

GPS Virtual Town Hall COVID Questions and Answers



Monday, August 16, 2021

Greenwich Public School Virtual Town Hall Panelists

Dr. Toni Jones

Superintendent of Schools

Professional Background in Administration

Greenwich Public Schools	2019 – present
Fairfield (CT) Public Schools	2016 – 2019
Falls Church City (VA) Public Schools	2011 – 2016

Deer Creek (OK) Public Schools 1998 – 2011

*Elementary School Principal, Middle School Principal, Director of Secondary Education
and Technology, Chief Academic Officer*

Education

Doctorate in Leadership from Oral Roberts University

Masters in Reading from Charles Sturt University (New South Wales)

Bachelor of Science in Special Education and Elementary Education from University of Nevada, Reno

Greenwich Public School Virtual Town Hall Panelists

Dr. E. Ann Carabillo

Deputy Superintendent

Professional Background in Administration

Greenwich Public Schools

2016 – present

Consolidated School District of New Britain

2000 - 2016

Chief Academic Officer, Director of Pupil Personnel Services,

Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Staff Development,

Principal of Pulaski Middle School, Assistant Principal of Pulaski Middle School

Education

Doctor of Education from Central Connecticut State University

Master's in Special Education from Central Connecticut State University

Bachelor's in Music Education from The Hartt School, University of Hartford

Greenwich Public School Virtual Town Hall Panelists

Marc J. D'Amico

Director of Curriculum & Leadership K-8

Professional Background in Administration

Greenwich Public Schools

2003 – present

*Director of Curriculum and Leadership K-8, Director of Curriculum K-8,
Head of Leadership K-5, Principal of Glenville School, Assistant Principal of Julian Curtiss School*

Education

Master's in Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University

Sixth Year Degree in Education Leadership from Southern Connecticut State University

Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Pace University

Greenwich Public School Virtual Town Hall Panelists

Mary Keller, RN, MPH

Supervisor, School Health Programs

Professional Background

Greenwich Public Schools 2001 – present

*Supervisor of School Health Programs, School Nurse at Parkway School,
Central Middle School and Greenwich High School*

Columbia Presbyterian Morgan Stanley Children's Hospital 1980 - 1998

*Director of Pediatric Outreach, Head Nurse of Pediatric Oncology and Neonatal Intensive Care Units,
Staff Nurse Neonatal Intensive Care Unit*

Education

Master of Public Health from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health

Bachelor of Nursing from Columbia University School of Nursing

Associate from Tompkins-Cortland Community College

Greenwich Public School Virtual Town Hall Panelists

Dr. Katherine Noble

Medical Advisor

Professional Background *(practicing pediatrician since 2003)*

Greenwich Public Schools	Medical Advisor	February 2020 – present
Sound Beach Pediatrics	Founder & Managing Partner	2015 – present
American Academy of Pediatrics Fellow		
American Board of Pediatrics Diplomate		

Education

Doctor of Medicine from University of California, San Francisco – School of Medicine

Medical Student Body President, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

Residency at Boston Children's Hospital affiliated with Harvard Medical College

Bachelor of Art in Integrative Biology from University of California, Berkeley (Phi Beta Kappa)

Your Submitted Questions

How Many Submissions Were Made? 171

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Mask Policy	21%
General	17%
Remote Learning	16%
Facilities	15%
Vaccinations	14%
Quarantining	10%
Meals	4%
Personal Opinions <i>(not questions)</i>	3%

<u>School Representation</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Greenwich High School	24%
Middle Schools	21%
Elementary Schools	55%

as of Monday, August 16 at 12:00 PM

Your Submitted Questions

Is school still on target to start on time on September 1?

- Susan (Greenwich HS & Eastern MS)

Your Submitted Questions

What happens if there is an outbreak or positive case of COVID-19? Will cases be reported to parents?

- Marie (Riverside School)

Your Submitted Questions

Where is the science in masking our children? What is the ongoing emergency that the Governor is using? Mandating masks for kids is detrimental to their physical and mental health.

- David (North Mianus School)

What is the required mask mandate?

- Janet (Greenwich High School)

Your Submitted Questions

Why does my child have to wear a mask if they are fully vaccinated...?

