



AVON OLD FARMS SCHOOL



Avon Safe

Reopening Safely is PRIORITY #1



Avon Safe

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

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Our Implementation Team has developed a range of plans based on different situations and circumstances that may require us to pause or shut down some or all activities. A shutdown may be necessary based on any of the following scenarios:

- A statewide order to close due to any number of factors that are out of our control
- The local public health department recommends a school shut down due to campus outbreak
- Infirmary bed space, including all licensed infirmary surge space, has been utilized to its maximum capacity
- An outbreak on campus where our COVID-19 cohort and quarantine spaces are maxed out
- Health Center staffing does not allow for adequate coverage of the school's Health Center facilities
- Faculty/staff absenteeism is too high to carry out the daily operations of the school



Avon Safe is Avon Old Farms School's comprehensive strategy to keep our campus and our community safe by limiting the spread of COVID-19. Our COVID Task Force has formulated a Pandemic Operations Response Plan to address multiple considerations including the health, wellness, and safety of our community as well as the continuity of operations of the school with the least impact to our students and faculty during the current pandemic.

This plan has the following primary goal:

PROTECT THE HEALTH & SAFETY OF THE AVON COMMUNITY

- 1. -> Limit the number of illnesses in our community**
- 2. -> Preserve the continuity of essential school functions**
- 3. -> Minimize educational and social disruption**
- 4. -> Maintain robust academic program & institutional well-being**

GOALS



GUIDANCE

The health and safety decisions surrounding our plan to return to campus are guided by the standards of care, guidelines, and protocols set forth by agencies that are experts in medical science and public health such as the World Health Organization (WHO), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD). These decisions have also been and will continue to be guided by leading professionals in the medical field, our medical director, and both local and state-wide medical working groups that focus specifically on health and safety in the boarding school environment.

This **COVID-19 Pandemic Operations Response Plan** provides considerations to minimize the risk of COVID-19 infection and a recurrent surge of infections as physical distancing measures are relaxed and our campus and community plan for the physical return of our students, faculty, and staff. The risk of subsequent waves of infection remains until we achieve sufficient herd immunity through vaccination or actual infection and recovery, and this plan allows for a return to more restrictive mitigation measures if necessary. Until sufficient herd immunity is achieved or a vaccine is developed and widely available, physical distancing, testing, isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing are our best strategies to control the spread of the virus.



Avon Safe

Plan for Reopening Initiative



HEALTH CENTER

The following policies, procedures, and guidelines will be in place for the 2020-2021 school year in order to support the health and wellness of our community while allowing us to resume in-person operations. These policies and procedures are supported by local, state, and federal guidelines and may be modified throughout the school year based on new information or modified guidelines.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

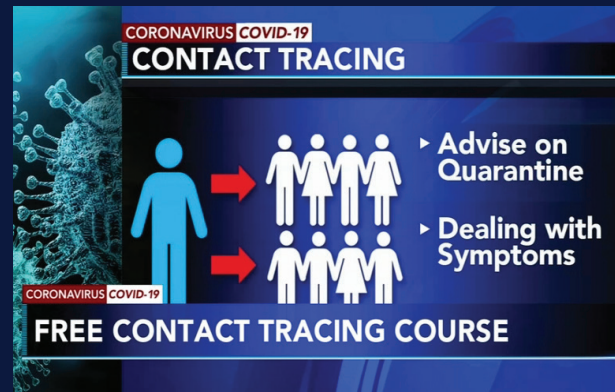
COVID-19 Surge Plan

COVID-19 Surge Plan Submitted to DPH - A plan for our Health Center facilities including a surge plan for additional Health Center beds and a second Health Center location to ensure the separation of "healthy" and "symptomatic" students was submitted to the Connecticut Department of Public Health.

Personal Protective Equipment

PPE - We are in the process of procuring PPE to safely protect all Health Center staff and other school personnel who may come in contact with students who need to be tested for COVID-19, who have tested positive for COVID-19, and who are required to be in quarantine due to being a close contact of a positive case.

Contact Tracing



We have a team of trained contact tracers (including faculty, staff, and administrators) who, along with the Farmington Valley Health District, will be responsible for the contact tracing that is required with every positive COVID-19 case on campus. All contact tracing is done in compliance with privacy regulations and facilitated through our School Suite App.

Testing



We will test students, faculty, and staff in accordance with state mandates and school policy.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Health Screenings

Health Screenings will be facilitated through the School Suite App. All of our students and employees will be required to self-monitor for and report all symptoms related to COVID-19. Daily self-assessments will also be required to ensure that no one who is feeling ill or who has been exposed to anyone with COVID-19 comes to campus or participates in campus activities. Daily temperature checks may be a part of these daily screenings.

