

ECDOH pK-grade 12 School Guidance

UPDATES AS OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

Erie County Department of Health



COVID-19 Case Data Update

- ▶ 241 new COVID-19 cases
- ▶ 131 new cases per 100,000 people over 7 days
- ▶ Erie County remains in “High Transmission” per CDC indicators



Pre-k to Grade 12 School Guidance

- ▶ Applies to Erie County public, private and charter schools
- ▶ Developed with input from Erie County school leaders, pediatricians and epidemiology staff
- ▶ Subject to change based on COVID-19 trends and NYS regulations or executive orders



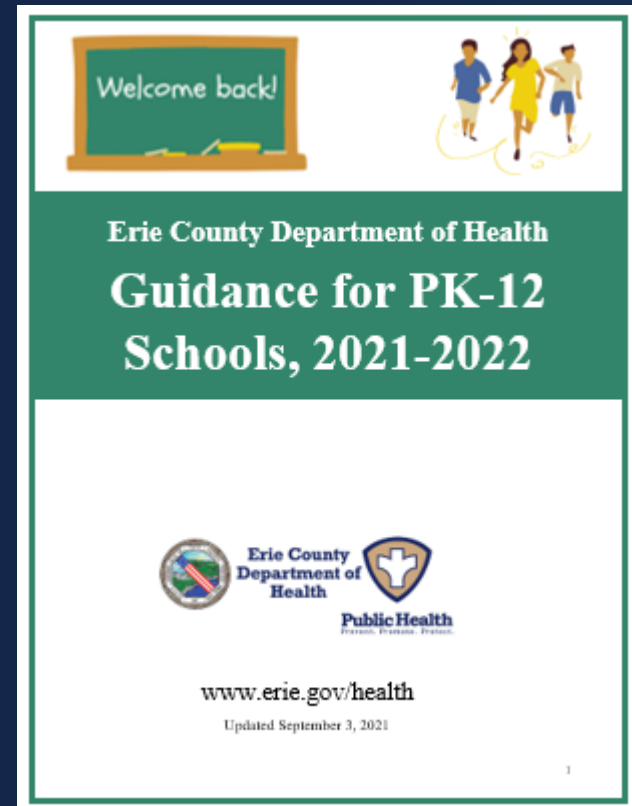
Pre-k to Grade 12 School Guidance

- ▶ Based on CDC guidance, NYSDOH regulations & American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations
 - ▶ NYSDOH guidance sets the minimum standards for health and safety
 - ▶ ECDOH is able to implement targeted (additional) prevention strategies



Posted:
www.erie.gov/covid19/schools

- ▶ Guidance Document
- ▶ Summary Document will be revised by next week



Goals

- ▶ To reduce the risk of COVID-19 disease transmission in school settings
 - ▶ Prevent illness in students, school staff and the community
- ▶ To maximize in-person learning
 - ▶ Minimize disruptions for families, child care centers, parent work schedules



Mitigation Strategies

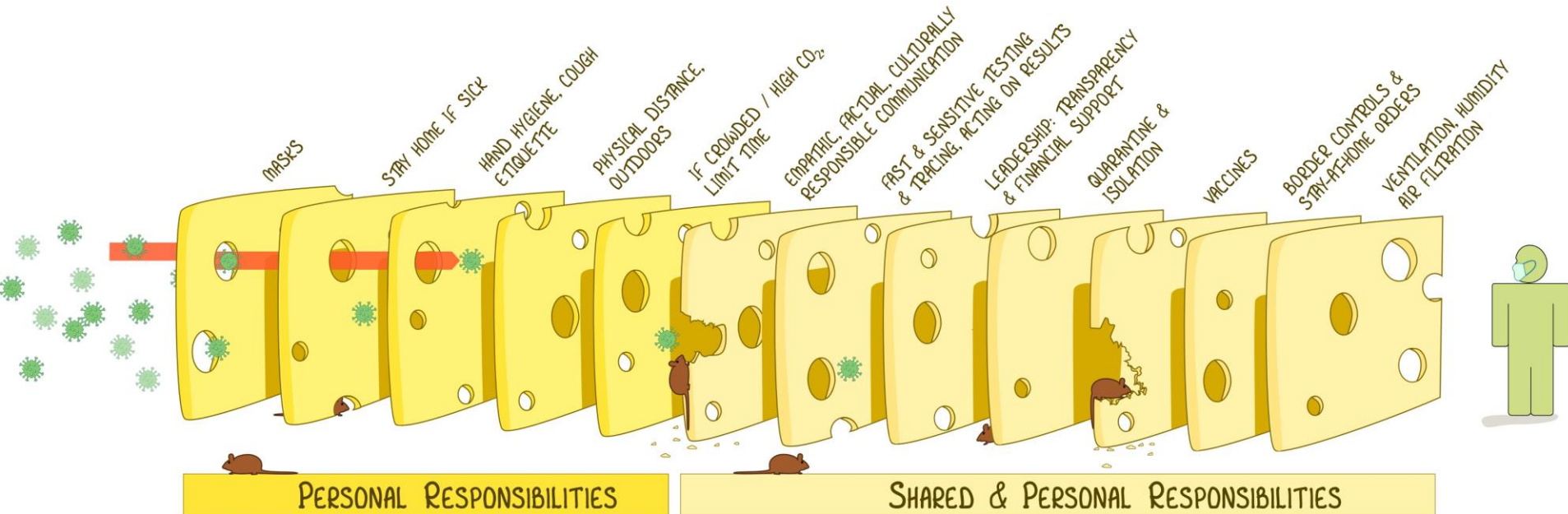
- ▶ Masking
- ▶ Physical Distancing
- ▶ Health Monitoring
- ▶ Return to School following illness
- ▶ Reporting COVID-19 Cases to ECDOH
- ▶ Quarantine Principles
- ▶ Youth Sports
- ▶ Vaccination
- ▶ Screening Testing
- ▶ Cleaning and Disinfection
- ▶ Ventilation



