

# Reopening strategy overview

# Key Reopening Decision-making Principles

- Maximize in-person learning for the benefit of scholars and families
- Enhanced health and safety protocols for scholar and staff health and safety
  - Layered, CDC-compliant health and safety protocols
  - Support for staff and scholar vaccination
- Consistency across key schooling design aspects
- Adaptable if updated guidance is published

# Fully in-person instruction for all scholars

- Key headline from CDC

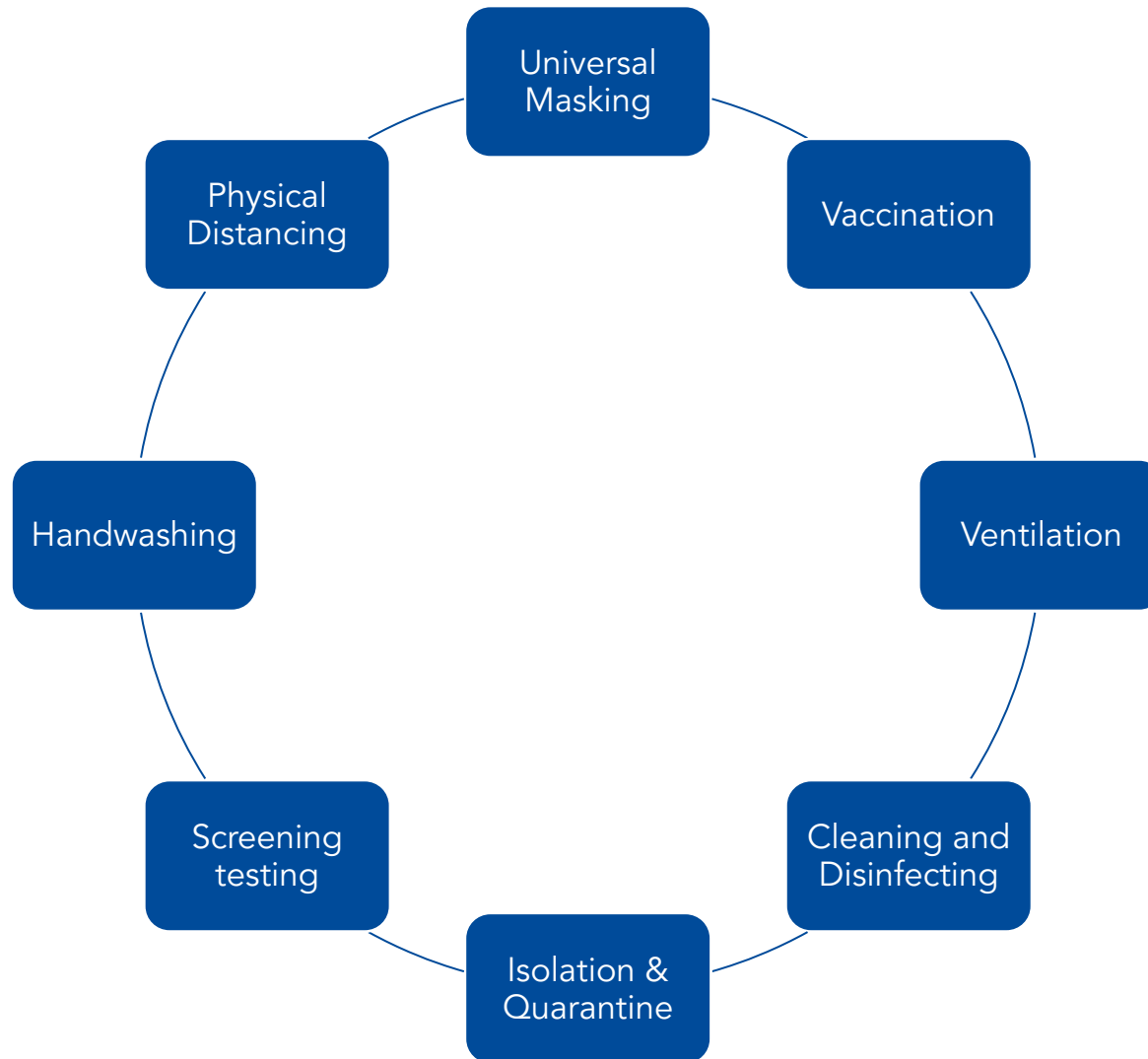
*“Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.”*

- We will return to full in-person instruction for all

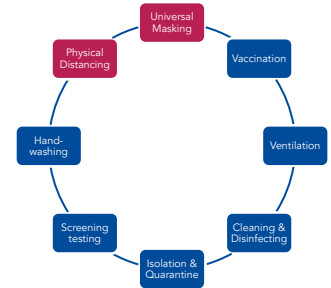
# Key schooling design aspects

- Enhanced health and safety protocols
  - We will adopt health and safety recommendations to the greatest extent possible while still allowing for maximization of in-person learning
- Enhanced technology use
  - We will continue to employ 1:1 laptop assignment and leverage the momentum of scholar technology use in-school and at home
- Limited events in the first 3 months of school (until after Thanksgiving)
  - Limited indoor in-school events
  - No out of school trips

