



COVID-19

Strong and Healthy *Year*

School Nurse Town Hall

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thank you!

A great many thanks
for all you are doing on behalf of children
and families in these complex
and uncertain times.

Strong and Health YEAR- Summary of Changes

This document has been updated based on the evolving understanding of COVID-19 in a school setting, and in recognition of where we are in the school year, as well as our best understanding of the pandemic forecasts for the remainder of the school year. Schools have operated for seven months under extraordinary conditions; gaining real-world, on the ground experience in preventing and responding to cases of COVID-19 in schools. With that in mind, the role of this document and the relative importance of some of the requirements and recommendations therein has changed. Accordingly, some sections of guidance have been wholly redrafted. Some sections, those of primary interest to subject matter experts or smaller groups of school staff (e.g. facilities managers, food service professionals, etc.) have been spun off into standalone guidance, allowing for a more streamlined editorial and updated process as conditions begin to evolve. Finally, there are sections where relevant requirements in this document reference potential updates or changes to other state guidance, in the hope and expectation of better times ahead.

Sections of Interest- Revisions

- Health Equity
- Health Screenings
- Return to school after vaccines
- Masks- follow CDC (better fit, at least 2 ply)
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
- Physical Distancing and Cohorts
- Public use, volunteers, field trips

Health Screenings and Return to School Post -Vaccine

- Exposure and Symptoms screening at home before departing for school
 - **Travel question removed**
 - Students, teacher and staff follow Vermont Forward guidance
 - No quarantine after any travel- get a test within 72 hours of your return
- Removal of temperature checks- districts make own decisions to keep but not required
- Students and staff stay home when symptoms after vaccine
- School nurses should follow CDC guidance on return after vaccine

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Based on available epidemiological data and studies of environmental transmission factors, surface transmission is not the main route by which SARS-CoV-2 spreads, and the risk from surfaces is considered to be low. The principal mode by which people are infected with SARS-CoV-2 is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus.
- Cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk in most situations. When focused on high touch surfaces, cleaning with soap or detergent should be enough to further reduce the relatively low transmission risk.

Physical Distancing and Use of Cohorts

- Adults and adult staff within schools should maintain a distance of 6 feet from other adults as much as possible.
- Teachers and staff should maintain a distance of 6 feet from students as much as possible. However, brief periods of closer contact, such as when a student may need one-on-one guidance, clarification, or assistance are expected and permitted. In these cases, staff should stand/kneel/sit side-by-side students (rather than face-to-face) for brief amounts of time.
- All students must be spaced a **minimum of 3 feet apart** to the extent possible.
- When eating, maintain a minimum of 3 feet of distance for PreK to Grade 6 students; 6 feet of distance for students in Grade 7 to Grade 12. Refer to supplemental food services guidance for more information.
- Based on Vermont's experience to date, all students may mix classes for educational purposes, as needed; schools should ensure careful attendance records are kept.

Other areas of interest

- The public may use school grounds. Signs should be posted about wearing facial coverings and physical distancing.
- ***Stays the same-*** No outside visitors are permitted except for employees or contracted service providers for the purpose of special education or required support services, as authorized by the school or district. Individuals who ensure the health and safety of the school, such as licensors, fire inspectors, maintenance, etc. are allowed when following proper procedures and do not count in the group size.
- ***New-*** Volunteers are allowed if they are considered protected against COVID-19 according to CDC criteria (vaccination or natural infection).

Other Areas of Interest

- ***Stays the same-*** Field trips are allowed if the program can maintain all health guidance in this document. Outdoor and virtual field trips are strongly preferred. Indoor field trips are not preferred, but allowed if students are distanced on buses and in the facility, and do not mix with students from other pods, schools or the general public.
- ***New-***Students may participate in an organized visit to the school they will be attending next year following the guidance for indoor field trips.
- ***New-*** Community service is allowable if students can follow to all guidance measures.



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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