



Colchester Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan December 2021 UPDATE

Health & Safety Strategies

(The district will follow [CDC guidance](#) and the [Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidance](#) for each category.)

Category	Details - December 2021
<p><i>Universal wearing of masks</i></p>	<p>All staff, students and visitors will wear masks until February 15, 2022 unless otherwise directed by the CDC, CT-DPH or CSDE or by Executive Order.</p> <p>Masks must be worn on buses at all times until further notice.</p> <p>Masks do NOT need to be worn outside (see Athletics guidance below).</p> <p>Mask exemptions are limited to the medical conditions listed in the Fall Mitigation Guidance document from the CSDE.</p>
<p><i>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State and local health departments</i></p>	<p>Direct Contact is defined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students in classrooms wearing masks = 3 feet ● Students on buses = 6 feet ● Staff in any location = 6 feet ● For all “contact” is defined as 15 minutes of contact within a 24 hour period <p>Quarantining of contacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fully vaccinated* staff or students do not have to quarantine if showing no symptoms (it is recommended that they get tested within 3-5 days of contact). ● Unvaccinated staff and students need to quarantine for 10 days with the option to test (PCR or antigen) on day 5 and return on day 8 if negative test results and if showing no symptoms. ● Unvaccinated Athletes exposed as part of an athletic event must quarantine for 14 days. ● The district will no longer quarantine an entire class if there is a positive case. Instead, only those staff and students that are considered a close contact will be required to quarantine. <p>Screen & Stay Option</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The district will utilize the Screen & Stay option as outlined by CSDE. ● Screen & Stay is only for K-12 students, not for Prek students. ● Screen & Stay is applicable only in the following circumstances:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The student or staff member is unvaccinated (vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine if they are symptom free). ○ Contact with a positive case happened within the school day or on the bus (excludes extracurricular activities). Exposure outside of school does not qualify. ○ Both the contact and the positive case were wearing masks indoors, or were outdoors without masks. ○ Students that are considered close contacts during a period when not wearing a mask, such as snack or lunch time, will not qualify for this process. ○ The contact student must be able to wear a mask consistently to return to school. ○ “Aerosol increased” activities are restricted for the contact for 14 days, such as singing and certain PE activities. ○ CIAC rules still apply to athletic participation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a student is able to participate in Screen & Stay then the following will occur: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The school will contact the parent or guardian to indicate that the student is a close contact and whether or not they qualify for Screen & Stay. The school will send an email outlining the necessary steps that include the one-time completion of a “Affirmation of Intent to Comply” document and the daily checklist form. ○ The Daily Symptom Checklist screener must be completed prior to leaving for school. The student may not come to school if any of the symptoms are present. ○ The student may not participate in “increased aerosol” activities for 14 days; schools will provide alternative activities for PE, chorus and wind instruments. <p>The district will continue to utilize contact tracing protocols developed during the 2020-21 school year and will continue to collaborate with Chatham Health District (CHD). *Proof of vaccination will be required.</p>
<i>Isolation Protocols</i>	Students or staff that have tested positive , regardless of vaccination status, must isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of a test sample collection. Return to school may only occur after 10 days if the staff/student has been symptom free for 24 hours.
<i>Notifications of Positive Cases in the district.</i>	This year the district will send out a weekly summary of cases rather than on a case-by-case basis. Daily counts can still be found on our website here .
<i>What to do if you have symptoms.</i>	The district will NOT be using a daily screening link. Instead, if you or a student has symptoms stay home and contact the school nurse.

<i>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</i>	The district has partnered with the Chatham Health District and other health providers to provide vaccination clinics to staff and students and will continue to look for additional opportunities in the future.
<i>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</i>	Handwashing procedures will be displayed in all public and student restrooms and will be continued at the elementary level as a standard protocol throughout the day. Signs for proper respiratory etiquette will be displayed in classrooms and hallways and reviewed with staff and students on a regular basis.
<i>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</i>	The district will continue its current cleaning protocols. HVAC systems will be repaired or replaced as necessary and within budgetary limits to ensure proper ventilation.
<i>Testing</i>	As of now, the district will not be providing COVID19 testing in our facilities. However, CHD may offer regional testing clinics in the future.

Daily Protocols, Instructional Model and Meetings

Category	Details - December 2021
<i>Instructional Model</i>	In general, the district will be returning full, 100% in-person learning with no option for long-term remote learning. There are no cohorts or extra early release days this year. Each building will provide families with details on their instructional plans during the week of August 30th, including learning plans for students quarantining or isolating for short periods.
<i>Music Instruction</i>	The district will continue follow the CSDE/CT-DPH guidance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● moving activities outdoors when/where practical ● maintaining extended distancing (6 feet or more) between participants where increased respiration is likely (e.g., wind instruments, singing, high-exertion dance, etc.) ● implementing droplet control measures during activities with increased respiration (e.g., bell covers for wind instruments, masking during singing, etc.)
<i>Cafeteria/Eating</i>	All schools will be utilizing their cafeterias for lunch this year, except for breakfast which will be “grab and go” in some schools. Snacks at the elementary level will be eaten in the classroom. Each school will provide specific protocols for their lunch rooms and lunch waves during the week of August 30th.

<i>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</i>	The district will continue to accommodate students with special health care needs or disabilities whose learning (direct instruction) or other needs (e.g., assisting with toileting, feeding, or ambulation) may require closer proximity and/or direct contact or other accommodations.
<i>Meetings</i>	Parents may request in-person meetings but the district is encouraging virtual meetings. Masks are mandatory for any in-person meeting. Board meetings and subcommittees will be held via ZOOM until April 2021
<i>Field Trips</i>	Will be limited in scope and will be approved on a case by case basis.
<i>Athletics & Extracurricular Activities</i>	All athletic teams and clubs will operate this school year. Masks will be required for clubs and after school activities. Winter athletic guidance can be found here: https://www.casciac.org/pdfs/CIACWinter2021-2022COVIDSportGuidanceFinalDraftv4_Approved.pdf Spectators for winter and spring sports will be permitted, with mandatory masks for any indoor event.
<i>Visitors</i>	We will permit visitors on a limited basis. All visitors will be required to wear a mask at all times. All frequent visitors (e.g., student teachers, contractors, etc.) must follow state guidelines for vaccinations/testing. If visitors arrive during the school day, non-employee/non-contracted visitors shall be screened upon arrival using the Screening Questionnaire. Masks must be worn at all times by all visitors.
<i>Use of Facilities</i>	Our school facilities are open for reservation and outside groups must follow state guidelines. Any activities involving students will require masks for all participants.

Periodic Review Process The district will review this document in light of current legislation and CDC/DPH/CSDE guidance on a regular basis.