the highest quality of life.*

School Re-Opening/Re-Entry Plan

Submitted: 7/31/2020 and May 19, 2021

Agency Name: The Arc Mid-Hudson

BEDS Code: 620901999364

Administrative Address: 471 Albany Avenue, Kingston, NY 12401

Program Site Address: Brookside School 11 Tanhouse Brook Rd, PO Box 67, Cottekill, NY 12419 and Parkside PreSchool 125 Baldwin Place, Mahopac, NY 10541

Program(s) provided at this site:

- 4410 (Pre-school Special Education) (Brookside and Parkside)
- Special Class (Parkside)
- Special Class in an Integrated Setting (Brookside and Parkside)
- Multi-Disciplinary Evaluations (Brookside)
- 853 (School Age Special Education (Brookside)

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Website where this plan and any plan updates will be posted:

The information will be posted at www.arcmh.org. Each school will have a link on their section of website for staff, parents, families, and community agencies. Brookside School link is Brookside School link is <https://www.arcmh.org/family/the-brookside-school>. Parkside Preschool link is <https://www.arcmh.org/family/parkside-preschool>. Both schools will have this Re-Opening/Re-Entry Plan on their respective FACEBOOK social media pages.

To empower people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to achieve and experience the highest quality of life.



A letter from John McHugh, Executive Director

July 29, 2020

The closing of schools in New York State in March, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic systematically and unequivocally changed the way we provided instruction and services for our students. Our schools had to move quickly to a remote learning model using various platforms and providing instruction and services synchronously and asynchronously. Although teachers and service providers worked tirelessly to instruct and provide services for students and families, we know that an in-person model addressing students' learning and social emotional needs along with equitable participation for learning is the optimal situation for our learners. As our world continues to be in a fluid capacity, our schools have developed an in-person, hybrid (in-person/remote), and a remote learning plan to reopen schools when we are ready.

The 2020-2021 school year will be our time to recover, rebuild, and reimagine our preschool and school age programs. Working together as educators, staff, parents and our school community, we will continue to address this challenge with compassion, empathy, resiliency, tenacity, and hard work.

This Reopening of Schools Plan for Brookside School and Parkside Preschool is intended to provide guidance to staff, families, schools and county agencies as we plan to reopen our schools – whether the instruction occurs in person, remotely, or in some combination of the two.

It is important to note that this School Reopening Plan specifically outlines the essential elements and best practices that must be included in the school opening plan under guidance issued by the New York State Department of Education and the New York State Department of Health. If guidance in this document differs from COVID-19 related guidance previously issued by the New York State Education Department, the most recent guidance shall apply and we will update this plan and inform you. In addition, should any health and safety-related guidance in this document conflict with guidance issued by the New York State Department of Health (DOH), the DOH guidance will apply. This document will be updated on a regular basis to address changes due to local health and safety needs and most importantly to inform our staff and families.

The COVID-19 pandemic demanded us to address to even a greater extent, the health and safety needs and social-emotional needs of our students, families and staff. We will continue to collaborate with local health departments and community agencies to adhere to health and safety protocols, especially if the regional or county health status changes and we are required to move back to a remote learning model.

We want students back in our schools thriving and learning academically and social-emotionally and in the safest environment. We want this for our staff as well. This document is intended to help make the re-entry to school in the 2020-21 school year a safe and successful one for all.

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COMMUNICATION/FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout this COVID-19 pandemic, the Brookside School and the Parkside Preschool staff and administration have remained in frequent contact with parents/guardians and families, local health departments, local health care providers and agency nurse personnel. We will continue to have ongoing communication with ALL moving forward during this challenging time. Maintaining family and community engagement is essential and important and we will utilize the following communications with staff, families and community members via:

- Phone calls
- Letters, teacher notes, communication logs
- Emails
- Remind App and text messages
- Facebook
- The Arc Mid-Hudson Website (www.arcmh.org)
- Google Classrooms
- Google Meets
- Virtual Meetings
- Signage
- Town Hall Meetings
- E-Blasts from our Agency
- Daily “huddles”

On July 13, 2020 the New York State Education Department and Department of Health released finalized guidance and guiding principles for the reopening of schools. Brookside School and Parkside Preschool have written a reopening plan that will be posted on the website links listed on page 1 of this plan. A team comprised of administrators, teachers, related service providers, school nurse, and curriculum coordinators was established to review the guidance documents and write our school reopening plan. We sought input from our local county preschool offices, CPSE and CSE chairpersons and district superintendents to assure that we were working with our local education community as our students are their students.

We will continue to reach out to parents/guardians, staff, local school districts, Departments of Health (Ulster, Orange, Putnam, Westchester), and County Transportation Departments (Ulster, Orange, Putnam and Westchester County) to provide communication and training to staff and parents.

Ongoing trainings will focus on performing COVID – 19 protocols safely and correctly, including but not limited to hand hygiene, proper face cover wearing, social distancing, respiratory hygiene, and social-emotional learning. In addition, verbal and written communication (signage) will be posted throughout our buildings for staff, students and visitors that conform to CDC and

DOH guidance regarding the use of PPE and acceptable face coverings when social distancing cannot be maintained.

At Brookside School and Parkside Preschool, we will provide regular updates about health and safety, scheduling of our school days, and any other pertinent information we can provide to our families/school partners to encourage feedback. We will use Google Translate to share documents with any non-English speaking families and are able to access TTY services or Text to Speech software if necessary for communication with school community members with hearing or visual impairments.

Our COVID-19 Coordinator at Brookside will be Jennifer Fitzgerald, RN. She can be reached at Jennifer.Fitzgerald@arcmh.org and/or (845) 687-7250 ext. 47019.

Our COVID-19 Coordinator at Parkside Preschool will be determined as soon as possible.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

NOTE: Students and staff will return to in-person instruction only when governmental authorities permit in-person education. Additionally any return to in-person instruction will necessitate that the school's leadership also determines the number of students and staff allowed to return in person based on: the ability to maintain social distancing; the availability of PPE, including the availability of cloth face coverings and face masks; availability of safe transportation; local hospital capacity according to the local Department of Health

The health and safety needs of students and adults in our schools is of most importance during these times. The consideration for health and safety must always come first in every decision and action we take as a school. Whether information is provided in-person, remotely, or through some combination of the two, we as a school have an important role to play in educating and communicating with everyone in the school community about the everyday preventive actions everyone can take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Prevention is accomplished by following the recommendations of health authorities in the following areas:

- Health Checks;
- Healthy Hygiene Practices;
- Social Distancing;
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Cloth Face Coverings;
- Management of Ill Persons; and
- Cleaning and Disinfection

The areas noted below are based on recommendations and best practices from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH).

