



Wantagh UFSD Board of Education Business Meeting

**August 19, 2021
8:00 PM**



Superintendent's Report

Congratulations to our retirees!

Leslye Loscalzo, Wantagh High School Special Education Teacher

Victoria Alssid, Forest Lake Elementary School Nurse

Linda Piscitelli, Wantagh Middle School Aide

Larry Donovan, Wantagh Middle School Custodian

Ronald Petersen, Wantagh Middle School Maintenance



Congratulations to two staff members!

Nancy O'Connor, Wantagh Middle School Business Teacher, has been recognized as the Business Teacher Association NYS Outstanding Middle-Level Educator of the Year for 2020-2021.



Carol Ann Winans, Wantagh Director of STEM, has been recognized by the Science Teacher Association of New York State receiving their Champion of Teacher Development Award.



Congratulations to our student-athletes!

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has named Wantagh High School a School of Distinction for the 2020-21 school year. This means that 100% of the varsity sports teams were scholar-athlete teams with a 90% average or higher.



Update for the Board of Education

- Universal Pre-Kindergarten Update
- Summer Facilities Work:
 - Secondary complex sidewalks
 - Middle School Art Room Renovations
 - High School Tech Room Renovations
 - Air conditioner work
 - Ongoing repair and maintenance
- Vandalism at Forest Lake



Reopening Schools 2021 Planning

Wantagh - Town Data

**Total cases in the town of
Wantagh since March 2020:
2,655**

**Seven day daily average
increase in the town of
Wantagh: 7.0**



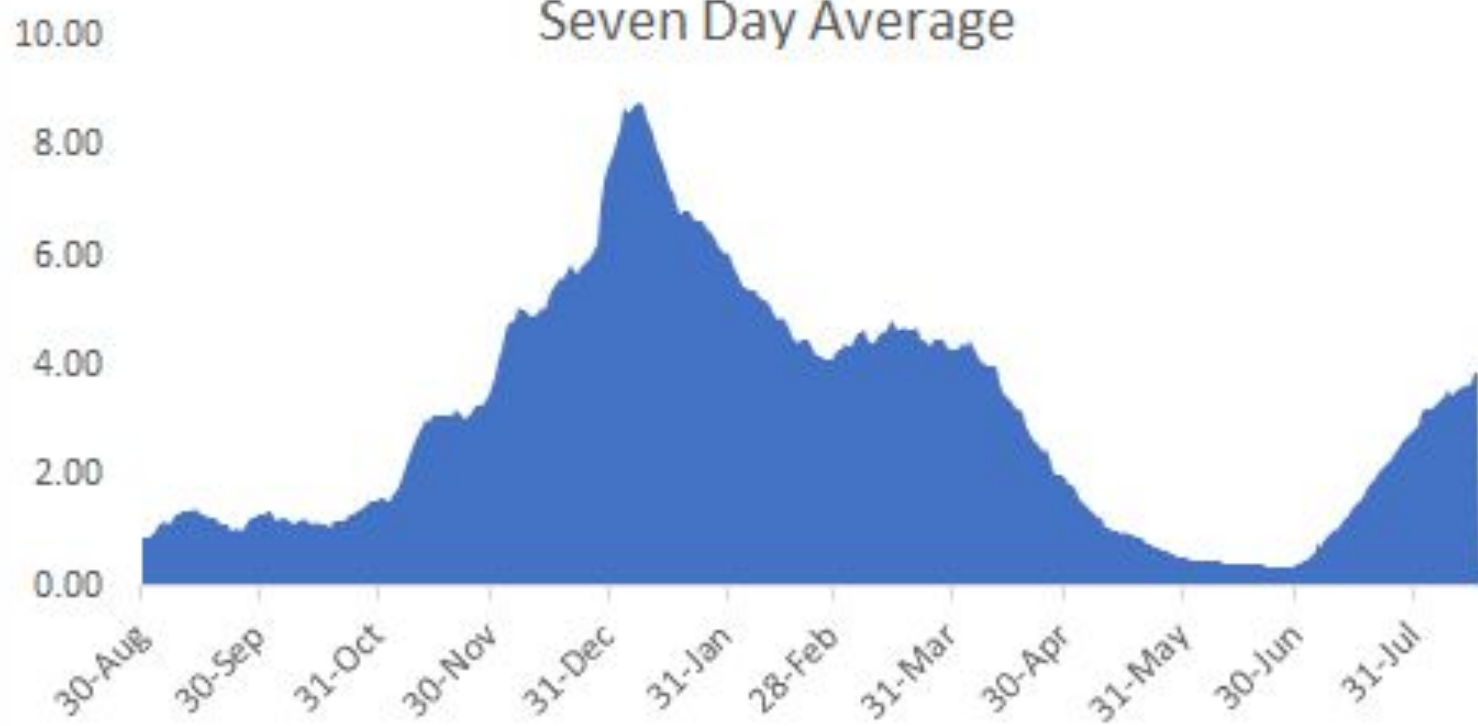
**Increase over the
past seven days in the
town of Wantagh: 49**