The Swiss Cheese Model

THE SWISS CHEESE RESPIRATORY VIRUS PANDEMIC DEFENCE

RECOGNISING THAT NO SINGLE INTERVENTION IS PERFECT AT PREVENTING SPREAD



EACH INTERVENTION (SLICE) HAS IMPERFECTIONS (HOLES) WHICH CHANGE IN SIZE, NUMBER AND POSITION DEPENDING ON HOW THE INTERVENTION IS ROLLED OUT.

MULTIPLE LAYERS IMPROVE SUCCESS.

 MISINFORMATION MOUSE

IAN M MACKAY
VIROLOGYDOWNUNDER.COM
WITH THANKS TO JODY LANARD, KATHERINE ARDEN & THE UNI OF QLD
BASED ON THE SWISS CHEESE MODEL OF ACCIDENT CAUSATION, BY JAMES T REASON, 1990
VERSION 4.3
UPDATE: 04SEP2021

▶ Via @mackayim on Twitter

September 4, 2021

Updates/Changes

Based on NYSDOH Updates on 9/2/2021

- ▶ Clarification: PK-grade 12 schools are also required to follow all applicable New York State guidance for their facilities and programs.



Masking and Distancing at Meals

- ▶ Students may remove their mask during meals as long as they sit 6 feet apart to the extent possible, but no less than three feet, and a seating chart is kept.



Daily Screening

- ▶ Upon school entry, ECDOH requires all students, staff, and faculty to participate in daily health screenings.
- ▶ The health screening can be a daily in-person temperature and COVID-19 symptom check or a home health screening questionnaire (Appendix A) which can then be forwarded to the school by hand, electronically, or phone.
- ▶ All other school visitors, will be required to have an in-person temperature and symptom check before entering the school.



Return to School – types of diagnostic tests

- ▶ Updates made to Return to School section and Appendix B Return to School Form
- ▶ Specified NAAT (Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) per NYS guidance



Youth Sports

- ▶ ECDOH requires players, coaches, and staff to mask at all times, including during practice and play, for all indoor youth sport activities. For indoor sports and extracurricular activities in which masking is not possible (e.g., swimming), a minimum distance of 6 feet must be maintained.



Youth Sports

continued

- ▶ Per NYS Regulations: ECDOH further requires players, coaches, and staff to mask at all times when not actively playing (i.e. sitting on the bench or sidelines) for all outdoor youth sport activities. Players may remove their masks during game play if they are unable to physically tolerate masking. Athletes and coaches who are not engaging in physical activity (i.e. sitting on the bench or sidelines) should maintain a distance of at least 6 feet.



NYSDOH Testing Requirements

- ▶ ECDOH Testing Programs
 - ▶ Screening Testing (Surveillance)
 - ▶ Unvaccinated school staff may participate in this randomized screening, but they will not be tested weekly.
 - ▶ Proximate Testing
 - ▶ For students/staff in classrooms with a positive COVID-19 case.
 - ▶ Diagnostic Testing [Call 716-858-2929 to schedule]
- ▶ Contact schools@erie.gov for more information and eligibility



Questions and Answers