As two schools, we will continue to monitor the CDC and DOH websites to keep current with the most updated COVID-19 information and guidance.

Parents/guardians and school staff will be instructed via virtual meetings, professional development, orientation opportunities, videos and written protocols on the signage and symptoms of COVID-19. Students and staff should remain home if they have a fever of 100.0 degrees or greater and/or if they exhibit symptoms of possible COVID-19 virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) keeps an up to date list of symptoms of Coronavirus on its website. As of 07/13/20 the following symptoms are listed as the most common symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100.0 degrees Fahrenheit or greater)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting; and/or
- Diarrhea

Staff will be educated to observe students and other staff members for signs of any type of illness such as:

- Flushed cheeks
- Rapid or difficulty breathing (without physical activity)
- Fatigue, and or irritability; and
- Frequent use of bathroom

Health Screenings

- Parents/guardians are instructed to observe their student for signs of illness that will require them to stay home from school. We will assure that all families have written information about symptomology and precautions to take if symptoms exist. We know the challenges that parents face but it is critical that you do not send your child to school if they have a fever or symptoms of illness.
- Staff will be trained and instructed to observe for signs of illness in students and other staff members for symptoms listed above. Symptomatic persons will be sent to the school nurse or other designated personnel.
- Ill students and staff will be assessed by the school nurse (registered professional nurse, RN) or agency doctor. If a school nurse or agency doctor is not available, ill students and staff will be sent home for follow up with a healthcare provider.

- An online health attestation must be completed by all staff and students prior to arriving at school. The health attestation will include a temperature check. The threshold for a fever (resulting in exclusion from school) is 100.0 without the use of fever reducing medications in accordance with the NYSDOH guidelines.

Staff/Visitor Questionnaire (Questions 3-6 require yes/no responses. If a staff member responds with a “yes” please stay home).

1. If you have a temperature of 100 degrees or higher you must stay/go home. Immediately notify the COVID-19 Coordinator and your Supervisor.
2. The purpose of today’s visit (Employee/Visitor)? _____
3. Are you or have you experienced the following symptoms in the last 14 days: fever (100 degrees or above), cough, shortness of breath and difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?
4. In the last 14 days, have you been in prolonged, close contact (less than 6 feet) with anyone else who has any of the above symptoms?
5. To your knowledge, have you had contact with any Person’s Under Investigation (PUI’s) for COVID-19 within the last 14 days or with any one with known COVID-19?
6. Have you or anyone you have been in prolonged contact with traveled within the last 14 days outside of NYS or to an area where you or they may have been exposed to COVID-19?
7. What is a good phone number to reach you? _____
8. Today’s Date _____
9. Signature _____

Parent Questionnaire for Student (Questions 3-9 require yes/no responses. If a parent responds “yes” in regard to their child please keep your child home).

1. Child’s Name _____
2. Adult Family Members Name _____
3. Contact Phone Number _____
4. Does your child have a temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit?
5. In the last 14 days has your child had any of the following symptoms:
 - Temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit
 - Cough (new or worsening)
 - Sore throat (new or worsening)
 - Runny nose
 - Shortness of breath (new or worsening)
 - Trouble Breathing (new or worsening)
 - Fatigue
 - Chills
 - Fever
 - Muscle Pain (new or worsening)
 - Headache (new or worsening)
 - Gastro-intestinal issues (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea)
 - Rash

-New loss of taste or smell

6. If a member of your household or a person in close contact of your child (e.g. Day Care Provider) demonstrating any of the above symptoms?
 7. Has a child or a member of your household hold any known contact with a person confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
 8. Has a child or a member of your household traveled within the last 14 days outside of NYS or to an area where you or they may have been exposed to COVID-19?
 9. Has your child received any modification or treatment including any symptom receiving medication (Tylenol, Ibuprofen, Cough Medicine, Lozenges) or nebulizer treatment in the last 24 hours?
- Students that come to school with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or over, signs of illness, and without responses by their parents to the questionnaire will be sent directly to a dedicated isolation area in the Brookside School and Parkside Preschool. Students will be supervised prior to being picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact.

COVID-19 TESTING

Protocols have been established via our School Re-Opening/Re-Entry Plan. Although, Brookside and Parkside Schools are not responsible for COVID-19 testing, each school's COVID-19 Coordinator will consult with local health department officials, whenever needed, to assist in formulating plans for the testing of symptomatic individuals, close contacts of individuals suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19, and individuals who have recently traveled internationally or to states with widespread transmission of COVID-19, as designated by the New York State Travel Advisory. The school will comply with Department of Health (DOH) advisement regarding which individuals must be tested and cleared before returning to school. The schools themselves will not be testing students for COVID-19.

Testing is readily available in our community. Students, staff or visitors requiring COVID-19 testing should notify their health care provider, a local urgent care, federally qualified health center or visit the NYSDOH website to locate a nearby testing facility

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you>.

Brookside School Staff and Families - A list of testing sites in Ulster County are available at: <https://covid19.ulstercountyny.gov/get-tested/>

Parkside Preschool Staff and Families - A listing of testing sites in Putnam and Westchester Counties are available at:

Putnam County: <https://www.putnamcountyny.com/health/coronavirus/#toggle-id-1>

Westchester County: (<https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novelcoronavirus>).

Information can be found under the testing, results and treatment tab. Students, faculty and staff can also call the NYS COVID-19 hotline at 1-888-364-3065 for assistance locating a testing site.

Contact Tracing

Case investigation and contact tracing, a core disease control measure employed by local and state health department personnel for decades, is a key strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19.

Case investigation and contact tracing is a specialized skill. To be done effectively, it requires people with the training, supervision, and access to social and medical support for patients and contacts. We rely on our partners in public health and local health authorities to carry out effective contact tracing and to guide our staff in any additional measures needed on a case-by-case basis.

