

August 18, 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope your families are well. Although we are two weeks away from the start of school, I wanted to share some important updates with you now. Thank you for completing the recent survey, and this information is being used by our leaders to finalize plans for the opening of our schools. Our administrators are working to coordinate cohort lists (A/B) and are hoping to send out final cohort lists to all families on August 19th. **Attachment #1 is a color-coded calendar of cohort days** through November. Elementary and Reed are scheduled to return in full by October 5th and students at NMS and NHS are scheduled to return in full by November 2.

The survey requested information from families regarding devices needed and technology capacity. We are sending out one final survey to ensure we have captured all family needs regarding devices and technology concerns during the Hybrid Model and throughout the year. This will be sent from individual building principals to their families.

The early days of school will provide the time for students and staff to implement the requirements and recommendations for ensuring a safe environment, as well as the interactive instruction that will take place for both in-class and remote learning. If you have not had the chance to review the [Newtown Re-Entry Plan](#) or the recent document, [Health & Safety Emergency Instructional Plan](#) outlining remote learning, please take a few moments to review. These documents are posted on our website.

Questions have come up regarding the criteria and protocols if a student or staff member becomes ill. **Attachment #2 is a document from the State of CT: Addendum 5** that outlines specific practices we will employ to manage illness. Aside from these practices, the following are reminders of our safety protocols and mitigation strategies:

- ALL students and staff will be required to wear masks on buses and in our buildings. Students will be given opportunities for appropriate mask breaks. We encourage all parents and guardians to ensure students have had some practice wearing masks and that they understand the importance of doing so for their own safety and the safety of others in the school community.
- Appropriate masks can be multi-layered cloth or surgical masks, as these types of face coverings have the ability to catch virus particles and ensure a safer environment. Please be sure your child's mask is capable of being worn over the nose and mouth safely and is not too thin as to not be able to keep the wearer or others safe.
- Having students practice wearing masks before school begins should help prepare students, including our youngest students, manage this requirement.
- Screening at home, including temperature checks, are expected of all families. Students who present ill or have a fever should stay home. As mentioned in a previous communication, if a family should need a thermometer, please reach out to your child's school nurse after August 26 and we will arrange pick up.

- We will be including a **Mitigation Strategies Parent Compliance form** in the Parent Portal to be sure all parents and guardians agree to comply with the safety protocols, including masks and home screenings, mandated by the State of Connecticut and Newtown Public Schools. This will be included along with other digital forms that need your attention.
- When a student or staff member becomes ill, the district will work collaboratively with the Director of Health and families to conduct contact tracing.

We have also had questions regarding transportation, lunch, and sports. The schools will continue to send updates regarding details for you on these important areas. Bus routes are being finalized and will be posted on our website and printed in the Newtown Bee.

School lunches will be able to be purchased as “Grab and Go” cold lunches in school. Families will again be encouraged to use My School Bucks in order to fund their child’s lunch account. Lunch distribution will be provided for those students choosing to remain on remote learning and for students who will be learning remotely on Wednesdays during Hybrid. If parents choose, they will be able to pick up lunches at HOM, NMS, and NHS on Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays from 9:30-12:00 noon for their remote learners. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Finally, the CIAC rendered a decision to halt all fall sports temporarily until they seek further information and guidance from DPH (Department of Public Health). We will continue to update you as new information becomes available.

Another communication will be coming out just prior to the school year as a more formal welcome back, at which time we will share upcoming dates for school-based events and conferences. Until then, stay well and don’t hesitate to reach out with further questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent

Cohort A is RED
Cohort B is GREEN

NEWTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2020-2021 SCHOOL CALENDAR

AUGUST (4)

M	T	W	TH	F
		26	27	28
31				

26-All Teachers Report
26, 27, 28 & 31 –Staff Development Days

SEPTEMBER 18(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	*3	*4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

1 & 2 – Staff Development Days
*3 – Students Report
*3 & *4 – 3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff Development
7-Labor Day - Schools Closed
28-Yom Kippur - Schools Closed

OCTOBER 22 (22)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	*2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	*21	*22	*23
26	27	28	29	30

*2--2 hr. Delayed Opening--Staff Development
*21, 22, 23--3 hr. early dismissal-Elementary, Reed and Middle School Conferences

NOVEMBER 18(19)

M	T	W	TH	F
2	*--	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	*18	*19	20
23	24	*25	26	27
30				

*3-Election Day-Schools Closed For Students, Staff Development
*18 & 19-High School Conferences 3 hr. Early Dismissal
*25--3 hr. Early Dismissal
26-27-Thanksgiving Recess

DECEMBER 17(17)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	*23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

*23--3 hr. Early Dismissal - Holiday
24-31-Holiday Recess

JANUARY 19(19)

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	*15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

1-New Year's Day-Schools Closed
*15--3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff development
18-Martin Luther King Day - Schools Closed

FEBRUARY 18(18)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	*12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26

*12--3 hr. Early Dismissal--Staff Development
15-16-Schools Closed

MARCH 23(23)

M	T	W	TH	F
1	2	3	4	5
8	9	*10	11	12
15	16	17	*18	*19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30	31		

*10--2 hr. Delayed Opening--Staff Dev.
*18 & 19-3 hr. Early Dismissal-Elem, Reed and Middle School Conferences (25 & 26 makeups)
*18-High School Conferences (25- High School make-up day)

APRIL 15(16)

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	*30

2-Good Friday - Schools Closed
12-16- Schools Closed
*30-Schools closed for Students-Staff Development Day

MAY 20(20)

M	T	W	TH	F
3	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	*28
31				

*28--3 hr. Early dismissal--Staff Dev.
31-Memorial Day- Schools Closed

JUNE 9(9)

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	☀11
14	15	16	17	18
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30		

☀-Projected last day of school

Please Note:

*State of Connecticut mandates 180 calendar days for students. Beyond the projected June 11 date, school cancellation days will be made up by adding days through June 30. By Mar. 12 if there are more than 8 cancellations, April 30 will be a full day of school.

