

Seneca Valley School District



Tracy L. Vitale, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Administration Center
124 Seneca School Road
Harmony, PA 16037-9134
PHONE: (724) 452-6040
FAX: (724) 452-6105

July 15, 2021

Dear Seneca Valley Staff, Students and Parents/Guardians,

We hope this letter finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the summer break.

We wanted to share with you our **tentative** plans as per the 2021-22 Seneca Valley Health and Safety Plan for Return to School. As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released [updated guidance for COVID-19 prevention in Kindergarten \(K\)-12 Schools](#). The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDOH) plan to align the guidance for operating schools with the guidance from the CDC.

Taking into consideration the ongoing revisions to official guidelines and feedback from stakeholders, we have revised our return to school plan from last year. However, it is important to note that we have had to revise that plan twice already this summer based on changes from the aforementioned entities. As more updates are sent to us, we will continue to modify our plan. We will post our tentative plan on our school district website, and it will be presented, for approval, during the school board meeting on Aug. 2.

Seneca Valley is mindful that the mitigation strategies applied in our schools may not be met with agreement by all. However, we are committed to providing a high-quality education while safely moving forward with school academics and activities and that includes adhering to PDE's requirements for opening schools, reviewing local COVID case numbers and following the guidance of medical and educational experts.

Therefore, for the 2021-22 school year, we intend to implement the following:

- Instruction will be offered via the traditional, five-day, in-person school day (*synchronous and asynchronous cyber options continue to be available via the Seneca Valley Academy of Choice*). [SV Academy of Choice \(Cyber\) / Overview \(svsd.net\)](#)

- **Masks for all students and staff will be optional. Unless we are mandated by PDE or the PaDOH and/or our county numbers should go back to substantial, masks for unvaccinated individuals will be recommended but not required while in our schools.**
- Please note that a Federal order issued in January 2021 **requires** face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation, **including school buses** operated by public and private school systems; therefore, until that federal mandate is lifted, masks will be required for all when on our buses.
- Hand-washing will be reinforced, and hand sanitizer will be made available.
- Cleaning will continue to include daily disinfecting.
- As required by the PaDOH, contact tracing will continue to take place at the District level and will be done in collaboration with PaDOH. **For those individuals who are fully vaccinated, and have been in close contact with a person who tests positive for COVID-19, quarantine is not required** unless they present with symptoms at which time they will be instructed to isolate, contact their PCP and/or be tested for COVID-19. For those individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 and are deemed a close contact to a person who tests positive for COVID-19, individual decisions regarding quarantine will be made at the direction of the PaDOH.
- Accommodations for the inclusion of students with disabilities will be made available where appropriate and as discussed with the parents, nurse and the Special Education department.
- As noted in our June communication, livestreaming will not be used in the 2021-22 school year as an alternative for attending school or out of convenience. The exception to this will be **COVID-related medical issues**. Specifically, livestreaming will be made available for students who are in isolation due to a positive test result or quarantine due to exposure. Both will require either a doctor's note or notification/communications with our school nursing staff.

Parents planning to transport their child and opt out of busing for the 2021-22 school year – or who are in need of an alternative bus stop - must complete the opt-out form by Aug. 6, 2021. All alternative stops and opt-outs are deleted at the end of the school year and parents must resubmit a request for the following school year. To learn more or make a request, go to www.svsd.net/TransportationRequests.

We will continue to monitor the Health and Safety Plan throughout the year and will update the plan as needed. It is important to remember that if changes or mandates imposed on schools occur throughout the remainder of this summer, we will need to update our plan. All revisions will be reviewed and approved by the Seneca Valley School Board of Directors. The tentative plan can be found on the district website www.svsd.net/COVID19.

We look forward to our **first day of school on Aug. 25, 2021**. In the meantime, enjoy the remainder of your summer and, as always, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Seneca Valley Administration