In accordance with CDC and NYSDOH guidelines we will implement the following:

- Upon notification of a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in our school, the COVID coordinator, and/or school nurse will coordinate closely with the local department of health to help rapidly identify contacts of the case within the school setting, in a confidential manner.
- For symptomatic persons presenting during the course of the school day the school nurse and/or COVID-19 Coordinator will keep students/staff isolated until sent home. Parents and/or guardians and staff will be directed to seek further medical attention from their health care provider. If they do not have a health care provider the COVID Coordinator and/or school nurse will assist with locating an appropriate health care provider.
- Return to school or work will be at the direction of a Healthcare Provider after examination and/or the local department of health. Documentation of such will be required prior to return.

Brookside School and Parkside Preschools have developed a plan to assist the local department of health in their contact tracing efforts through early identification of contacts in the school setting.

This is accomplished through implementation of the following safety measures:

- Maintaining accurate attendance records of students and staff members

- Ensuring student schedules and cohort information are up to date
- Maintaining a visitor log that includes date and time, address and phone number, and where in the school they visited
- Informing local health department of staff member or student testing positive regardless of county of residence
- Providing the DOH with the student or staff member's name, address, and phone number as well as the name and phone number of the parent or guardian of a student.

If/when COVID-19 positive cases are discovered, in consultation with and at the advisement of the local health department, we will do the following:

- Closure of area and/or school as discussed with local department of health
- Clean and disinfect locations as per CDC recommendations
- Provide DOH with information as required
- Thresholds for closure will be determined on a case-by-case basis and are highly dependent on variables within the public health sector.

Confidentiality will be maintained as required by federal and state laws and regulations.

Contractors, Vendors and Delivery Individuals

- We are not admitting parents and visitors to our school at this time
- Contractors, delivery persons and vendors to the school will receive a health screening inclusive of a temperature check and a screening questionnaire prior to reopening of our schools and future admittance
- If possible, delivery persons or vendors will be met outside instead of entering building.
- Signage and written protocol for visitors will be posted and available

Hand Hygiene

- Appropriate signage that is in accordance with CDC and NYSDOH Guidelines will be posted encouraging staff and students to perform correct hand hygiene techniques
- Staff and students will be instructed on proper hand hygiene
- Adequate facilities and supplies for hand washing will be provided, including soap and water, paper towels and hand-sanitizer
- Touch-free dispensers of paper towels, soap, and hand sanitizer will be employed where feasible
- Touch-free trash receptacles will be utilized

- Extra time will be allotted to staff and students during the school day to allow for frequent hand-washing
- Traditional hand washing (with soap and warm water, lathering for a minimum of 20 seconds), which is the preferred method. This can be accomplished by humming the happy birthday song twice.

Students and staff should wash hands at distinct times:

- Upon entering the building and classrooms
- After sharing objects or surfaces
- Before and after snacks and lunch
- After using the bathroom
- After helping a student with toileting
- After sneezing, wiping, or blowing nose or coughing into hands
- Anytime hands are visibly soiled
- When hand-washing is not available use a hand sanitizer
- Hand Sanitizer – At times when hand washing is not available students and staff may use a hand sanitizer which contains a minimum of 60% ethanol or 70% isopropyl alcohol. It should be noted the sanitizers are flammable and students must be monitored and supervised when using these.
- Sanitizer dispensers will be located near entrances and common areas and by high touch surfaces

Respiratory Hygiene

- Respiratory Hygiene and other safety precautions will be explained and demonstrated to staff and students and in accordance with CDC and NYSDOH guidelines.
- Developed protocols for asthma-related acute respiratory treatment care using up to date standard of care.
- Nebulizer treatments and suctioning are identified by the CDC as aerosol-generating procedures requiring a N-95 mask fitted to the healthcare worker
- Consultation with students' healthcare providers for alternate asthma medication delivery systems
- Staff, students, and parents/guardians will be instructed on proper respiratory hygiene.

Social Distancing (See page 31 for updated CDC requirements for community transmission)

- All persons in the school building must maintain a social distance of at least 6 feet whenever possible. Students must maintain a distance of 3 feet from one another.
- Visual Markers will be placed in common areas such as hallways and offices to denote six (6) feet of distance.
- There will be no congregating in commonly shared spaces such as the main office, individual offices, conference rooms, hallways, staff rooms, etc.

- A minimum distance of 12 feet between students is required for activities that entail high projection of air (i.e. singing, etc.)
- Staff will be instructed to observe for signs of illness in students and staff (see above)
- Symptomatic persons will be sent to the school nurse or other designated personnel.
- Working with students who have significant or multiple disabilities may not always allow for social distancing and additional safety protocols such as gloves and gowns may be necessary.

Ventilation

- Ventilation with outdoor air will be increased to the greatest extent possible while maintaining health and safety protocols.
- Ventilation system filters are being replaced with higher rated filters prior to re-opening and will be changed out every 60-90 days per manufacturer's instructions.
- Room size portable air filters will be placed in small therapy spaces that do not have outside windows.
- Tents have been erected and may be utilized throughout the school day.

Vulnerable Populations

- Accommodations will be provided to all students and staff who are at high risk or live with a person at high risk. Staff who are not able to return to work in person will contact Human Resources and follow the necessary documentation needed according to the agency. In consultation with parents and school districts, consideration will be given to remote learning, in-person learning, and/or a hybrid model that will best serve their child's needs.
- Accommodations will be made in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all Federal and State guidelines.

Face Coverings

- All employees, contractors, and delivery persons (if admitted to building) and students are required to wear a cloth face covering at all times.
- We recognize that some students who are medically or mentally compromised may not be able to wear a mask at all times.
- Students and staff will be provided mask breaks throughout the day and at meal times.
- PPE will be provided for all staff and for students who do not have their masks.
- Students with special needs may not tolerate face coverings.
- Face masks should remain at school and placed in a paper bag each day. Cloth face masks should be washed weekly. Surgical masks, if utilized, will be discarded each week.

Procurement and availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- PPE will be inventoried daily at each building and dispensed appropriately.
- PPE will be kept in a locked cabinet. Staff must never take home.
- PPE will be left in a named paper bag by staff/student daily.
- PPE will be: Surgical Masks, Cloth Masks, KN95/N95 Masks, Face Shields, Gloves, Gowns, Goggles, Hand Sanitizer
- PPE is ordered each week and received the following day on Friday.

