

# Suffolk Region Education Report: September 2021

The biggest happenings in Education this week revolve around the opening of schools. In June students left school with high hopes of returning to a more “normal” looking school year. Unfortunately, upward trends of Positive Covid 19 cases across the country and the state saw some of those hopes dashed. On her first day in office Governor Hochul mandated universal masks in all schools throughout the state. She also said she was looking into options to mandate all school employees have the COVID 19 vaccine.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/first-day-office-governor-hochul-announces-comprehensive-plan-help-ensure-safe-productive>

On September 2, 2021 the New York State Department of Health issued their determination on COVID 19 testing in school. Some important bullet points are:

- Teachers and staff are required to be tested once a week when transmission levels reach a certain level. Vaccinated teachers may opt out if they have proof of their vaccine.
- The school must OFFER similar testing for students. Parental consent is required.
- Guidelines for returning to school were also mentioned in the report.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/2.62-determination.pdf>

Also on September 2, 2021, the NYS Health Department gave guidance for returning to the classroom. It looked very similar to last year. The big difference I saw was 3 feet between students. Many of the items were recommendations and based on how the virus was spreading in a specific area.

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/09/school-guidance.pdf>