Please Note: Shaded calendar days = all schools closed for staff and students

Virtual Open House Dates:

Elementary: Sept. 8 & 9
Reed Intermediate: Sept. 10
Middle School: Sept. 15 gr.7, Sept. 16 gr. 8
High School: Sept. 17

Student Days – 179

Teacher Days – 187
Adopted: March 3, 2020
Revised: July 7, 2020
Revised: July 21, 2020

*State of Connecticut granted flexibility for a minimum of 177 student days for 2020-2021.

Addendum 5

Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together

Connecticut State Department of Education



Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts

August 6, 2020



The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year. This guidance complements the Containment Plan (p. 23) requirement of [Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#), which instructs school districts to develop written protocols for containment and immediate response related to symptoms of, diagnosis of, or exposure to the virus. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) informs the specific scenarios and actions that follow. CDC guidance and public health data are evolving and therefore, this guidance may be updated accordingly.

This document addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. It describes immediate actions for removing an individual from the school setting and when to safely return them to school. School district leaders are encouraged to use this as a guide, in consultation with public health experts, including school nurses, school medical advisors, local health directors and in consideration of all specific circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine Isolation = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 Quarantine = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
Individual has COVID-19 symptoms¹ but has NOT had close contact² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19	If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.	Individual tests ³ negative	Return to school once there are no symptoms for 24 hours.
	If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus , students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus.	Individual tests positive	Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school immediately, notify personal close contacts, assist the school in contact tracing efforts ⁴ , and answer phone calls from public health officials/contact tracing staff. Stay in self-isolation ⁵ for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever ⁶ (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms.
	If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.	Individual is not tested	Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms. Can return to school earlier if obtains note from healthcare provider with alternate diagnosis.

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine Isolation = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 Quarantine = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
<p>Individual has COVID-19 symptoms¹ AND had close contact² to a person diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.</p> <p>If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), stay in the isolation room (with adult supervision), until picked up to go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested. If symptoms arise on the bus, students should remain masked and follow the remaining measures listed above upon arrival to school. They must not be sent home on the bus.</p> <p>If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.</p> <p>If a staff or student is ill enough to require transport to a healthcare facility, notify EMS that COVID-19 is a concern.</p>	<p>Individual tests negative</p>	<p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p>
		<p>Individual tests positive</p>	<p>Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts.</p> <p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p>
		<p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Stay in self-isolation for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms and until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other symptoms.</p>

Event	Location of Event	Testing Result	Isolation/Quarantine Isolation = when you are experiencing symptoms or have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 Quarantine = when you have been exposed but you are not experiencing symptoms
<p>Individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms BUT had close contact² to someone diagnosed with COVID-19</p>	<p>If at home: stay home, notify the school immediately (do not wait until the beginning of the next school day), and get tested.</p>	<p>Individual tests negative</p>	<p>Remain home in self-quarantine⁷ for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p>If at school: students should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, be assessed by the school nurse or school medical advisor (if available), be picked up to go home, consult a health care provider, and get tested. Students who do not have symptoms may remain in the health room until they are picked up, they do not have to be sent to the isolation room. They must not be sent home on the bus.</p>	<p>Individual tests positive</p>	<p>Remain home (except to get medical care), monitor symptoms, notify the school, notify personal close contacts, assist public health and the school in contact tracing efforts. Stay home until 10 days have passed since date of the positive COVID-19 test.</p>
	<p>If at school: staff members should remain masked, adhere to strict physical distancing, immediately contact leadership (per district protocols), go home, consult a healthcare provider, and get tested.</p>	<p>Individual is not tested</p>	<p>Remain home in self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>

End-notes

- 1 **Key COVID-19 signs and symptoms are:** feeling feverish, measured temp 100.4 F or more, chills, uncontrolled new cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of taste or smell. There are other more nonspecific signs and symptoms. For a full list, see CDC Web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- 2 **Close contact:** Spending at least 15 minutes within 6 feet of a person with confirmed COVID-19, or a direct exposure to possibly infected droplets of saliva or nasal mucus (e.g., begin sneezed or coughed on in the face). See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- 3 **COVID-19 test for school/work attendance:** This is a viral test, NOT an antibody test. (see CDC information on COVID-19 tests at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html>).
- 4 **Contact tracing:** A public health intervention in which the contacts of a person with a communicable disease are identified, and possibly tested, quarantined or isolated to interrupt the transmission of the virus in a population. <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/ContaCT>
- 5 **Self- Isolation:** Individual with signs or symptoms of COVID-19, or a positive test, stays home until no longer infectious for at least 10 days since the onset of symptoms **and** until at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without fever-reducing medications) and with improvement in other COVID-19 symptoms. See CDC web page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>
- 6 **Fever:** Measured temperature of 100.4 F or higher
- 7 **Self-Quarantine:** Individual without symptoms stays home for 14 days since last exposure to someone who was diagnosed with COVID-19 (the incubation period of the virus). See CDC web page <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html> or https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fif-you-are-sick%2Fquarantine-isolation.html