The following charts are developed based on guidelines from CDC and NYSDOH

Confirmed COVID-19 / Exposed COVID-19 in the School

Positive Test or Diagnosis

(With and without symptoms)

With or Without Symptoms	Immediate Steps	Intermediary Steps	Return to Work/School
Symptomatic	<p>Isolate X 10 days from symptom onset</p> <p>Notify local DOH of positive case</p> <p>Cleaning and disinfecting as per CDC guidelines</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH</p>	<p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH</p> <p>Cooperative with local DOH for contact tracing efforts as deemed necessary</p>	<p>10 days have passed from onset of first symptoms</p> <p>Documentation from a Healthcare Provider to clear individual to return</p> <p>Negative COVID Test</p> <p>Symptom resolution</p> <p>Release from isolation Per local DOH advisement</p>
Asymptomatic (No symptoms)	<p>Isolate x 10 days from first Positive test</p> <p>Notify local DOH of positive cases</p> <p>Cleaning and Disinfecting as per CDC guidelines</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with DOH</p>	<p>Cooperate with local DOH for contact tracing efforts</p> <p>Consideration with local DOH for contact tracing</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with DOH</p>	<p>10 days have passed from first positive test</p> <p>Documentation from a Healthcare Provider to clear individual to return</p> <p>Negative COVID Test</p> <p>No new symptoms</p> <p>Release from isolation per local DOH advisement</p>

Exposure (to COVID Positive Individual)

(Close, Proximate and/or Prolonged Contact)

(e.g. less than 6 feet of distance between or in an enclosed space with a COVID + person, for longer than 10 minutes, starting from 48 hours before illness onset of COVID + individual until the time the COVID + individual was isolated) Vaccinated Staff no longer have to quarantine but should watch for symptoms.

With or Without Symptoms	Immediate Steps	Intermediary Steps	Return to Work/School
Symptomatic	<p>Isolate X 10 days from symptom onset</p> <p>Notify local DOH of suspected positive exposure case</p> <p>Encourage individual to seek advisement from Healthcare provider</p> <p>Cleaning and Disinfecting of affected areas in school per CDC guidelines</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH</p>	<p>Cooperate with local DOH for contact tracing effort</p> <p>Maintain contact with student/family/staff regarding any testing</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH</p>	<p>10 days have passed from onset of first symptom</p> <p>Documentation from a Healthcare Provider to clear individual to return</p> <p>Negative Test (preferred)</p> <p>No fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing meds)</p> <p>Symptom improvement over previous 3 days</p> <p>Release from isolation per local DOH advisement</p>
Asymptomatic (No symptoms)	<p>Self- Quarantine x 14 days</p> <p>Cleaning and Disinfecting of affected areas in school per CDC Guidelines</p> <p>Consideration of Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH</p>	<p>Cooperate with local DOH for contact tracing efforts if deemed necessary</p> <p>Maintain contact with student/family/staff regarding any testing</p>	<p>14 days have passed since exposure that is close, proximate and prolonged with COVID positive individual</p> <p>Documentation from a Healthcare Provider to clear individual</p> <p>No new symptoms</p> <p>Negative Test documentation (preferred)</p>

Travel to Areas Deemed Restricted by the NYSDOH within last 14 days

With or Without Symptoms of COVID-19	Immediate Steps	Intermediary Steps	Return to Work/School after following requirements met
N/A	Self- Quarantine x 14 days (i.e. Stay Home)	Maintain contact with student/family/staff regarding any testing	14 days have passed since travel to restricted locations No new symptoms Negative Test documentation (preferred)

Symptom Presentation at School

(eg. No diagnosis, but symptoms appear during course of the day)

With Symptoms	With Symptoms	Intermediary Steps	Return to Work/School
Symptomatic	Isolate and safely send home Isolate at home X 10 days Encourage individual to seek advisement from Healthcare provider Cleaning and Disinfecting of facility and/or affected areas per CDC guidelines Consideration of School Closure efforts in consultation with local DOH	Maintain contact with student/family/staff regarding any testing	10 days have passed from onset of symptoms Or Documentation from a Healthcare Provider that a NON-COVID illness is the reason for symptoms Health Care Provider to clear individual to return Negative Test (preferred) No fever for 24 hours (without the use of fever reducing meds) Feels well 24 hour

Our Protocol complies with CDC guidance for the:

- Return to school of students and staff following illness or;
- Diagnosis of confirmed case of COVID-19 or;
- Following quarantine due to contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19;
- Return to School (RTS) following exposure; and
- Return to school will be coordinated with the local health department.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- School will be cleaned and disinfected following CDC and DOH guidance. See “Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfection of Public and Private Facilities for COVID-19,”
- Cleaning and disinfection will be rigorous and ongoing and will occur at least daily, or more frequently as needed.
- The frequency and scope of cleaning will be delineated for common and frequently used areas
- In the classroom, staff will utilize sanitizing wipes on frequently used surfaces such as tables before and after use
- Daily cleaning of the following areas will occur after students have left the building
 - Classrooms
 - Bathrooms
 - Health offices, isolation rooms
 - Breakrooms
 - Kitchen
 - Administrative offices (main office, reception area)
 - Frequently touched surfaces in common areas (door handles, elevator buttons, copy machine keypads, etc.)
 - Maintenance work areas
 - Playgrounds
 - Outdoor seating areas (plastic or metal)
- School will maintain cleaning and disinfections logs that include the date, time and scope of cleaning and disinfecting
- Disinfectants must be products that meet EPA criteria for use against SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, and be appropriate for the surface

Oversight and Compliance of Plans

- A COVID-19 safety coordinator (administrator) whose responsibilities include continuous compliance with all aspects of the school’s reopening plan, as well as any phased-in reopening activities necessary to allow for operational issues to be resolved before activities return to normal or “new normal” levels will be accessible in each school building.
- At Brookside School, Jennifer Fitzgerald RN will be the COVID-19 Coordinator. She can be reached at Jennifer.fitzgerald@arcmh.org – 845-687-7250 Ext. 47019.

- At Parkside Preschool, Lynn Rafalik, Jane Curtin and Doreen Matthews will team as the COVID-19 Coordinator(s).

