



**Akron Central School District**

*In Pursuit of Excellence*

**Akron Central School District  
Community Update  
April 16, 2021**

- Summary of NYSDOH & CDC Guidance
- Planning and Action Steps at Akron Elementary School



## Information to the Community

- March 19 Updated CDC Guidance
- March 24 Video Presentation to the Community
- March 24 & April 13 Parent Surveys
- April 9 Updated NYSDOH Guidance
- April 19 Video Presentations- District &  
Elementary School
- April 20 Update to the Board of Education
- April 20 Q&A document posted on website
- April 21 1 hour Community Meeting at 6:00





## 5 Key Prevention Strategies

That are essential to the safe delivery of in-person learning and the prevention of COVID-19 Transmission.

1. Physical Distancing
2. Universal and correct use of masks
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine

*Schools providing in-person instruction should prioritize universal mask wearing and physical distancing.*





## New Guidance

- Responsible Parties must ensure that appropriate physical distancing is maintained between individuals while in school facilities and on school grounds, inclusive of students, faculty, and staff, unless safety or the core activity (e.g., instruction, moving equipment, using an elevator, traveling in common areas) requires a shorter distance or individuals are of the same household
- Responsible Parties **may** reduce physical distancing requirements to a minimum of three feet between students in classroom settings, subject to adherence to certain mitigation measures





## New Guidance

- Due to evidence that transmission risk ranges by the age of the student, the CDC recommends that physical distancing requirements differ by grade level and community transmission risk
- Evidence indicates that there is lower susceptibility and incidence of COVID-19 among younger children than compared to teenagers; therefore, in-person instruction represents less risk of on-site transmission in elementary schools compared to middle and high schools
- In counties with high risk of transmission, elementary schools can maintain physical distancing of at least three feet between students in classrooms and the use of cohorts is recommended when possible





## New Guidance

### **Exceptions Where A Minimum of Six Feet of Distance Must be Maintained**

- Six feet is always the required distancing between adults (teachers, staff, 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





## New Guidance

### **Exceptions Where A Minimum of Six Feet of Distance Must be Maintained**

- 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 staff 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





## New Guidance

- **Akron Middle and High School**

- All students will remain in the hybrid or remote models as they currently are enrolled in
- Changes in our county transmission rate, based on the CDC and NYSDOH indicators and thresholds for community transmission of COVID-19, may allow us to transition to more days of in person learning instruction in the future

- **Akron Elementary School**

- Students will be welcomed back to a four (4) day per week schedule starting on **Monday, April 26, 2021**
- Students who are enrolled in remote instruction may continue fully with the remote program







## Physical Distancing

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19<sup>1</sup>

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days <sup>2</sup>	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100





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## Physical Distancing

### 7 Day Moving Averages

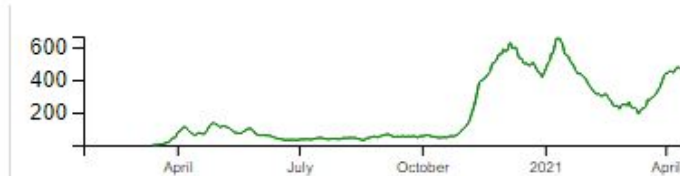
Erie County, New York

Tue Jan 21 2020 - Mon Apr 12 2021



**7-Day Totals,  
Rates, Percentages,  
and % Change in  
Last 7 Days**

Cases  
3294  
(358.55 per 100k)  
↑ 6.12 % change



<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>





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## Masks

- All students, teachers, staff and visitors are expected to wear masks throughout the school day including while riding the school bus.
- Please make sure your child has a mask each day and consider sending them to school with an additional mask should one become damaged, soiled, or unusable
- Students/Staff that can not medically tolerate one may not be required to do so but additional social distancing will be necessary.
- Plans are in place to allow for mask breaks so long as a minimum of 6 feet is maintained between individual students and adults





## Other Notable Considerations

### *From the CDC and NYSDOH Guidance*

- Removal of recommendation for physical barriers. However, ACS intends to continue to use them for the time being.
- Eliminate or decrease nonessential in-person interactions among teachers and staff during meetings, lunches, and other situations that could lead to adult-to-adult transmission.
- Visitors: Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations as much as possible-especially with people who are not from the local geographic area (for example, not from the same community, town, city, county). Require all visitors to wear masks and physically distance from others.