- Xandy (Greenwich HS & Eastern MS)

Why are masks not made an option? Why can't families make the choice that best fits their family?

- Jennifer (Eastern MS & Old Greenwich)

Your Submitted Questions

What mask exemptions will be available for children?

- Anthony (North Mianus School)

Your Submitted Questions

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13A (excerpt)

Nothing in this order shall require the use of a mask or cloth face covering by anyone for whom doing so would be contrary to his or her health or safety because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability, or anyone under the age of 2 years. Any person who declines to wear a mask or face covering because of a medical condition, behavioral condition, or disability shall be exempt from this order and any requirement to wear masks or face coverings promulgated in or pursuant to any COVID-19 Order, but only if such person provides written documentation that the person is qualified for the exemption from a licensed or certified medical provider, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, professional counselor, social worker, or behavior analyst, the Department of Developmental Services or other state agency that provides or supports services for people with emotional, intellectual or physical disabilities, or a person authorized by any such agency. Such documentation shall not be required to name or describe the condition that qualifies the person for the exemption.

Your Submitted Questions

Regarding the mask policy, is there a mandatory style, such as high protective masks (N94/N95)? Other forms permitted (bandana, etc.)?

- *Ekaterina (Cos Cob School)*

Your Submitted Questions

If the Governor does not require another mask mandate after September 30, will it be up to the parents, as it should be, whether their child/children wear a mask in class?

- *Doreen (Central MS & Cos Cob)*

Your Submitted Questions

...is it possible for [children] to remove their masks once they are at their desks, as they will be spread out?

- Dana (North Street School)

Your Submitted Questions

It's impossible for kids with learning disabilities to stay focused [wearing a mask after an hour] and doctors [say] that breathing in CO₂ from long mask wearing slows the brain. So why not mandate vaccines instead?

- Susan (Greenwich High School)

Your Submitted Questions

[Will] the school will provide masks [to students] if needed?

- *Luciana (Old Greenwich School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Will regular COVID testing be administered or required to catch mild/asymptomatic cases [to] prevent spread in school?

- *Kim (Old Greenwich School)*

Your Submitted Questions

What will GPS do to enforce social distancing and mask usage on the bus?

- Jen (Greenwich HS & Central MS)

Will the bus drivers allow windows to be open in moderate to good weather...?

- Rosemary (Greenwich High School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will PTA Volunteers be allowed in the building when school opens?

- Steph (Greenwich High School)

Will parents, PTA volunteers, and external vendors (e.g. someone hired to lead an enrichment session) be permitted to enter school buildings this year?

- Carey (Riverside School)

Your Submitted Questions

...please describe parent options [and the process] that include homeschooling and opting-out [of in-person learning].

- O (*Parkway School*)

Your Submitted Questions

In a May 12 email, Dr. Jones wrote that vaccination status is private and there is no obligation to disclose. And it will not be asked. Will Dr. Jones confirm that this is still District policy?

- Andrew (Greenwich HS & Central MS)

Your Submitted Questions

What is the Board of Education's policy requiring teacher vaccinations...?

- *Michael (Greenwich HS & Eastern MS)*

Your Submitted Questions

Once vaccines are available for younger children, will it be mandated? What goes into this [decision] making?

- Michele (Glenville School)

If COVID vaccine becomes available for kids less than 12 years of age, will GPS set up vaccine clinics to facilitate access to vaccinations?

- Jen (Greenwich HS & Central MS)

Your Submitted Questions

Will students that are vaccinated and unvaccinated be separated?

- *Lisa (Eastern MS & Old Greenwich)*

Will unvaccinated children and staff be required to test...?

- *Louise (Greenwich HS & Eastern MS)*

Your Submitted Questions

Are you going to be discriminating against students who are not vaccinated when it comes to playing sports?

- *Kristen (Greenwich HS & Western MS)*

Your Submitted Questions


What is the percentage of vaccination rates in Greenwich by age?




- *Katie (Greenwich HS & Parkway)*

Can GPS report on the percentage of staff/faculty that are vaccinated by school?

