



222 West 134th Street
New York, New York

Meghann Persenaire, Principal

2021 – 2022 Plan for Reopening ...as of August 16, 2021

Overview

Our Priority and Our Focus

Our Priorities

At St HOPE Leadership Academy, the physical and mental health and safety of our scholars, staff, and community is our first priority.

In-Person Learning

In the Fall of 2021, we plan to return to in-person learning with all members of our school community. However, we also have detailed plans to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19. In creating those plans, we have reviewed guidelines from the Center for Disease Control, New York's Department of Health, and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. We intend to meet or exceed these health guidelines to the greatest extent possible, while also prioritizing in-person learning.

Prevention

Masks

Masks: Required, Regardless of Vaccination Status

According to the CDC, "COVID-19 spreads mainly from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs." Unfortunately, there is evidence that the Delta variant can spread from vaccinated individuals to those who are not vaccinated. Given this and our desire to protect *all* members of our community, we will wear masks to limit the spread of the virus and mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

Masks are required during the school day for all scholars and staff regardless of vaccination status.

Specifically:

- Wear a mask when transitioning between classes and using the bathroom.
- Wear a mask during class, except when taking a brief water break.
- Wear a mask when transitioning to or from recess.
- Masks are not required when at recess but only when recess is outdoors.

In addition:

- Masks should only come off when actively eating or drinking or when you are outside for recess.
- St HOPE will always have a supply of both child and adult-size KN95 masks in the event a student or adult needs a replacement or their mask no longer covers their mouth and nose.

Face shields may be worn in addition to but may not be worn in place of a mask.

Proactive Testing

We believe that proactive testing mitigates the spread of COVID-19 due to early detection and isolation. We are partnering with BioReference Laboratories to administer regular COVID-19 testing and will randomly test 20% of our students and staff weekly.

Regular Health Monitoring and Containment

The CDC no longer recommends temperature screenings or screening questionnaires at school.

In addition:

- St HOPE will keep individual student and staff medical information private and shared only with need-to-know members of school leadership.
- Self-Screening: All members of our community are encouraged to stay home if they are sick. The primary method for minimizing the spread of the virus will be our reliance on staff, students, and their families monitoring their health. To keep everyone safe, staff and students should not come to school if they are ill.

If someone comes onto campus and develops symptoms of COVID or has a fever, the following protocols will be followed:

- The school's nurse will be immediately informed.
- Staff will be sent home immediately. Staff will receive instructions that they should be seen by a health care provider.
- The student(s) will be sent to Room 210, which will act as an isolation room, and it will be monitored by Ms. Persenaire or Mr. Hoover until they can be picked up. The person monitoring this student will wear a mask and monitor the student at a minimum of 6 feet of distance. Students will receive instructions that they should be seen by a health care provider.
- Upon pick-up by a parent or guardian, they will receive instructions that the student must be seen by a health care provider.

Other Precautions

Hand-Washing and Hand-Sanitizing

- St HOPE will continue to promote healthy hand-washing habits for students and staff.
- St HOPE will provide contact-free hand sanitizer in every classroom.
- Students and staff will be encouraged to wash and sanitize their hands regularly.

Warm, Welcoming, and Clean Classrooms: We can do this!

- Wipes will be available at the beginning of each class, and scholars may wipe down their surface prior to the beginning of class.
- Every classroom will have an air purifier which will be running throughout the day.
- Windows will be opened, and air purifiers will remain on even when windows are open.
- St HOPE will make every effort to maintain a 30-day stock of hand sanitizer, masks, and sanitizing wipes.

While the CDC no longer believes COVID is as likely to spread from surfaces as it is from the air, we will continue to take the above precautions.



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Physical Distancing

CDC guidelines call for students to maintain 3 feet of physical distance whenever possible. Per NYSED guidelines, a distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and staff and between staff who are not fully vaccinated.

Classrooms will be setup with a desk configuration that accommodates all students but keeps space between them. Shelving and teacher desks have been removed to ensure that this can occur.

Shared Materials

When possible and without compromising a student's student-centered educational experience, we will avoid sharing materials and equipment, particularly among students ineligible for the vaccine.

Students will have 1:1 technology to avoid sharing.

As students will not be permitted to drink from water fountains, they are strongly encouraged to bring their own water bottles. Disposable water bottles will also be available.

Shared Spaces, School Events, Visitors, and After School

The whole school community will not gather indoors until it is safe to do so.