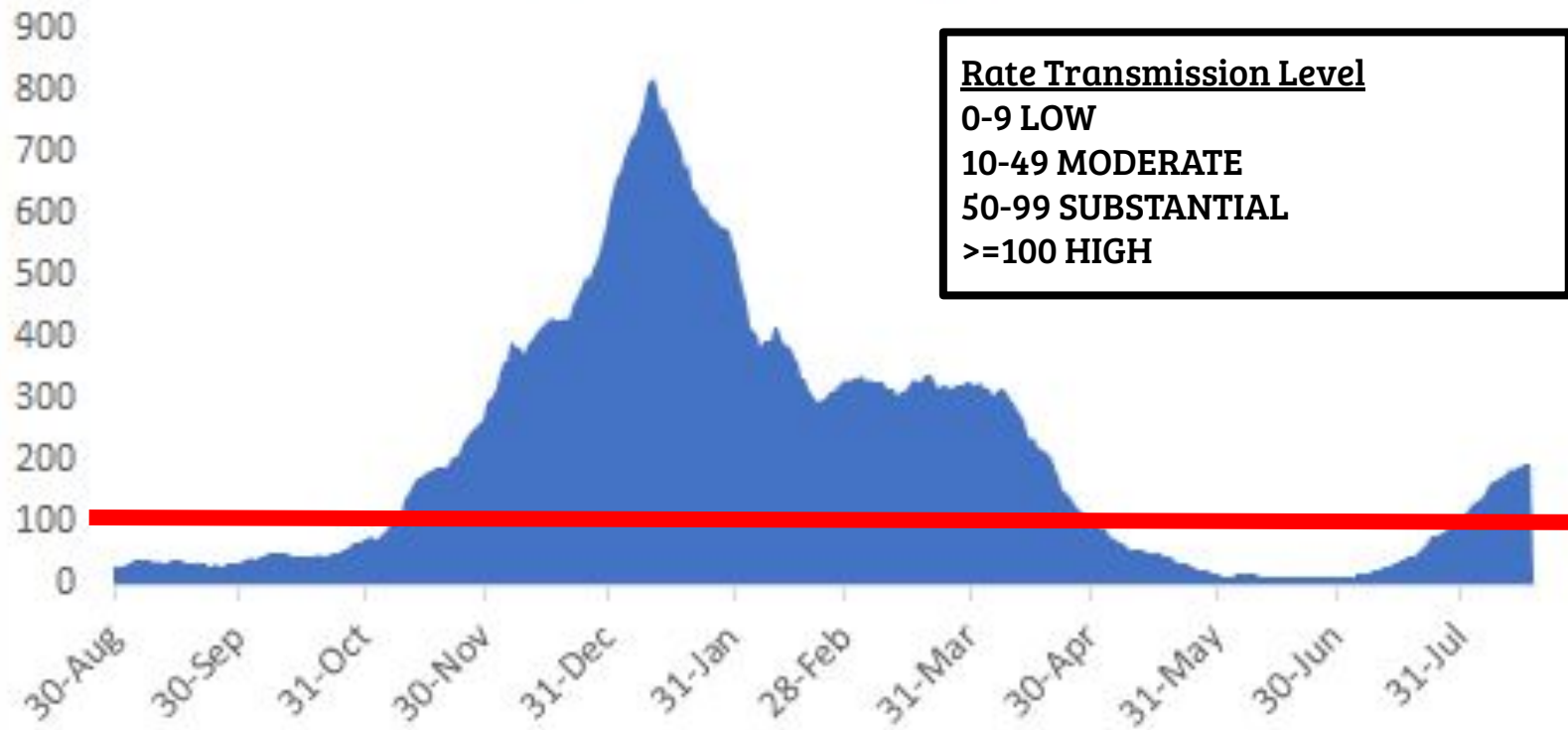
Wantagh School District COVID Data 2020-21

