

# Wallingford Public Schools

## DRAFT

### Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

#### NOTE

All information presented in this document is subject to change based on new information that may be provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Governor.

#### I. Health and Safety Strategies

Describe how the LEA plan includes (or will be modified to include) the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed in the table on page 2:

The Wallingford Board of Education adopted the following policies in response to COVID-19 during the 2020-2021 school year.

Policy [C-19 - Use of Face Coverings in School](#)

Regulation - [C-19a - Use of Face Coverings in School](#)

Detailed information on the remaining mitigation strategies was further shared with all families and staff. This will occur again this coming fall. In addition, professional development will be provided, if necessary like it was last year, for all staff prior to the start of the new school year.

- I. Please complete the table below with the LEA's mitigation strategy for each category. In developing the LEA's response, please review and consider the CDC guidance and the Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidance for each category.

**Student and Staff Safety** - Provisions for student and staff safety are based on the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Connecticut Commissioner of Education, Governor, Center for Disease Control, and Connecticut Department of Public Health. Wallingford Public Schools is in

compliance with the CT Department of Health’s Guidelines for the cleaning of disinfection of schools. All plans were reviewed and approved by the Director of the Wallingford Health Department. In addition, the Wallingford Police Chief and Fire Chief have reviewed and approved the plan as well.

	<b>Mitigation Strategy</b>	<b>District Response</b>
	Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All students and staff must wear face masks at all times. There will be times throughout the day during which students do not have to wear their masks (lunch, recess, physical education(outside), and any socially distant classes that are held outside). If a student forgets to bring his/her mask to school, one will be provided.</li> <li>● In very hot conditions, early dismissal will be considered.</li> </ul>
	Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social distancing will be maintained when feasible. In certain instances, students will be in common groups throughout the day.</li> <li>● Teachers will maximize the space between themselves and the students.</li> <li>● Signage will be posted reminding students of the need to social distance.</li> </ul>
	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hand washing is key and will be required throughout the day by students and staff. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms.</li> <li>● Signage will be posted reminding students of the need to hand wash.</li> </ul>
	Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<p><b>Bus Cleaning Protocols</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Cleaning of vehicles will occur once per day;</li> <li>● Anti-bacterial cleaning supplies will be provided to drivers to enable them to spot-clean any surface that becomes contaminated during the route prior to the start of school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ventilation and Water Systems Maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ventilations systems throughout the district have been assessed for optimal performance. Maintenance and setting adjustments have been made to accommodate any determined need for additional ventilation.</li> <li>● Teachers will be encouraged to open windows whenever possible except in those cases where students with health conditions might be adversely affected.</li> </ul>

- Window fans that blow air into a room or free-standing fans that only serve to circulate existing air around a room should not be used.
- The use of central and split AC systems should be allowed. In addition portable AC units can be used providing the discharge is directed up or away from people.
- Water systems throughout the district are in compliance with the CT DPH Return to Service Guidance for Building Water Systems guidelines.

### **Cleaning Protocols**

- Wallingford Public Schools is in compliance with the CT Department of Health’s Guidelines for the cleaning and disinfection of schools.
- A cleaning and disinfecting plan for our schools has been developed that identifies what areas need cleaning, what areas need cleaning and disinfection, a schedule for cleaning and disinfection, what cleaning and disinfection products are needed, what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed, and the person responsible for the cleaning and disinfection. This plan reflects the following guidelines from the CT Department of Health (DPH)
  - Areas needing daily routine cleaning include:
    - Occupied areas of the school and buses.  
Cleaning of wooden surfaces outdoors is not recommended.
    - Any soft or porous materials that are shared by many individuals (such as blankets, towels, oven mitts, jerseys, etc.) need to be laundered frequently.
  - Schedules for cleaning and disinfection
    - Daily
      - Restrooms, Health Offices, Isolation Rooms, Known Exposure Areas
  - Appropriate cleaning and disinfection products have been procured for our facilities.
    - Cleaning Products: – Detergent products (soap) and water are effective for surface cleaning and are very effective at removing the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces.
    - Instead of soap and water, commercially prepared cleaning products

