

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is your plan for the fall?

Our plans for the fall follow two parallel paths: Complete preparation for reopening and planning for remote/hybrid learning. We will be ready for either option, following the requirements put in place by the State.

2

What is the procedure if someone from the school community tests positive for COVID-19?

If a student or staff member appears to have symptoms of COVID-19, he or she will be isolated immediately and arrangements will be made for departure from school. Information will be provided to families and staff. The school will close for one day to allow for emergency cleaning and disinfection. Beyond one day, we will follow all regulations from the NYS DOH and Department of Education regarding school closure for the health and safety of the community. If a student or staff member tests positive, all tracing and closure requirements will be followed as required by the NYS Department of Health.

3

If my child's morning temperature is 100° or higher, whom should I contact?

Please call *and* email our School Nurse, Jen Kmen, immediately at nurse@siskids.org and 518-583-0841 x305.

4

What type of health screenings will you be conducting?

All staff and students will have their temperature checked every morning before entering the school building, and will complete a brief health survey. All visitors will do the same.

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If school is open, but I want to start the year remotely, can I send my student to school when I feel comfortable?
We expect that some families and students with health needs may feel that they will be best served by learning remotely. We will work with individual families regarding the opportunity for remote learning while school is open.

6

Will in-person and remote learning be the same curriculum?
Yes! Instruction will be delivered differently, but the content and skills will be the same.

7

Will students need to wear a mask all day?
We will follow recommendations from NYS regarding mask usage in the school building and outdoors. Students will be outside for some classes, snack, lunch, recess, and PE as frequently as possible. Students will be asked to bring their own masks and wash them at home each evening. If a child forgets his/her mask, the school will have extras.

8

Have you updated your ventilation system?
We are installing MERV-11 or MERV-13 filters in all parts of the HVAC system that require filters. Other parts of the school have an air exchange system that brings fresh air into the building. We have repaired and replaced all window screens and plan to have windows open as much as possible. Students should dress in warm clothing as the weather gets colder.

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What is your plan for busing?
Our busing is dependent on local school districts. We are awaiting information about changes in transportation policies this year. Families may want to consider driving students or carpooling.

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Will students still have buddies?

Buddies are a significant part of our school culture and we will continue the tradition, ensuring that buddy activities are safe for all students.

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Will my student need extra/different school supplies this year?

While our goal is to make school as normal as possible for our students, there will be some changes this year. Supply lists will be sent out shortly. In addition to regular school supplies, students will need extra masks, rain gear (jacket, boots, hat), warm clothing, and a beach towel to help with social distancing indoors and out.

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Who is the contact person at S.I.S. if I have questions about Covid-19?

Please contact Jen Kmen, School Nurse, by email at nurse@siskids.org, or by phone at 518-583-0841 x305

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Who is the contact person at S.I.S. if I have questions about the school's reopening plans?

Please contact Lisa Brown, Head of School, by email at lbrown@siskids.org or by phone at 518-583-0841

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Where can I find more information from New York State?

New York State Education Department @ <http://www.nysed.gov/coronavirus>

New York State Department of Health @ <https://health.ny.gov/>

New York State Association of Independent Schools @ <https://www.nysais.org/>

New York State Governor's page on Covid-19 @ <https://www.governor.ny.gov/>