Before and After School Programs (Brookside)

All protocols for daily activity and regularly scheduled student attendance will also follow for the after school program. We continue to look at this area as this impacts our cohort of students in the school day.

FACILITIES/OUR SCHOOL BUILDINGS

When students and staff return to Brookside School or Parkside Preschool for in-person instruction, our physical spaces and classrooms will look different to provide the maximum possible protection from spreading the Coronavirus. We will follow all health guidance related to social distancing to every extent as possible.

We have:

- ✓ Rented PODS to remove materials/items that we will not be utilizing
- ✓ Completed a deep cleaning of our schools and classrooms
- ✓ Physically reduced the number of toys, books, puzzles etc. from the classroom
- ✓ Placed signage and floor tape throughout the building
- ✓ Removed OT and PT items that we will not use during this time
- ✓ Purchased individual student bins to reduce sharing of everyday use items
- ✓ Set up partitions or dividers in each classroom to develop station teaching and learning
- ✓ Cubbies are separated apart from one another limiting distance of student brought-in materials
- ✓ Individual student bins and sets of materials to reduce sharing
- ✓ Increased the number of tables in classrooms to maintain social distancing
- ✓ Erected tents for therapies, gym, classroom activities, etc

Safety Drills

At Brookside School and Parkside Preschool, we will follow all required health and safety laws, drills, and building compliance laws and regulations. We will conduct twelve (12) evacuation and four (4) lockdown drills for the 2020-21 school year taking into consideration modifications and conducting drills via a staggered schedule to promote social distancing. In addition, all staff and students will receive instruction in emergency procedures and drills which are being rewritten to reflect and facilitate social distancing.

In Re-Opening our schools our plan will follow all:

- Health and Safety guidance to promote social distancing
- Fire Code Compliance
- Doorway requirements

- Emergency Drill operations and procedures (Fire, Safety, Lockdown, Evacuation drills)
- Use of temporary tents or a building pavilion as needed for outdoor learning spaces for instruction or therapy (weather permitted)

Plumbing Facilities and Sink Fixtures

Each classroom has a sink and bathrooms with an additional sink are situated between every two preschool classes at Brookside School. Each Parkside classroom has its own bathroom and separate sink. Toilet and sink fixtures will be cleaned 2x per day. Students and staff will be instructed to wash their hands after toileting, before and after snack, before and after lunch, and anytime that they are soiled. Hand sanitizer dispensers will be available in all classrooms for use by the staff but not students.

Drinking Water Facilities

Brookside School does not have drinking fountains. Many students bring their own water bottles from home or water is dispensed from the classroom sink in a disposable paper cup for drinking. At Parkside school students and staff have access to bottled water.

Ventilation

We have hired an outside company to conduct a thorough inspection and cleaning of our ventilation system at Brookside School and Parkside Preschool. Staff and students will be encouraged to go outside when schedules and outdoor temperatures are acceptable. At Brookside we are replacing the filters in our HVAC with higher rated filters and will be placing room size air filters in small therapy spaces that do not have windows.

CHILD NUTRITION

Brookside School currently receives school meals from the Rondout Valley School District. We will follow this school district's School Reopening Plan in this area. Brookside School does provide mid-morning snacks for students but many bring snacks from home. Students must eat 6 feet from other students at all times.

Parkside Preschool will be reopening with a half day schedule and students will bring snacks but only the SCIS classroom will have lunch while at school as they have a full-day experience.

Safety and Sanitation

- Updated standard operating procedures for sanitation of tables, kitchens and faculty lunch rooms.

- Ensure that special feeding needs of students with severe disabilities whose safety needs differ at meal times may differ from their peers.
- Have more than adequate supplies of face masks, soaps, hand sanitizer and tissues at snack and meal times.
- Wear single use gloves when handling or delivering all foods.
- Wear disposable apron/gown when handling or delivering foods.
- Allow only program staff and custodial staff to enter food program areas.
- Routinely clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces including tables, chairs, and carts used to transport food, and containers that food is delivered into classrooms.

Meals Consumed Onsite

At Brookside School, we receive school lunches from the Rondout Valley School District and follow their Child Nutrition regulations. In addition, we will:

- Serve students lunch in their classroom six feet away from one another
- Will not serve family style meals and will have/one server per glove per classroom
- Discourage food sharing between students and staff
- Coordinate with custodians and have established sanitation procedures
- Clean and disinfect tables, chairs and other frequently touched hard surfaces between groups of students
- Have food orders sent to school secretary via email or phone to limit traffic in hallways
- Coordinate with school personnel to ensure safe procedures in feeding meals to students with multiple disabilities who require individual staff assistance

Parkside Preschool's special classes will be reopening with a half-day hybrid schedule (part in-person, part remote). This group of students will not be eating lunch at Parkside. Students in the SCIS classes need to bring lunch and snack.

TRANSPORTATION

We are not required to report on the Transportation area of this School Reopening Plan as a 4410 or 853 non-public school as it a function of our local school district/counties. We will collaborate and work cooperatively at all times with Ulster, Orange, Greene, Putnam, and Westchester Counties and families transporting our students. We have developed protocols for students arriving and being picked up by buses and parents and will adhere to all safety protocols.

Brookside School will be using two different entrances – one for students arriving by bus and one for students being transported by families. Since students will be entering in two different doors, we will have a trained staff members taking temperatures and students will be escorted to their classrooms and required to wash their hands immediately upon entering the room.

Parkside students transported by bus will have their temperatures taken by a trained staff member immediately after disembarking and before entering the school building. They will then be escorted to their classroom. Parkside students driven to school by parents or guardians will have their temperature taken by a trained staff member before exiting the car.

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING

We know that our communities, staff, families and others have faced unprecedented challenges difficulties as they respond to this pandemic with economic recession and civic unrest. As we all begin to heal our hearts and our minds, this “rebirth” gives our schools opportunities to be even more welcoming, supportive, inclusive and equitable environments for our students, families, peers, and communities. As our staff and students have experienced a substantial reduction interacting in-person, our school environments will include social emotional learning opportunities to support the success of our students, staff and families. Although, not at the expense of academics, social emotional well-being will be a top priority when we re-enter our school.