		<p>may also be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All cleaning products purchased by schools must comply with the Connecticut School Green Cleaning Law. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Staff members are not permitted to bring cleaning products from home and should only use those products provided by the district.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ “Foggers” or tank sprayers are not to be used in schools as they are potentially dangerous to the custodial staff and other occupants of the building.</li> <li>■ Staff are to be trained in the proper use of cleaning and disinfection products.</li> </ul>
	Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contact tracing will occur as it was done this year in collaboration with our nursing staff, administrators, and the Wallingford Health Department.</li> </ul>
	Diagnostic screening and testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wallingford Public Schools, in collaboration with the Wallingford Health Department, will provide families and staff with updated locations for testing within the community.</li> </ul>
	Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wallingford Public Schools, in collaboration with the Wallingford Health Department, will provide families and staff with updated locations for vaccinations within the community.</li> <li>● Wallingford Public Schools did coordinate staff clinics and student clinics this year with the Wallingford Health Department and Hartford HealthCare.</li> </ul>
	Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recognizing the importance of maintaining opportunities and participation in general education classes for students in specialized programs, the team will balance health and safety needs with the student’s educational needs. If a reduction in participation in general education classes is necessary, the team will document the change in The Learning Model IEP Implementation Plan. The IEP will reflect the team’s recommendation for participation in the general education classroom in a non-covid environment.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wallingford Public Schools recognizes there are students who, due to compromising medical conditions, are not medically cleared to return to school in the fall. The District will follow current homebound/hospitalization guidelines in regard to instruction and the delivery of services. Such services are considered different than those provided in a Voluntary Distance learning setting. Parents of students in this situation should complete the appropriate <a href="#">Homebound paperwork</a> and submit it to their child's school nurse and principal as soon as possible. The team will develop a plan for the implementation of services on an individual basis.</li> </ul>
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**II. Continuity of Services Describe how the LEA plan will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services:**

**Academic Needs:** Wallingford Public Schools recognizes students in all grade levels may have experienced an impact from the pandemic. Proactive measures to address learning loss were instituted in the spring of 2021. Supplementary after school services for students with special needs, english learners and secondary students at risk for credit loss were provided to students. Small group instruction was targeted to provide students the opportunity to accelerate their learning. The District will continue the after school services for students at-risk and those experiencing impact from the pandemic during the 2021-2022 school year. Specific populations receiving after school programming will include students with special needs, english learners and high school students at risk for credit loss.

In addition to after school support, the District recognizes instruction within the school day is a critical component to the provision of equitable educational opportunities. As such, Wallingford Public Schools will employ 19 instructional support positions to assist both students and staff with efforts to meet students' academic needs. Instructional Specialists will work with teachers at all levels to assist in identifying student needs through data analysis, creating a network of small group instructional opportunities for students, identify high impact instructional strategies to target learning loss and plan engaging opportunities for student mastery. Secondary Recovery teachers will focus on providing small group support to students identified through a variety of measures including but not limited to: the universal screening process, district created curriculum based assessments, Interim Assessment Blocks, and specific diagnostic and formative measures. The recovery teachers will work collaboratively with school personnel (Interventionists, EL/Bilingual, Special Education, and General Education teachers to target specific instruction in identified areas to accelerate students back to grade level standards.

**Student/Staff Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs:**

Wallingford Public schools recognizes the social and emotional needs of many students and staff have increased due to the pandemic. The District has proactively planned to address student and staff mental health in several ways. During the summer and fall of 2021, mental health professionals will provide at-risk students with counseling on a regular basis either virtually or in the school setting. The intent of the services is to prepare students to return to school, address any mental health needs heightened by the pandemic and to support a seamless transition in the school environment. Similarly, Wallingford Public Schools has planned to address staff mental health needs. In collaboration with a local community organization, the District will offer support groups, forums and individual counseling for staff members impacted by the pandemic. We have found many adults are struggling from pandemic fatigue in addition to other mental health effects.

**Student Health and Food Services:**

Wallingford Public Schools will continue to offer families and students meals (breakfast and lunch) during the month of July and August for community feeding. During the school year, all students will have access to lunch.

Wallingford Public Schools is dedicated to providing students and staff a safe and healthy learning environment. The District will adhere to CDC and CSDE guidelines as they pertain to recommended health and safety practices. As recommendations are revised the District will notify the community of pertinent changes.

- III. Public Comment Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement, and at times a stand-alone element which may include dedicating time to open forums at board of education meetings, conducting surveys, or soliciting written input from external residents not involved in the decision-making process. Describe how the LEA plans to provide the public the opportunity to provide input and for public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account:**

**Wallingford Public Schools offered public comment in the Spring 2021 in the following ways:**

- Google Form Survey with the plan for all families to provide written feedback
- Google Meets for families and staff to offer live feedback
- Written public comment submitted to the Board of Education for the public record
- Meetings with leadership from all 9 unions
  - Teachers
  - Administrators
  - Nurses

- Clerical
- Information Technology
- Paraeducators
- Food Services
- Managers
- Maintenance
- All feedback was taken into consideration and the plan was modified based on the ideas offered.
- The final draft plan is posted on the Wallingford Public Schools website at this location -