Masks

All of our students and employees will wear masks inside most school buildings and when social distancing cannot be maintained. Students will not need to wear a mask while in their dorm room or hallway or if they are with their hallmates.

(Students will be issued two reusable masks at registration. Additional masks will be available for purchase in the school store.)



Cleaning/Disinfecting/Sanitizing



The number of hand-washing and hand-sanitizing stations will be increased throughout campus. Cleaning protocols will be adjusted to abide by state guidelines.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Physical Distancing

Our students and employees will do their best to keep a distance of six feet from others and refrain from unnecessary physical contact. Classrooms and common spaces will be set up for appropriate physical distancing.



Health Center Facilities

In order to minimize the exposure of healthy students to a potentially infected or sick student, there will be two separate Health Center locations this year:

Location 1: for sick students (current Health Center space)

Location 2: for daily medication administration, well-visits, and counseling services (below the current Health Center).

- Students will first call the Health Center and then proceed to one location or the other depending on their symptoms and needs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A.) We have increased the Health Center staff in order to accommodate the second Health Center location as well as the additional staffing needs required for testing, isolation, and management of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases.

B.) Our Health Center staff will continue with training and professional development over the summer and throughout the school year in order to stay up to date on best practices related to COVID-19.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Mental Health

Our Health Center will work closely with our Counseling Center and Dean of Students to provide education, resources, and ample opportunities for mental health support to our students both physically on campus as well as those who are participating in distance learning.

We will offer telemental health services, which will offer a path to continue providing services to our students during this pandemic who may not be physically present on campus.

Mindfulness practices, workshops, resilience training, mental health first aid, and other skill-building programs (either as part of *Prep4Ward* or in addition to) will be implemented for both our on-campus students and employees as well as for those learning or working remotely.

Education

The education of our entire community (students, parents, faculty, and staff) about COVID-19 and its spread is paramount first of all for prevention and second of all, to reduce the risk and the spread of the disease on campus. This education will take place in many different formats, starting with regular summer communications and will include new policies and procedures, the importance of hand hygiene, and other COVID-19 related changes for this school year.

Personal Hygiene

Meticulous adherence to personal hygiene practices, including hand hygiene and proper cough/sneeze etiquette, will be essential for prevention and infection control. We will increase the amount of education provided in these areas. Teaching students that caring for yourself translates to caring for others will be an important focus of character education this year. Students will be monitored more closely when it comes to personal hygiene as well as laundry (clothes, linens, and masks). We will increase appropriate signage related to personal hygiene and provide an adequate amount of hand-sanitizing stations.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Return to Campus Policy

Currently, state guidelines state that unnecessary travel, both domestically and internationally, should be avoided by all members of our community. There are also guidelines for when it is safe for someone to return to campus after having had or having been exposed to COVID-19. This policy (included in the student and employee handbooks) addresses travel, illness, and exposure and lays out specific guidelines as to when a student/employee can return to campus.



Registration and move-in will occur in smaller groups and over the course of five days to provide a safe repopulation.

Communicable Disease Policy

This policy exists in order to ensure the health, well-being, and safety of our residential community and helps to prevent the spread of highly infectious diseases through temporary exclusion from the dormitory, classes, sports, and on-campus activities for students and work for employees. Students requiring longer than 24 hours of supervision in the Health Center will be sent home or to their local emergency contact. All students and employees who have been excluded from school or work for a communicable disease must get clearance from the Health Center prior to returning to school.

Restriction of Local Leaves and 5 ½ Day Boarders

By limiting/restricting local leaves and the 5 ½ day boarder status, we reduce the chance of exposure in other communities and therefore the chance of Avon students and employees introducing COVID-19 to our community.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

Isolation Policy

We have identified two locations on campus for isolating students who test positive for COVID-19. The current Health Center space will have a total of eight beds (an increase from five) where symptomatic students needing nursing supervision will be temporarily housed until they are picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact. A separate area (also away from other students, faculty, and staff) has been reserved for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 but who are not symptomatic and have been cleared by the school's medical director to go to an isolation area where nursing supervision is not needed. Similarly, those students will be housed in this space temporarily until their parent/guardian or emergency contact picks them up. These students will be supervised by an AOF employee.

Quarantine Policy

We have identified a space on campus for those students who have been identified as a close contact of someone who tests positive for COVID-19 and will therefore need to be in quarantine for 14 days. This location will be away from other students, faculty, and staff but supervised by an AOF employee. Students required to quarantine will be housed in this location temporarily until they can be picked up by a parent/guardian or emergency contact.

