

Suffield Public Schools

COVID-19 School Operational Plans 2021-2022



July 22, 2021

Presentation Outline

COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels.

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

- Current Case Rate
- Remote Learning
- Layered Prevention Strategies
- Quarantine Protocols
- Mask Usage
- Considerations for Continuity of Learning and Protocols Decision-making



Remote Learning

Remote Learning

- Unless required by the CSDE, the district will not be offering a Remote Learning option
 - Any student that is out of school for any sickness (including COVID-19) will be required to follow the teacher's Google Classroom assignments and make up all work
 - We are exploring the possibility of using ESSER funds to hire "Academic Recovery Tutors" to check-in with students who are absent due to quarantines.
- If the CSDE requires a Remote Learning option, we are looking into different possibilities:
 - Scenario 1: Hiring staff to support distance learners (we will likely struggle to recruit enough candidates for this, or be able to provide this in every class that we offer), assignment will be co-teaching until remote is necessary;
 - Scenario 2: Work with CSDE and neighboring districts to put together a Remote Learning Academy and with shared teachers;
 - Scenario 3: Same as last year (status quo). It was difficult, and we heard and saw the good and bad with this; however, our students that attended online didn't regress over the course of the year as much as we feared would happen. Therefore, it is the least financially costly method that we can have some degree of confidence with.



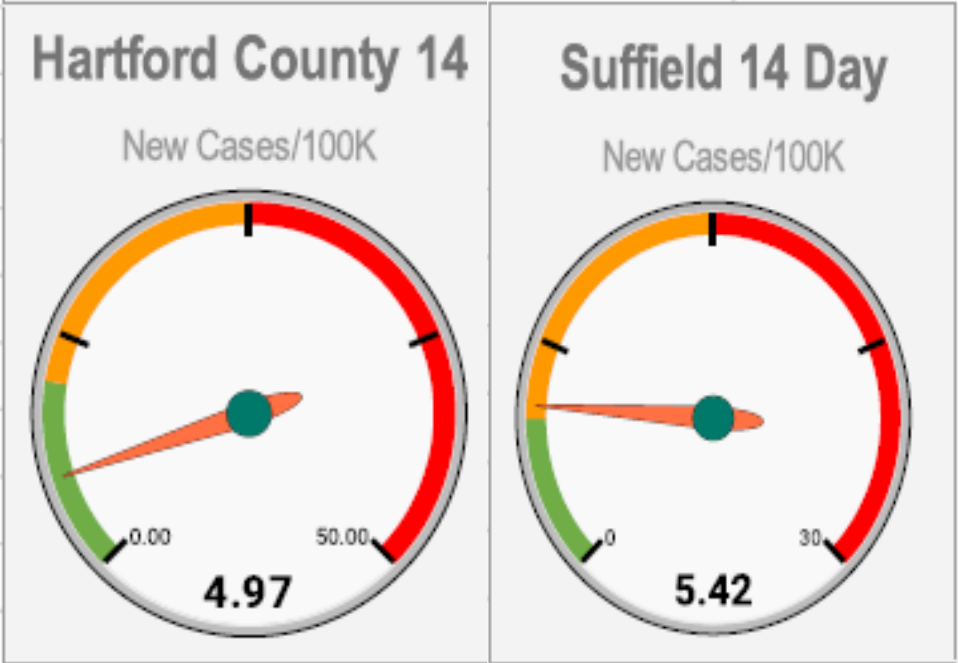
"Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority."

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

Current Case Rate



Date	Number of new cases of COVID-19 (14-day average of new cases per 100,000 population per day)	
	Hartford County	Suffield
21-Jul	4.97	5.42
20-Jul	4.17	5.42
19-Jul	3.83	4.07
18-Jul	3.45	3.16
17-Jul	3.20	2.71
16-Jul	2.96	2.26
15-Jul	2.72	1.36
14-Jul	2.46	1.36
13-Jul	2.19	-0.45
12-Jul	1.87	-0.45
11-Jul	1.51	-25.29
10-Jul	1.54	-18.97
9-Jul	1.56	-12.65
8-Jul	1.58	-6.32
7-Jul	1.65	-6.32
6-Jul	1.90	-6.32
5-Jul	1.78	0
4-Jul	1.78	0
3-Jul	1.78	0.45
2-Jul	1.74	0.45
1-Jul	1.69	1.36



Quarantine Protocols

“Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.”

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

Elementary Schools (AWS & MIS)

- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine;
- 7 day quarantine period with a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 or after, or 10 day quarantine without negative COVID-19 test;
- Vaccinated students who are Close Contacts will not be required to quarantine;
- Unvaccinated elementary students who are Close Contacts in the elementary schools will be required to quarantine;

Secondary Schools (SMS & SHS)

- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 will need to quarantine;
- 7 day quarantine period with a negative COVID-19 test on day 5 or after;
- or 10 day quarantine without negative COVID-19 test;
- Vaccinated students who are Close Contacts will not be required to quarantine;
- Unvaccinated secondary (middle and high school) students who are Close Contacts will not be required to quarantine; however, they will be notified if they are a Close Contact and given the option to remain home.



“Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.”

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

Mask Usage

We are awaiting further guidance from the Governor and CSDE regarding mask-wearing.



Elementary Schools (AWS & MIS)

- Unvaccinated students and staff will be required to wear face masks while indoors

Secondary Schools (SMS & SHS)

- Vaccinated students and staff in the secondary schools (middle and high school) will not be expected to wear masks;
- Unvaccinated students and staff will be expected to wear face masks while indoors; however, this will be based on an honor system due to our inability to track and monitor this.

“Masks should be worn indoors by all individuals (age 2 and older) who are not fully vaccinated. Consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained.”

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

Layered Prevention Strategies



- **Social Distancing**
 - Elementary and Secondary Schools to the greatest extent possible
- **Contact Tracing**
- **Cohorting**
 - Elementary Schools (AWS & MIS):
 - No change for the 2021-2022 school year
 - Secondary Schools (SMS & SHS)
 - Vaccine eligible; therefore, typical routines and schedules will occur
- **Vaccinations (where possible)**
- **Quarantine Protocols**
- **Mask-wearing**
- **Reinforcing Good Hygiene**
- **Ventilation and Cleaning**
- **Expanded COVID-19 Testing Availability for School-age Populations**
(more information to come from DPH and CSDE)

“Many schools serve children under the age of 12 who are not eligible for vaccination at this time. Therefore, this guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple prevention strategies together consistently) to protect people who are not fully vaccinated, including students, teachers, staff, and other members of their households.”

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

Considerations for Continuity of Learning and Protocols Decision-making



Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

- CDC K-12 Guidance (July 2021)

- Considerations
 - Guidance from DPH, CSDE, CDC
 - Unique School COVID-19 Transmission Trends
 - Suffield Public Schools District COVID-19 Transmission Trends
 - Town of Suffield COVID-19 Transmission Trends
 - Breakthrough Cases
 - Vaccination Data (Rates, Boosters, etc.)