- *Sharon (Western Middle School)*

https://data.ct.gov/Health-and-Human-Services/COVID-19-Vaccinations-by-Town-and-Age-Group/gngw-ukpw



Developers | Suggest a Dataset | Help | About |    [Sign In](#)

COVID-19 Vaccinations by Town and Age Group

Health And Human Services

[View Data](#) [Visualize](#) [Export](#) [API](#) [...](#)

A summary of COVID-19 vaccination coverage in Connecticut by town and age group. Records without an address could not be included in town vaccine coverage estimates.

A person who has received one dose of any vaccine is considered to have received at least

[More](#)

Updated
August 12, 2021

Data Provided by
Department of Public Health

About this Dataset

Updated
August 12, 2021

Data Last Updated
August 12, 2021

Metadata Last Updated
August 12, 2021

Date Created
April 23, 2021

Views
7,570

Downloads
1,492

Agency
Department of Public Health

Details

Geographic Unit
City

Update Frequency
Weekly

COVID-19

[Mute Dataset](#)

Table Preview

[View Data](#) [Create Visualization](#)

Town	Age Group	At least one dose	Population	Initiated Vaccination	Initiated Vaccination %	Fully Vaccinated	Fully Vaccinated %	Date Updated
Greenwich	12-17	No	5,449	4,801	88.11	4,221	77.46	08/12/2021
Greenwich	18-24	No	4,037	3,578	88.63	3,087	76.47	08/12/2021
Greenwich	25-44	No	13,580	9,586	70.59	8,707	64.12	08/12/2021
Greenwich	45-64	No	18,950	15,927	84.05	15,094	79.65	08/12/2021
Greenwich	65+	No	10,466	9,912	94.71	9,382	89.64	08/12/2021

Your Submitted Questions

What can parents sign to refuse forced vaccinations without parental consent?

- *Lynne (Greenwich High School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Can we choose to have a vaccinated teacher? What about the special teachers (music, art, etc.)?

- *Vidya (Parkway High School)*

Your Submitted Questions

After 18 months, the science & data are clear that this virus has virtually no effect on children, and children are not a meaningful force driving the spread.

- *Lindy (North Street School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Is there virtual learning when in quarantine?

- Stacy (Greenwich High School)

If an exposed...student...is required to quarantine,
...will they be taught remotely? If not, what's the
plan so they don't fall behind?

- Elizabeth (North Mianus School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be any hybrid [learning] options?

- Gili (Greenwich HS, Central MS & North Street)

Why are we not given the option for remote school?

- Adriana (North Mianus School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be snow days this year or will remote be an option if there is inclement weather?

- Adam (Greenwich HS & Eastern MS)

Your Submitted Questions

When a student tests positive, how do you define who had close contact with the person and who needs to be quarantined?

- *Bing (Eastern Middle School)*

Quarantine Guidelines

Quarantine for Unvaccinated Individuals

- If exposed in the classroom (stationary seating) at greater than 3 feet with masking - no quarantine for students (not considered exposed)
- Less than 3 feet will need to quarantine for 7 days, test on Day 5 or later, have a negative test and return on Day 8
- All others (not classroom students) 6 feet with or without a mask will quarantine for 7 days, test on Day 5 or later, have a negative test, and return on Day 8
- If choose not to test, quarantine for 10 days

Quarantine for vaccinated

- For exposure less than 3- 6 feet, with or without a mask, no quarantine but need to test on Day 3, 4, or 5 and wear a mask for 14 days post exposure

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be a required quarantine for out-of-state travel by car or plane during the school year?

- *Jennifer (Cos Cob School)*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

Inbox - jonathan_supranowitz@... x CDC Domestic Travel During COVID-19 x Virtual Town Hall - Script - Goog... x Virtual Town Hall on August 16 (x Virtual Town Hall on August 16 x +

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html#unvaccinated-people

Apps Ancestry Personal Reed's Sports Thirty Ink Greenwich Public S... Census Files - Dropbox

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™

Search COVID-19

COVID-19

- Home
- Your Health**
- Vaccines
- Cases & Data
- Work & School
- Healthcare Workers
- Health Depts
- Science
- More

Your Health

- About COVID-19 +
- Variants of the Virus +
- Symptoms +
- Testing +
- Prevent Getting Sick +
- If You Are Sick +
- Different Groups of People +
- Daily Activities & Going Out +
- Travel** —

To maximize protection from the [Delta variant](#) and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an [area of substantial or high transmission](#).