Emergency Contact

This year, all students, both boarding and day, are required to have a designated emergency contact who lives within 300 miles (five hours) driving distance from school. This is a very important mitigation strategy in order to keep us from maxing out surge space which ultimately allows us to remain open longer.

COVID-19 Team

Associate Head of School Rob Whitty is Avon Old Farms School's designated COVID-19 coordinator and works closely with a team of administrators. The team will participate in weekly discussions with other boarding school and college campus coordinators throughout the fall semester to share best practices. Institutions will be required to report a daily census of new positive cases, hospitalizations, and discharges.

Avon Safe: HEALTH CENTER

(cont'd from page 10)

All PIH (personally identifiable health information) will be excluded from this data. This daily reporting will allow campuses to monitor transmission activity across the state. Any positive cases will also be reported to the Farmington Valley Health District by the director of nursing, per state reporting requirements.

Antibody (Serology) Tests

If and when antibody (serology) tests are deemed reliable and it is determined that antibodies confer immunity, these tests may eventually play a role in diagnosis and determination of individuals at risk for infection.

Flu Vaccine

The flu vaccine will be available at no cost to all students, faculty, and staff. Vaccines will be available as early as registration.

International Students

Students coming to the United States from other countries will need to monitor the CDC guidelines for re-entry into the US. Currently, the guidelines require a 14-day quarantine. Students will not be allowed to complete this initial quarantine in their dormitories.

(If students/families need assistance with the logistics of this situation, please reach out to Christel Rooney.)



Avon Safe

Blended Learning Environment



ACADEMIC PROGRAM

We will continue to emphasize the importance of excellent on-campus, in-person instruction, but that traditional model will be strengthened by creating a blended learning design for current courses in order to offer the best and most flexible model of instruction for both on-campus and online learning.

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

- Our teachers will redesign courses by creating comprehensive online content that aligns with in-person instruction.

- Developing online content extends the classroom and will allow for a smoother transition to distance learning should there be a disruption to our on-campus program, while meeting our same high standards of rigor, excellence, and commitment to R.E.A.L. Learning and best practices for educating boys.

- As part of a blended learning model, our students will develop and refine valuable media literacy and information and communication technology (ICT) skills in addition to gaining knowledge about themselves as students with individual learning styles.
- Blended learning environments fundamentally emphasize relational learning by providing more opportunities for students and teachers to interact.
- Online content will not only be available to our students on campus and thereby provide opportunities for more active (activity-based) learning in the classroom, but also will be available to students who cannot or choose not to be on campus in order for them to participate more fully in the academic program.
- Our teachers are encouraged this fall whenever possible and appropriate to use the campus as an outdoor classroom for class meetings and learning activities, which is consistent with Theodate Pope Riddle's pioneering pedagogy.
- A revised academic calendar includes an earlier start date that will allow for an extended winter break after Thanksgiving and a student-driven, interdisciplinary project-based Character Program for a week in December.

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM



School Calendar 2020-2021

August	26	Wednesday	Monitors & Big Brothers Report: 1:00 p.m.
	27	Thursday	Day Student Registration: 11:00 a.m.
	28	Friday	International Student Registration: 9:00 a.m.
	29	Saturday	Freshman (Domestic) Registration: 9:00 a.m.
			New Sophomore & Junior Registration: 1:00 p.m.
			New Senior/PG Registration: 3:00 p.m.
	30	Sunday	New Student Orientation - On Campus
	31	Monday	Returning Boarding Student Registration: 9:00 a.m.
September	1	Tuesday	<i>Classes Begin - First Academic Quarter Begins</i>
October	9	Friday	<i>First Academic Quarter Ends</i>
	12	Monday	<i>Second Academic Quarter Begins</i>
November	20	Friday	<i>First Academic Quarter Ends/First Semester Ends</i>
December	7 - 11	Monday - Friday	Character Program - Online
January	4	Monday	Students Return - Repopulation plan to follow

Avon Safe: ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Spaces

De-densify all existing classroom spaces.

Distance through redesigned classroom and instructional spaces.

Repurpose appropriate spaces for use as classrooms to meet physical distancing guidelines.

Safety Procedures

Establishment of safe classroom protocols to include new entry/exit procedures to maintain safe physical distancing and additional cleaning and disinfection procedures.

All class participants (students and instructors) must wear face masks and students will be encouraged to face the same direction as much as possible.

Additional personal hygiene measures will be required for more interactive teaching environments.

Avon Safe

Safety is our #1 Priority



ATHLETICS

We are committed to continuing our legendary athletic programs this fall, which have produced many elite level athletes and provide an opportunity for competition to all students. We believe that athletics teach valuable life lessons that will serve boys well throughout their lives, whether or not they pursue athletics at a higher level.