We will be cognizant that staff and students have experienced extremely stressful situations, traumatic experiences while isolated from school, friends and the community. We are aware that students and staff returning to instruction may feel anxious, fearful, withdrawn or have grief. We will be prepared to assist students to help self-manage new or negative behaviors.

To support social emotional well-being and mental health, we will:

- Hold frequent team meetings that include, administration, teachers, school based counselors, social workers and school nurses to monitor students’ social emotional health.
- Provide school resources and referrals to address mental health, behavioral and emotional support services and programs.
- Provide professional development prior to reopening in the area of self-help, mental health, social emotional learning, coping and resiliency skills for students, staff and families.
- Have a toolkit of universal strategies under the SEL umbrella for staff, students and families.

Student SEL and Well-Being

- We recognize that students may need a prolonged transition period to support their social and emotional well-being. We will encourage connection, healing and relationship-building.
- Utilize community circles to ensure student voices and feelings are heard.
- Talk with students about the movement that may occur between in-person and remote at any time. We will tell them that we will be there for them if the change arises.
- Continue to create safe, supportive, engaging learning environment.
- Ensure a trusted adult for every child that can connect with them if there is a return to remote learning.
- Check in with students often when in person and remote and monitor their well-being
- Offer the above opportunities in our after school programs.

Adult SEL and Well-Being

- Recognize that our adults in our schools may have experienced stress, anxiety, grief and trauma and monitor them.
- Encourage adults to take care of themselves so they may help their peers and be better able to help our children heal and offer opportunities for discussion.
- Adults will be provided professional development in SEL, trauma, mental health education, culturally and linguistically responsive practices, implicit bias and structural racism, and having difficult conversations about race.
- Check-ins with adults when in person and remote.
- Encourage the use of Employee Assistance Programs and have available mental health information on site. The EAP phone number is (845) 334-2762.

SCHOOL SCHEDULES

We have adjusted our school schedule to look very different for the 2020-21 school year. As advised by the New York State Department of Education, our schedule may follow in-person learning, a hybrid model that includes in-person and remote, and remote learning. We recognize the fluid nature of COVID-19 and will adjust to each of the models based on the needs at the present time. We will stagger staff and student arrival and departure times to reduce density.

We will take into consideration the needs of students, staff and families through these flexible models and provide synchronous and asynchronous instruction.

Parkside Preschool Schedule (In effect until the remainder of the school year)

Preschoolers come from Putnam and Westchester County. Our maximum enrollment next year is 40 students. Some students are bused into our school by county-provided transportation. Not all students require bus transportation, as a number of parents choose to drive their children. We are encouraging parents to drive their children if at all possible. Please let us know if you plan to drive your child. Both counties offer mileage reimbursement to parents who drive their children to and from school. Please be aware that we will be checking students' temperatures upon arrival at school before they get out of the car or immediately after they disembark from the bus.

Our SCIS program, run in collaboration with Pine Grove Country Day School, will operate full day, from 8:45 – 3:00 pm. Students will bring their own lunches, as was done prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Special Class program will operate in half-day hybrid sessions. The morning in-person instructional session will run from 8:45 – 11:15 am. The afternoon in-person instructional session will run from 12:30 – 3:00 pm. Fourteen (14) students total will attend each in-person instructional session resulting in a maximum of 28 students on site during each morning or afternoon period. Students will also be provided with 2.5 hours of remote instruction daily.

Students will bring a snack but not eat lunch at school.

Approximately every other Friday remote learning for students and professional development for staff will be implemented in both the Special Class and SCIS programs based on a pre-set schedule. The 2020-21 School Year Calendar will clearly identify which Fridays will be dedicated to in-person learning (following the schedule outlined above) and which Fridays will be dedicated to remote learning/staff professional development (i.e., no students in building).

Cleaning will be done throughout the day and between cohorts in the Special Class program during the hours of 11:15 – 12:15 pm. "Deep cleaning" will be performed each night after students and staff have left the building.

GROUP	IN-PERSON	REMOTE	OT/PT/SPEECH/ SBC	PLATFORM
Special Class AM Max 14 Students	8:45-11:15am	Daily 2.5 hours Alternate Fridays Snow Days	Mainly in-person Scheduled with parent when Remote	Teams Google Classrooms Skill Gen. Binder Boom Learning Snow Day Packets
Special Class PM Max 14 Students	12:30-3:00pm	Daily 2.5 hours Alternate Fridays Snow Days	Mainly in-person Scheduled with parent when remote	Teams Google Classroom Skill Gen. Binder Boom Learning Snow Day Packets
SPECIAL CLASS INTEGRATED SETTING Max. 12 Students	9:00- 3:00pm	If classroom or school closes If student must quarantine Alternate Fridays Snow Days	During School Day Scheduled with parent when Remote	Teams Google Classroom Snow Day Packets
“ All Remote” Currently 4 Students	X	Parent has chosen this option for child	Scheduled with parent	Teams Google Classroom Individual Materials Packets provided as needed Teacher Check in Often

Brookside School (REOPENED ON MAY 19, 2021 TO FULL CAPACITY)

Brookside preschooler special education students typically come from Ulster and Orange Counties. Our School Age students are currently from Ulster County but we may be serving a student from Greene County this year. Our maximum enrollment is approximately 180 students including 50% of our preschool students being Universal Pre-Kindergarten students from Rondout Valley Central Schools and some additional parent-pay students if we have space. The school day runs from 8:45AM to 2:15PM. Most special education students are bused to school by the counties and school districts. All of the UPK and parent-pay students are transported by their parents. Parents of the preschool special education students are being encouraged to drive their students to school if at all possible but typically those numbers have been quite small due to the large geographic area that we serve.

REOPENED ON MAY 19, 2021 TO FULL CAPACITY. All students returning with the exception of one teacher and eight students.

(Former Schedule)

We plan on having half of the students attend in-person on Monday/Wednesday with the other half of students attending in person on Tuesday/Thursday and if possible, every other Friday for both groups. All students will also have remote “live” sessions on the days they are not attending as well as activities available in Google Classrooms by both classroom teachers and related service providers. We are aware that there are several staff who may not be able to return to in person teaching because they are high risk or live with a person at high risk. Our intention is to have this staff continue to assist with remote learning for students when they are not physically in school.