# Health and Safety strategies



# Universal masking and physical distancing



- **Universal and consistent masking:** all staff, students and visitors, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to wear masks while in Ascend buildings at all times, except while eating and drinking
  - Disposable masks should be made available to staff/students who forget to bring their own
  - Masks are not required outdoors for staff or students
- **Physical distancing:** schools should create 3 feet of space between students to the best of their ability
  - Where 3 feet spacing is not possible to bring back all students, schools should distance to the greatest extent possible
  - Unvaccinated staff should be seated 6 feet from students and other staff
  - No batching requirement: cohorts are not required across all grade levels
  - Physical distancing is not required at arrival and dismissal and during transitions, although schools may choose to implement if feasible

# Physical distancing guidance

## Classrooms

- Students should be seated 3 ft apart in classrooms as much as possible, schools should strive for at least 2.5 feet (sample layouts on the [next slide](#))
  - Unvaccinated staff should be seated 6 ft away from students
- Lower schools: to accommodate rugs, tables and desks will likely need to be set up in pods; (see Appendix 1)
  - Students should be physically distanced on rugs as well

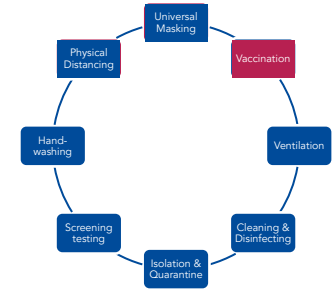
## Meals

- Maximum physical distance, striving for at least 3 ft of distance as much as possible
- Meals may be eaten in classrooms or physically distant in MPRs or in a combination of multiple spaces
- We plan to start the year with unitized meals to allow the greatest flexibility for meal service

## Activities:

- Recess/PE/dance: maximize distancing and wear masks (or hold outdoors where masks are not required)
- After-school programming is also permissible with distancing and masking

# Vaccination



Maximize staff and scholar vaccination

Staff must be vaccinated or receive weekly COVID testing

- Staff must be vaccinated; staff who are not vaccinated must submit to weekly COVID testing

We will support access for all staff and scholars to receive vaccinations as a fundamental tenet of reducing transmission and spread.

Regular surveys

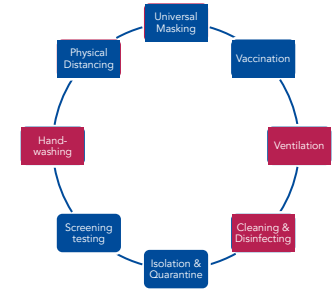
- Staff will be surveyed regularly about vaccination status, and be asked to upload their vaccination cards

Staff vaccination campaign

- Leaders (Principal/APO) will follow up with unvaccinated staff to support vaccination campaign and help to identify barriers to vaccination

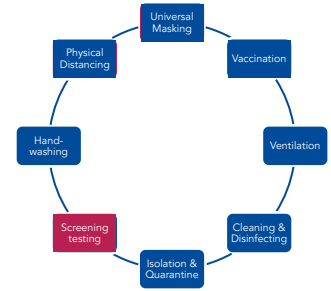


# Ventilation, cleaning & hand-washing



- **Ventilation**
  - Enhance ventilation by opening windows and running air conditioners where possible
- **Cleaning and disinfecting**
  - Continue protocols of frequent cleaning/ disinfecting of high-touch surfaces, and daily cleaning/ disinfecting of all classrooms and spaces
  - No restrictions on sharing objects given very low risk of transmission from surfaces
- **Hand-washing and hand-sanitizing**
  - Teach and reinforce hand-washing and respiratory etiquette to students
  - Hand sanitizer should be available throughout the building

# Daily screening and bi-weekly testing



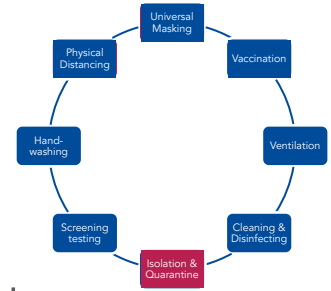
## Daily health screening of staff and students

- Daily temperature checks of students and COVID-19 questionnaire / attestation (answer “no” to questions about exposure, symptoms, etc)
- Temperature screening and COVID-19 questionnaire for all staff and visitors
  - Visitors (excluding AL staff) should be limited for the first 3 months

## COVID-19 surveillance testing

- Bi-weekly testing of 10% of all students, in line with DOE’s current testing program
- All unvaccinated staff will be tested weekly
- Scheduled by APOs and administered by vendor, with support from network ops

# Isolation & Quarantine



- Students showing symptoms are placed in isolation and sent home
- Isolation & quarantine protocols and communication will be in place for confirmed and suspected cases
  - Quarantine only applies to unvaccinated individuals who are determined to be close contacts:
    - Adults are close contacts if within 6 ft of a confirmed COVID-19 case for 10 min cumulative over 24 hours
    - Students are only close contacts if within 3 ft of a confirmed COVID-19 case while masks are off (i.e. during meals)
  - Close contact determination will take place with support from NYC DOH and NDOs
- Students who are in isolation or quarantine will undergo remote schooling in the form of work packets aligned with in classroom instruction