Domestic Travel During COVID-19

Updated June 10, 2021 Languages Print

Delay travel until you are fully vaccinated. If you are not fully vaccinated and must travel, follow CDC's [recommendations for unvaccinated people](#).

People who are fully vaccinated with an FDA-authorized vaccine or a vaccine authorized for emergency use by the World Health Organization can travel safely within the United States.

CDC will update these recommendations as more people are vaccinated, as rates of COVID-19 change, and as additional scientific evidence becomes available. This guidance applies to travel within the United States and U.S. territories.

On This Page

- [Recommendations For Fully Vaccinated People](#)
- [Recommendations For Unvaccinated People](#)
- [Domestic Travel Recommendations Quick Reference](#)

78°F Mostly cl... 9:15 AM

Quarantining After Travel

Quarantine After Travel (particularly air travel)

Domestic

- Unvaccinated: Test at 3-5 days and quarantine for 7 days; return on Day 8
- Vaccinated: Do not need to quarantine or test

International

- Unvaccinated: Test before returning, test 3-5 days upon return and quarantine for 7 days
- Vaccinated: Test before returning, test on Day 3-5, no quarantine necessary

Your Submitted Questions

If there is exposure to COVID in a classroom, how will contact tracing work? Will vaccinated students have to quarantine?

- *Brenn (Greenwich High School)*

What will the quarantine rules be for vaccinated students with COVID exposure, in or out of school?

- *Elisabeth (Greenwich HS & Central MS)*

Your Submitted Questions

Should the precautions be more stringent in the elementary schools than the middle and high schools?

- *Elishia (Western MS & Glenville)*

Your Submitted Questions

How will cohorting work if all students are returning to school?

- *Thomas (Greenwich High School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be regular cafeteria services this year or should we expect to go back to a grab-and-go bagged lunch system?

- Gina (Greenwich High School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will GPS continue lunchtime as last year to ensure that there is at least three feet between kids when eating?

- Lauren (Cos Cob School)

How will lunch and snack time be organized?

- Sara (Cos Cob School)

Your Submitted Questions

Have you considered upgrades to heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) at GHS to support mitigation of indoor air quality as it relates to COVID transmission?

- Rosanne (Greenwich High School)

What increased ventilation efforts are being made?

- Janet (Glenville School)

Your Submitted Questions

Can water fountains be made available to refill water bottles?

- Larry (North Mianus School)

Your Submitted Questions

Are there functioning air conditioning in all middle schools?

- JG (Eastern Middle School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will the afterschool program be available [to students] for this [school] year?

- Liz (Hamilton Avenue School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will students be able to use the playground equipment at recess?

- *Liz (North Mianus School)*

Your Submitted Questions

There was...a concerning amount of student time spent on screens last year, in school and at home. Will you be reducing screentime and going back to more pencil and paperwork?

- Sarah (Hamilton Avenue School)

Your Submitted Questions

How are we accounting for the disruption and learning loss when students return to the classroom, many for the first time in 18 months? How are we planning to get students in the right place and on track?

- *Dani (Central MS & Cos Cob)*

Your Submitted Questions

Will dividers still be used in the classroom to protect the children, especially in classes with 20+ students?

- Lauren (Cos Cob School)

Your Submitted Questions

Why were the COVID desk shields discarded last June? Will the district now have to purchase shields again?

- Matthew (Greenwich High School)

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be cohorting in the advanced learning program (ALP) at K-5 schools?

- *Alex (Riverside School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Will there be an opportunity for non-kindergarten elementary students who are new to a school to meet their teacher or get a tour of the school? If not in person, then perhaps via Zoom?

- *Alex (North Mianus School)*

Your Submitted Questions

Last year the choral program was severely impacted by COVID restrictions. Will students be able to sing this year?

- Patricia (Greenwich High School)

GPS Virtual Town Hall COVID Questions and Answers



Thank you for participating!