We are working closely with our counties to try to keep the number of buses needed to a minimum by coordinating on site classes geographically if possible.

Each group will be considered a cohort and will stay together all day. Teachers, therapists and paraprofessional staff will be assigned to half of a typical class number on those alternating days. If at some point it is considered safe to bring the larger group students back together then these staff will continue to work together with the larger class. As many related services as can effectively be “pushed in” to classrooms will be (mostly speech and some OT and Counseling), but we also will continue to have students attend physical therapy and occupational therapy in the therapy room to access large equipment. All cleaning and social distancing protocols will be in effect for these services.

Students will have a snack and lunch which students are able to purchase or receive free from the Rondout Valley Central School District. Snack and lunch will be eaten in classrooms. Meals will not be served in a family style manner.

GROUP	IN-PERSON	REMOTE	OT/PT/Speech	PLATFORM
A # of Students	M/W	Every other Friday	Service Providers schedule when in school Scheduled with Parent if Remote	Google Meets Google Hangouts
B # of Students	T/TH	Every Other Friday	Service Providers schedule when in-person Scheduled with Parent if Remote	Google Classroom Google Meets
C "All Remote" # of Students	X	Parents have chosen this option for their child	Scheduled with parent	Google Classroom Google Meets Teacher Check in often

In the event that COVID-19 positive cases develop at Parkside or Brookside we will:

- Restrict access to our buildings to avoid full-closures
- Move to remote learning for an affected cohort class
- Identify and notify individuals if they need to be tested, quarantined and then cleared
- Work with the County Health Departments, OCFS where applicable and community agencies

We have collaborated with parents and staff multiple times surveying them of their concerns or any challenges they may have for in-person or other models of learning. We will share our schedule with staff and parents and county transportation as it may be fluid during these times.

With the shift to implement in-person and hybrid learning models, we also know that if COVID-19 cases increase in our local communities or in our building, we may need to immediately go

to a remote option. We will follow the recommendations of our local Department of Health in making these determinations.

Regardless of the instructional model implemented, equity and access must be the priority for all students including but not limited to students with disabilities, English Language Learners and students who are experiencing homelessness.

BUDGET AND FISCAL MATTERS

The impact of COVID-19 in our budget and finance area of our schools and agency has been substantial. While we have always been fiscally responsible and balanced the resources and needs for our students and staff, the costs of re-opening of our schools has required us to buy Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), increased time and costs for professional development for staff, trainings for our families, technology equipment/connectivity, storage facilities, and more, to ensure social distancing in our classrooms that has left us fiscally decreased and down.

We are:

- Continually reviewing our internal budgeting and expense reporting and expanded our efforts to forecast, track and account for COVID-19 related expenses. These incurred costs affect the way in which we do our work now and in the future.
- Continually looking for revenue sources to assist with the added expenses relating to meeting COVID-19 related costs.
- Concerned that tuition reimbursement may be insufficient to meet additional costs of providing services during this COVID-19 emergency and reopening of schools, and ask that county, state and federal aid be granted to our non-public schools for preschool students and school age students with disabilities.
- Always working to maintain high levels of student enrollment and we have ongoing communication with our parents and school districts to promote, recruit and maintain enrollment. We survey, email, phone call, hold virtual meetings, in-person meetings (social distancing) to keep current students in our enrollment as well as prospective students.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that parents have their child in attendance whether for an in-person learning, a hybrid learning or the remote learning sessions. We want our students to be engaged to the fullest extent possible. This is a time of uncertainty and parents may have concerns with any of these types of learning sessions. We encourage parents to have their preschooler or school age students fully participate in our learning opportunities. As always, we will maintain safety protocols and take attendance each day for students. If a student has missed school, we will be reaching out to parents each day to encourage participation and to check on them.

Steps we will take to maintain high levels of student attendance:

- ✓ Hold virtual discussions with families about student participation/attendance prior to when we reopen
- ✓ Prior to reopening a letter will be sent home by the Director of Brookside/Parkside noting the importance of attendance and participation
- ✓ Teachers and service providers will encourage student attendance
- ✓ Daily Phone calls will occur if students/families are not participating/attending
- ✓ Letters sent by Director of Preschools if students/families not participating/attending
- ✓ Letters sent by the Senior Director of Educational Services if students/families not attending
- ✓ Home School Liaison at Brookside School will call and counsel student/families
- ✓ Communication with CPSE or CSE at the school district to have them contact families
- ✓ We will communicate with families in their native language at all times

TECHNOLOGY AND CONNECTIVITY

The closure of our school due to COVID-19 and the shift to remote learning highlighted the urgent need to assess if parents/students had access to devices for remote learning in addition to high speed internet. We immediately surveyed parents to obtain what devices they could utilize and if they had internet. At Parkside School, parents and students had access to devices and Internet so we could provide appropriate instruction and services via Google Classroom or Web ex. At Brookside School, all students did not have access to devices and internet so we immediately provided learning packets, manipulatives and support via phone calls. As our summer session began we were able to address more access and internet concerns to be ready for reopening and for our students to have equitable access while on remote learning.

As we move forward to reopening we will:

- ✓ Continue to monitor that parents/students have technological devices and high speed internet and have documentation of this information
- ✓ Provide tablets for learning. If we cannot provide them, we will request them from our local school districts for our school age programs.
- ✓ Provide further professional development to teachers, teaching assistants in weekly summer sessions prior to re-opening
- ✓ Provide support to students/families prior to re-opening
- ✓ Have our IT assist staff who in turn can assist families if difficulties arise with access
- ✓ Continue to receive feedback from families on Google Classroom, and Google Hangouts/Meets and make necessary adjustments as needed

Our schools/agency are HIPAA and FERPA compliant and at Parkside Preschool, and Office of Children and Family Services Compliant. Our email system along with the platforms we currently use are secure and safe to protect data and privacy.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At the very heart of teaching and learning are the relationships that are built with the teacher and student, the students and their peers, related service providers and other school community members. Preschoolers and School age students with disabilities are required to be provided with a Free and Appropriate Public Education. During this uncertain time, students need to return to a set routine and one of normalcy. Our school is welcoming, safe, and supportive for students during this unpredictable time. We have learned from this pandemic experience that individual student needs and equity are placed front and center with the teaching and learning relationship. We will provide a 180 days of instruction requirement whether it will be in-person, remote, hybrid, or fully remote.

