

# Sweet Home Central School District

## Re-Opening Plan

### September 2020

## Mask Protocols

Below are the Mask Protocols for all Students and Staff as approved by the combined District Safety/ Wellness Committees.

It is of utmost importance to the safety and well-being of all students and staff that the guidelines established for mask wearing and social distancing be honored while on school property. All students and staff must uphold the following expectations for mask wearing and mask breaks while on Sweet Home Campuses, including while on school transportation and while on school grounds/playgrounds.

- **Expectations for Wearing Masks:** Face coverings/masks must be worn by all students and staff unless participating in approved mask breaks. Masks must be worn on school transportation, in all school buildings including classrooms and in open, common areas such as hallways, foyers, restrooms, classrooms.
  - Students who fail to wear mask/ facial coverings will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the District's Code of Conduct. Continued failure to comply with expectations regarding mask protocols will be removed from in-person attendance and will be required to attend the District's Remote Academy.
  - Each building will provide staff with procedures to follow in order to report students' willful lack of compliance with mask protocols. Such procedures will require the notation of instances of mask protocol violations and building responses to the student in question. Such interventions should seek student compliance and parental participation and support. Repeated instances of non-compliance will result in the school's recommendation to place the student in the District's Remote Academy.
  - All Sweet Home employees are required to adhere to and participate in mask guidelines while on campus.
  - All Sweet Home employees are expected to participate in all building protocols established to respond to those students that are not complying with mask guidelines while on campus or on school busses.
  - No student or staff member is exempt from mask wearing unless she/he has a verified ADA or Section 504 medical exemption.
  
- **Accepted Masks/ Facial Coverings:** The District will adhere to recommendations of the Center for Disease Control in determining acceptable masks/ facial coverings for students and staff. Masks and facial coverings must

cover the mouth and nose. Acceptable face coverings include surgical masks and facial coverings made of cloth. Due to inconclusive evidence on their effectiveness, neck gaiters are not allowed for students or staff.

- **Mask Supplies:** Sweet Home will have on hand disposable masks for any students or staff who do not have an appropriate mask available on any given day.

- **Effective Practices for Mask Wearing:** All masks and face coverings must cover the nose and mouth without needing to be held. Masks should not be worn inappropriately thus diminishing or eliminating their effectiveness. This would include covering the mouth only, wearing it around one's chin or wearing masks that are too loose.

- **Mask Etiquette:** As per CDC guidelines, students and staff will receive instruction on how to wear masks correctly. Mask etiquette includes:

- Washing your hands before putting on your mask
- Putting it over your nose and mouth and securing it under your chin
- Trying to fit it snugly against the sides of your face
- Making sure you can breathe easily
- The CDC does not recommend use of masks or cloth masks for source control if they have an exhalation valve or vent
- Cloth masks should be washed daily
- Note: Face shields do not replace the need to wear masks

- **Mask Removal During Meals:** Students may remove masks when eating or drinking during designated breakfast or lunch breaks. Masks should be put back on when the meal has been completed.

- **Mask Breaks:** The teaching staff shall facilitate mask breaks for students periodically throughout the school day. These breaks shall be commenced at the discretion of the teacher under the established mask break guidelines.

- **District Mask Break Guidelines:**

- Frequency of breaks: Mask breaks will be provided approximately every 30-60 minutes depending on student age. School administrators will collaborate with teachers to establish procedures facilitating the implementation of these guidelines in each building.

- Duration of breaks: Mask breaks will be of short duration. No less than approximately two minutes and no more than five minutes, depending on the circumstances and teacher judgment.

Mask breaks will be initiated by staff members.

- In order to mask breaks to occur, all students and staff must be seated and socially distanced, in an outdoor venue, or in a larger open space while maintaining social distancing.

- Students should keep voices low when not wearing masks; no yelling or projecting of voices.

- If movement is required and social distancing cannot be maintained, the mask break must conclude and students must put masks back on.