Avon Safe: ATHLETICS



In response to the uncertainty of the current circumstances, we have been working on a vast array of flexible options to allow for participation and competition this fall.

Options range from a full fall athletic season complete with interscholastic competition to a modified fall schedule that would allow for daily skill training in the winter and spring sports.



Founders League Statement

June 10, 2020



The Founders League, recognizing the critical challenges posed by the COVID crisis that require further study, will make a decision about interscholastic competition within the League for the coming year in the latter half of July, 2020.

Following guidelines set out recently by the State of Connecticut Higher Education/Residential Education and K-12 Independent School COVID Task Forces regarding social distancing, the use of PPE and other safety measures designed to mitigate the risk of transmission, we are focusing on the issue of safety and student well-being in trying to find commensurate ways to undertake team sports and interscholastic athletic competition.

Avon Safe: ATHLETICS

Interscholastic Competition

Option 1:

Full Interscholastic Fall Season

If government guidelines permit us to play a full interscholastic schedules at each level, we will be offering three competitive sports and the standard non-competitive activities will be offered.

-> **Competitive**

Football - *three levels (if numbers support three separate teams)*
Soccer - *five levels*
Cross Country - *two levels*
Drama
Robotics

-> **Non-Competitive**

Strength & Conditioning
Intramurals
Recreational Golf (*priority for upperclassmen*)
Yearbook
Sports Media

Option 2:

Modified Interscholastic Fall Season

If the fall interscholastic schedule must be restricted, three competitive fall sports, daily skill training in most of the winter and spring sports, and a variety of other non-competitive options will be offered.

-> **Competitive**

Football
Soccer
Cross Country
Drama
Robotics

-> **Non-competitive**

Strength & Conditioning
Intramurals
Recreational Golf (*priority for upperclassmen*)
Yearbook
Winter & Spring Sport Skill Training
Sports Media

Option 3:

No Interscholastic Fall Season

If the fall interscholastic schedule must be restricted, we will offer daily skill training in nearly all of the competitive sports we offer in the fall, winter, and spring.

-> **Offerings**

Football - *skill training*
Soccer - *skill training*
Cross Country - *skill training*
Drama
Robotics
Strength & Conditioning
Intramurals
Recreational Golf (*priority for upperclassmen*)
Yearbook
Winter & Spring Sport Skill Training
Sports Media

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RESIDENTIAL LIFE

We are committed to establishing policies and procedures which will maintain the health and safety of our community while providing a rich, fulfilling experience.

Avon Safe: RESIDENTIAL LIFE



Over the course of the summer, we will develop plans and implement programs which will strengthen our community and improve upon the experience of our students.

Every aspect of student life will be considered carefully to ensure that students minimize the chances of becoming ill.

And, of course, we are committed to maintaining our strong sense of community.

Meals

We will create staggered meal times and, in many cases, multiple dining options so students can enjoy meals with their peers in smaller numbers and with appropriate physical distancing.

Community

While we may not be able to gather in the chapel for all-school morning meetings and for Sunday evening Vespers services, we will have more time and opportunities for smaller subsets of our community to assemble. *(For example, we will have more time for dormitory meetings, club meetings, and grade-level meetings which, we expect, will enrich the bonds between these groups.)*

Social Activities

During the fall, we will use our beautiful campus to hold large gatherings and outdoor, school-wide activities. We have the ability to light large spaces around campus so boys can take advantage of the fall weather. During the winter time, we will use the field house to conduct school-wide activities.



COVID-19 presents us with an awesome challenge and we understand that we need to consider everything that we do, where we do it, and how we do it. Nonetheless, we are confident that we will not only overcome the obstacles presented by this challenge, but emerge a stronger school and even tighter community. **That is a promise!**

ENROLLMENT & TUITION

As a reminder, your first tuition payment is due on July 1st.

Please contact **Chris Webb** if you have any questions about your enrollment.
webbc@avonoldfarms.com or **860-404-4132**

Online learning will be available to students who cannot or choose not to be on campus in order for them to participate in the academic program.

The cost is \$11,250 per quarter

If you are interested in pursuing this mode of learning, or have questions about your situation, please contact:

Domestic Students: **Chris Webb**, webbc@avonoldfarms.com

International Students: **Christel Rooney**, rooneyc@avonoldfarms.com

In the event that we are required to transition to online learning, we will provide a refund that reflects cost savings associated with our closure.

Avon Safe
Stay Well!



AVON OLD FARMS
SCHOOL