At Brookside School and Parkside Preschool we will:

- Have a plan for in-person, hybrid/remote teaching and remote learning
- Our plan and curriculum is aligned with outcomes for New York State Standards
- Ensure equity and access for all students
- We have clear ways of communicating with families (outlined in Communication/Family and Community Engagement Section of this plan)
- Acknowledge cultural differences, possible learning loss in the 2019-20 school year, and the need for individualization and social emotional learning
- Provide opportunities for staff to meet to review our plan and technology needs prior to 2020-21 school year
- Provide training and accessibility for families in the area of technology and programs

In our classrooms we will:

- NOT practice family style eating
- Napping materials will be assigned to a student for the year and sanitized daily
- Practice social distancing in center activities
- Sensory tables will not be used but students will have access to sensory items
- Provide individual sets to materials to avoid sharing of items
- Discourage physical contact (hand holding, Buddy System, etc.)
- Be cognizant of screen time (during virtual activities) and include authentic activities
- Students will be assigned to Cohorts. Staff may instruct more than one cohort but should attempt to maintain social distancing
- Have primary instruction provided by the teacher but other staff can oversee in an alternative learning space
- We will limit volunteers and unnecessary visitors, If admitted, these individuals will be screened and follow our social distancing and health and safety protocols

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Students with disabilities and their families were impacted by the closing of our school in March, 2020. A student who requires special education services learns best by in-person, hands on activities, language rich environments, social interactions with peers and adults, and meaningful learning opportunities. Students with disabilities are entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). Students will receive FAPE regardless of in-person, hybrid, or remote learning models.

As we move to reopening we will:

- ✓ Have parents be meaningfully engaged in their preferred language or mode of communication regarding the provision of mandated services to their child
- ✓ Collaboratively work with CPSE and CSE in our partnered school districts especially when we need to prepare contingency plans to address a student's remote learning needs in the event of future intermittent or extended school closures
- ✓ As always, ensure access to the necessary accommodations, modifications, supplementary aids and services and technology (including assistive technology) to meet the unique disability related needs of our students
- ✓ Will document the programs and services offered and provided to students with disabilities to their parents/guardians in their preferred language/mode of communication through CPSE/CSE meetings, communications, etc.
- ✓ Continue to monitor the effectiveness of our programs and services regardless of which model of learning we are utilizing at the time
- ✓ Inform parents continuously of their student's progress
- ✓ Ask parents to provide feedback in our Google Classrooms to collect pertinent data and demonstrate attendance and performance

We value service providers (Occupational Therapist, Speech Language Pathologists/Teachers, and Physical Therapists, Social Workers) who work with our students. Whether we provide services in-person, hybrid, or remotely, we have a plan to ensure students are receiving their appropriate levels of services.

While we work in-person, students will receive individual or group (practicing social distance) services. We will have therapists as often as possible push-in to our classrooms to ensure the health and safety of the particular cohort of students. Therapists will be assigned to cohorts of students. We will communicate and notify parents of possible changes in therapists if we go to a remote learning model.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

All students who speak another language at home will be afforded the opportunity for full and equal participation whether it be though in-person, hybrid, or remote learning opportunities.

Speaking another language presents unique situations to optimize and strengthen the home language supports necessary for English language development.

STAFFING

All teachers, and teaching assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists and speech language pathologists hold a valid certification and or license appropriate to their service. Certification and licensure is reviewed by our Human Resources Department. If a new staff member is hired certification and/or licensure is verified with the New York State Education Teacher or licensure portal.

Due to this pandemic, we are looking to hire at least a .5 FTE Nurse for the Parkside Preschool. In addition, although, not new positions at Brookside – we are looking to replace our Assistant Director (Retired) and Home School Coordinator (resigned). In addition, additional custodians are needed at Parkside Preschool for cleaning and disinfecting the school during this time.

We recognize the need also to assign service providers to cohort groups. If we go out fully on remote, students may be working with additional providers as well.

CDC Guidelines for Community Transmission

CDC has developed four levels of indicators and threshold for community transmission of COVID-19. Please refer to Table 1 in the CDC guidance to see the measures. CDC also provides recommendations for physical distancing and cohorting for schools at each level of transmission. These recommendations are summarized below and are required to be adhered to by any responsible parties when implementing physical distancing of less than six feet in classrooms. Please refer to Table 2 in the CDC guidance for more detail.

In counties with low and moderate risk of transmission, schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms.

In counties with substantial risk of transmission, schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and cohorting is recommended when possible.

In counties with high risk of transmission, elementary schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and cohorting is recommended when possible. The CDC no longer recommends physical barriers for mitigation where physical distancing cannot be maintained. A preferred approach is enhanced ventilation and air filtration to dilute and remove any SARS-Cov-2 particles from the air as described below and in the CDC school guidance.

Exceptions Where a Minimum of Six Feet of Distance Must be Maintained:

- Six feet is always the required distancing between adults (teachers, staff, and visitors) and between students and adults.
- Six feet of distance is required when eating meals or snacks, or drinking, or other times masks must be removed. This may mean that meals cannot be eaten in classrooms that have been converted to three feet of physical distance during instruction time.
- Individuals participating in activities that require projecting the voice (e.g., singing) or playing a wind instrument must be six feet apart and there must be six feet of distance between the performers and the audience during performances and concerts. ▪ Six feet of physical distance must be maintained in common areas and outside of classrooms (e.g. lobbies, auditoriums, gymnasiums, cafeterias, and hallways), where possible.

RESOURCES

- State Education Department Issues Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools (July 16, 2020)
- State Education Department Presents Framework of Guidance to Reopen New York State Schools (July 13, 2020)
- Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction at Pre-K to Grade 12 Schools During the COVID- 19 Public Health Emergency, NYS Department of Health (July 13, 2020)
- Interim Guidance for Sports and Recreation during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (June 26, 2020)
- Interim Guidance for Food Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. (June 26, 2020)
- Interim Guidance for Office-Based Work during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. (June 26, 2020)
- Interim Guidance for Public Transportation Activities during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. (June 26, 2020)
- New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- New York State Education Department Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration COVID-19 Website Once finalized, reopening plans must be posted on the district’s website.