The Cafeteria will only be used by our 8th grade students. 6th and 7th grade students will have lunch in classrooms before/after recess in the Yard. All lunches will be "Grab and Go" and provided by School Foods.

If an after school program is indoors, students will be required to wear masks and be at a minimum distance of 3 ft.

If an after school program is outdoors, students do not have to wear masks.

Non-staff members on campus who are there for the purpose of deliveries or activities essential to school operations are not required to show proof of vaccinations. However, they must wear a mask. All other visitors are required to show proof of vaccination or be onsite for less than 15 minutes *and* must wear a mask.

Contact Tracing and Containment



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In the Fall of 2021, we plan to return to in-person learning with all members of our school community and following a traditional school schedule. This means we will no longer limit the size of classes and cohorts. We will, however, limit, to the greatest extent possible, the interaction between cohorts. Students from different cohorts may interact at the following times:

- Transition (2 Minutes, Indoors, Masks Required)
- Advisory (15 Minutes, Indoors, Masks Required)
- Recess (25 Minutes, Outdoors, No Masks)

In addition, each cohort will have a seating chart that is strictly followed by all teachers.

St HOPE Leadership Academy will continue to follow clear protocols to ensure strong communication around suspected or confirmed COVID cases. Generally, SHLA will follow guidance from the NYCDOH and rely on knowledge of how DOE's Situation Room operates with regards to contact tracing and quarantine for suspected cases, confirmed cases, and exposures within the school community.

Staff Expectations for Contact Tracing

- The Leadership Team, together with the Operations Team, will maintain accurate class and advisory rosters.
 - The Leadership Team, together with the Operations Team, will carefully track student movement.
 - Teachers will keep accurate attendance records.
 - Teachers will strictly follow the agreed-upon seating chart for each cohort.
 - The Director of Student Support Services, together with the Counselors and other providers, will keep accurate attendance records for small group pull-out services.
 - If a restorative conversation requires two or more students from different cohorts to be removed from class, proper mask-wearing and social distancing will be enforced.
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Key Definitions for Contact Tracing

Suspected Case

Students and staff who have a suspected case will be asked to stay home and to get tested.

Exposure

Students and unvaccinated staff who have come into close contact with someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19 should not attend school in-person for a period of 14 calendar days and should be symptom-free before returning to school. If symptoms permit, students may attend school remotely during this period. The mode of remote learning will be communicated if this occurs. Staff should refer to the appendix in the Staff Handbook for further details on working remotely vs PTO usage.

Confirmed Case

Students and staff who have a confirmed case must stay home for a minimum of 10 calendar days and have no symptoms before returning to school. If symptoms permit, students may attend school remotely during this period. The mode of remote learning will be communicated if this occurs. Similarly, staff should refer to the appendix in the Staff Handbook for further details on working remotely vs PTO usage.

Definition of Close Contact

St HOPE Leadership Academy will follow the CDC's definition of a close contact, communicated via NYSED's guidance. Per NYSED, "The CDC guidance document defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period." In addition, St HOPE Leadership Academy will honor the exception, per NYSED: "In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student **correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time**. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting."

In addition, St HOPE Leadership Academy will follow the CDC's guidance regarding quarantine, similarly communicated in NYSED's guidance: "According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated 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." This applies to students and staff.



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Response Protocol for Suspected and Confirmed Cases

St HOPE Leadership Academy will implement the following normed response protocol:

- The Director of Operations will communicate cases to the Department of Health and Situation Room and ensure that they can take appropriate contact tracing measures.
- St HOPE will support local health departments in contact tracing efforts.
- The Leadership Team will inform relevant stakeholders, while taking measures to protect privacy of students and staff members.
- The Leadership Team, in partnership with the local health department and/or Situation Room, will determine if and when all or part of a cohort needs to learn remotely for a minimum of 14 calendar days.

School Closures

While we aim to minimize the risks to the health of our community and to prevent the spread, St HOPE Leadership Academy recognizes that it is likely inevitable that we will have a case of COVID-19 in our school community. Given this, we will follow NYC DOHMH and Situation Room protocols.

St HOPE will coordinate with the local health department regarding quarantine of individuals and length of closure of the school.

Depending on safety and guidance from the local health department, some teachers and Operations Team members may be required to report to campus the following day in order to ensure the facility is setup for a longer-term closure.

St HOPE is prepared to transition to remote learning and, if required to do so, will communicate the schedule to all relevant stakeholders.
