

Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Task Force

The Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Task Force is convened to promote the physical and emotional health and safety of students and their families, school professionals, and the community as our region navigates the unprecedented challenge of reopening our schools in the midst of a pandemic. Emphasizing equity for all of our students, the Task Force will serve as a place for honest dialogue about the evolving challenges we will experience. We will be guided by the latest scientific discoveries around COVID-19, along with the combined wisdom and experiences of families and public health, healthcare, mental health and education professionals. We will increase clarity, certainty and confidence by providing information and analysis in a transparent and accessible manner. We will be ever mindful of the fact that the individual and collaborative decisions we make in the coming months will have a profound impact on our youngest generation. Together, we owe them our very best effort.

The Task Force commits to:

- Reevaluating information and data as it evolves so that the best decisions are being made and then communicated out to all stakeholders,
- Developing resources that can be used by schools and shared with students and their families, school professionals, and the community to minimize risk for staff, students and families,
- Connecting, aligning and integrating support systems that provide for the health and safety of students and their families and focus on access and equity,
- Sharing insights and practices among each other recognizing that we are all working on behalf of, and in the best interest of students and their families and school professionals,
- Understanding that honesty and empathy are the necessary keys to building and keeping the trust of our regional community.

About the Finger Lakes Reopening Schools Safely Task Force:

Convened by Common Ground Health, the task force is a consortium of 40+ public health, healthcare, and mental health professionals, educators and parents from city, suburban and rural school districts throughout the 13-county Finger Lakes Region, which includes Allegany, Chemung, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates Counties. The aim of the task force is to provide support to students and their families, school professionals, and the community in our region by helping them understand and implement existing guidance, identify where additional guidance is needed, and help provide solutions that will keep students and staff safe.