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## Transportation

- While the CDC has made changes to social distancing in classrooms, the guidance for buses has not changed.
- Students will be individually seated at every opportunity.
- Students that live in the same household may sit next to one another in the same bench seat.
- Students will have temperature checks when entering the bus.





## Transportation

- Buses will be cleaned and disinfected on a daily basis. Drivers will wipe down high touch surfaces between bus runs.
- Windows and roof vents will be open whenever it is safe to do so.
- Parents are encouraged to drive students when possible to reduce capacity on school buses.





## Ventilation is a Component of

### ***Strategies to Clean & Maintain Healthy Facilities***

- Improve ventilation to the extent possible to increase circulation of outdoor air, increase the delivery of clean air, and dilute potential contaminants.
- Ensure Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) settings are maximizing ventilation.
- Filter and/or clean the air in the school by improving the level of filtration as much as possible.
- Even just cracking windows open a few inches improves air circulation.





## Facilities Management - Ventilation and Filtration

- Ventilation and fresh air handling - **ACS is above the standard**
  - Our average classroom of 750 sq feet with 9' ceilings = 6,750 cu ft
  - The output of our heat pump units are 1000 cfm
  - The calculations put us at 8.9 air changes / hour.
- Units operate with manufacturer recommended MERV filters
  - Filter replacement cycles are more frequent and evaluation of systems met established criteria
- System settings have been set to increase fresh air circulation and the number of air exchanges per hour.







## Facilities Management - Cleaning

- Students will have their own desk every day. Desks/chairs will be cleaned nightly. Materials can be kept inside of the desk.
- Bathrooms and high touch surfaces will be cleaned numerous times throughout the day
  - Students will sanitize their hands before and after bathroom usage and the consumption of food, along with proper handwashing
  - Students will learn and practice proper procedures for using shared bathrooms





## Teaching and Learning

- Given the restrictions at the secondary level, at this time, only the **Elementary School** will be returning to four (4) days per week.
  - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday
  - Wednesday would remain an asynchronous remote day for students under quarantine or isolation orders would receive instruction remotely.
- Additional days of in-person learning at the elementary school will allow teachers and students to focus on critical skill development





## Food Service

- Lunch and breakfast will be held in both the Multi Purpose Room (MPR) and cafeteria to accommodate our capacity needs.
- Students will eat 6 ft. apart (as they are currently) at cafeteria tables in the MPR. All tables will be facing forward and will have protective barriers.
- Students who eat breakfast and who come in off the bus and enter the front doors will eat a bagged breakfast, just as they do now, and eat in the MPR.
- Students who are dropped off or walk will eat a bagged breakfast in the cafeteria.





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- Daily Health Screenings/Temperature Checks
  - We will perform temperature checks on the bus and at school
  - Parents/guardians should conduct the personal health screening of symptoms, which includes a temperature check, before leaving your residence
- Daily illness/sickness
  - The school nurse will handle daily incidents as they occur and follow regular procedures for communicating with families about health concerns
- Positive Covid-19 case
  - In the case of a positive test, the District will contact the Department of Health, who will provide guidance and recommendations that we will be required to follow





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## Return To School

There has been very little evidence of virus transmission in schools. This is due, in large part, to the effective implementation of safety precautions. There are huge benefits socially, emotionally, and academically to bringing back students to the classrooms.

*(Dr. Thomas Russo, the chief of infectious diseases at the University of Buffalo's Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences).*





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## Statement From Mr. Patrick D. McCabe

*Superintendent of Akron Central School District*

*On behalf of the Board of Education, I express my sincere appreciation for the countless acts of caring and sacrifice made by every member of our school district and the Akron community. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged us all beyond measure, yet our school district has continued to place the education and safety of the students in our care at the forefront of every decision and every action.*

*We are tremendously grateful to our students, parents, administrators, faculty and staff for all that they have done and will continue to do in the days and months ahead. Together, we will build a new and better future while forever remaining Akron strong.*