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S
	Forest Lake			Mandalay			Wantagh Elementary			Wantagh Middle			Wantagh High			Totals		
	Student	Staff	Total	Student	Staff	Total	Student	Staff	Total	Student	Staff	Total	Student	Staff	Total	Student	Staff	Total
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	1	3	0	3
November	2	1	3	1	1	2	6	1	7	2	1	3	3	8	11	14	12	26
December	6	1	7	3	2	5	2	3	5	4	5	9	17	6	23	32	17	49
January	5	4	9	8	3	11	14	4	18	25	2	27	24	3	27	76	16	92
February	6	1	7	3	2	5	2	0	2	4	0	4	55	1	56	70	4	74
March	3	1	4	3	0	3	15	0	15	21	2	23	34	0	34	76	3	79
April	4	1	5	6	0	6	8	2	10	13	1	14	30	0	30	61	4	65
May	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	5	0	5	33	1	34	41	1	42
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total	26	9	35	25	8	33	50	10	60	76	11	87	197	19	216	374	57	431

Nassau County
COVID-19
Positivity Rate
Seven Day Average



Nasaau County COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 Residents



Nassau County, N.Y.

Pct. fully vaccinated

All residents 64% 

Age 12+ 74% 

Age 18+ 76% 

Age 65+ 88% 

Wantagh
Vaccination
Rate

All Residents
66.3%

Priorities for the 2021-22 School Year

- Maintaining a safe learning environment for all students and staff
- A return to in-person instruction for all students
- Maximize time spent in school for all students and limit learning disruptions
- Address learning gaps as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic
- Address the social-emotional learning needs of all students

School Guidance Received to Date

REOPENING DOCUMENTS 2021

[New York State Education Department Reopening Guidance 2021](#)

[Nassau County Health Department Reopening Guidance 2021](#)

[CDC School Reopening Guidance 2021](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics 2021 School Reopening Recommendations](#)

[New York State Academy of Pediatrics Chapter 2 Letter](#)

Updates on Reopening

As of right now, we are currently planning the following:

- School will reopen fully for all students starting **Wednesday, September 1, 2021**.
- Students will follow traditional school starting times and schedules.
- Students will be offered all typical extra-curricular and athletic opportunities.
- All desk shields have been removed from our classrooms.
- Lockers and locker rooms will be used by students.
- Our schools will not host any full year “remote” learning experiences for our students, as we continue to prioritize in-person instruction.
- Masks will be required for school bus transportation.

Nassau County DOH

COVID Quarantine Update 2021-22

Are there any exceptions to being designated a close contact and therefore placed in quarantine?

In the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Quarantine is also excluded for asymptomatic people who have been fully vaccinated or who were previously diagnosed with COVID-19 within the last three months and are still asymptomatic.

Update from Incoming Governor Hochul



Incoming Governor Hochul on
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

"Mask mandates are something that the Department of Health has the authority to call for," Hochul said, later adding: "I believe that we'll need mask mandates for children to go back to schools and that'll have to be universal, it'll be statewide."

Next Steps

- Reopening plans should be finalized by the end of next week, Friday, August 27, 2021.
- Meetings will take place with the administrative team, Reopening Committee, and various constituent groups throughout the week.

Reopening schools has become a divisive issue in our community, particularly around the issue of mask wearing and vaccination. I encourage all of our community members to stay united and maintain a high level of discourse as we continue to work through this challenging time. Everyone is working for the best interest of our children even if there may be varying viewpoints on what may be best for them during the pandemic.



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