

Groton Public Schools

Interim Plan for Fall Re-Opening

Revised November 22, 2021

Mitigation Strategies

- All individuals in the building must wear a face mask regardless of vaccination status.
- Masks are not required when classes are being held outside with appropriate social distancing.
- Contaminated surfaces are not a significant risk for transmission of SARS-CoV-2. Routine cleaning of common spaces and buildings is all that is needed and will continue into the new school year.
- Frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces is no longer required; however, it is still recommended.

Distancing & Cohorting & Hygiene

- Practice 3 feet social distancing where possible.
- Practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Cohorting is important to the distancing and contact tracing processes. Classrooms and lunch waves should have assigned seating and other activities outside the classroom should have assigned small groups.
- A daily log should be maintained at classroom doorways for staff members to sign in and out of classrooms for contact tracing purposes.
- Teachers and staff are required to keep accurate/updated seating charts and lists of small groups, with special attention given to any interactions without masks (eating) or less than 3 feet apart. This information will be essential for contact tracing.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, & Quarantine

- Daily self-monitoring of symptoms before coming to school is necessary. If symptomatic, please contact administration before coming to school.
- Contact Tracing in response to a positive COVID case in the school
 - A fully vaccinated individual is not required to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic.
 - A close contact is defined as an unvaccinated individual who is within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer of a positive case. This applies to any location outside of a classroom.
 - However, within the classroom environment, a close contact is defined as an unvaccinated student who was within 3 feet of the positive case.
 - CT Department of Education does not recommend quarantine of entire classrooms. Any student seated in a structured classroom setting, and is at least 3 feet away from a confirmed case, no longer needs to quarantine if exposure was limited to the classroom, all students were seated with mask use, and the individual is asymptomatic.
- District guidance for isolation and quarantine is based upon LLHD decision making tree document. <https://www.grotonschools.org/covid-19-health-updates>

The definition for quarantine remote learning is defined as the isolation or quarantine scenarios listed below as defined in the Ledge Light Guidance Addendum 5 Decision Tree:

- Isolation and Quarantine requirements
 - Positive Case Isolation or presumed positive case-individual has key symptoms but is not tested/has no test results=10 days isolation for student or staff member.
 - Unvaccinated Close Contact to Positive Case: Quarantine 10 days quarantine or 7 days with a negative test no earlier than day 5.
 - Symptomatic but not a close contact- Student has key COVID symptoms and is recommended for COVID testing, if the parent does not wish to test and the student becomes subject to the full 10 day quarantine period per Ledge Light Health District Guidance based upon Addendum 5.
<https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1637687950/grotonk12ctus/eepvqg0qxwsokvfk1zt/Addendum5DecisionTreeUpdated101921.pdf>
- Student or Staff Travel will need to follow the CDC recommended guidance.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Sports, PE, Music, Arts, Recess, Lunch, Buses and Other Activities

- Activities should take place outdoors whenever possible with consideration for social distancing. Masks can be removed with appropriate social distancing.
- There are no changes to the guidance for Music, PE, Recess and Sports activities since the last addendums, please follow these guidelines.
 - Addendum 7 Arts and Music
https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1634732191/grotonk12ctus/beuxoka7c0dpbqcbo3td/07__Addendum.pdf
 - Updated Guidance for the Operation of Interscholastic, Youth and other Amateur Sport Activities during the COVID-19 Pandemic Spring 2021
https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1637688569/grotonk12ctus/kbwaqxbl8syuhcbbiywe/DPH-Youth-and-Amateur-Sports-COVID19_UPDATED_Winter_2021_2022.pdf
- Masks are not required for outdoor activities/PE with appropriate social distancing and hand hygiene before and after outdoor activities. However, masks need to be worn during the transfer process to and from the activity outdoors (i.e. line up and walking).
- Currently masks are required on public transportation including school buses.
- Lunch waves with assigned cohorting at lunch tables is a best practice. Additional lunch waves are added as necessary.
- Breakfast will be provided upon arrival for students to eat in a designated area.
- Desk shields are available in limited supply for use when students are eating and the 3 foot social distance cannot be achieved.

School Building Visitor Policies

- Visitors are allowed in the buildings on a limited, as needed basis.
- School offices should continue to perform wellness temperature checks and complete the visitor screening form for all visitors who enter the building daily. An updated form will be provided.

- Visitors must comply with school mitigation procedures, including mask wearing at all times regardless of vaccination status.

Recommended Instructional Practices

- Update all Learning Management Systems for the new school year.
- Provide orientation & instruction to students on the LMS used for the class.
- At the elementary level, post at a minimum one ELA and one Math lesson on the LMS every Monday to start the week including homework (i.e. read a book, Dreambox, Lexia). At the secondary level, post daily lessons on LMS including homework.
- Once teachers have been notified of a verified quarantine by the school nurse or administration, teachers will be required to continue posting additional assignments on the LMS to provide students access to asynchronous learning activities.
- Classroom teachers are not required to stream live lessons to students at home who are absent. When a student is on a verified quarantine, support staff such as the building substitute teachers, interventionist, tutors, or paras will contact students (or their parents) to check in to verify that they are able to access the LMS from home, answer questions they may have about the assignments and/or provide synchronous instruction as appropriate. Teachers may also contact students or parents to check on progress or provide support.
- For verified quarantines, teachers are asked to post assignments on the LMS within 24 hours of teachers being notified (school hours). (Post Monday's learning activities by Tuesday). Teachers should also consider using district learning software as part of the student's asynchronous learning. (NOTE: If an entire class is quarantined or emergency school closures, the teacher will move to synchronous remote instruction for the entire class.)
- Students who are absent due to illness (not quarantine) have the option to utilize the LMS system to complete work. The responsibility for the completion of missed work lies with the student. Teachers may work with the individual student to make up missed work when the student returns. The student will be marked as absent from school for the day.
- When students are home sick (is not a close contact at home or at work), this does not meet the definition of quarantine or isolation (*until such time there is a positive test result, or the parent chooses not to test, or they are defined as a close contact to a positive case*). In this case, it is recommended to treat the sick absence for the first 3 days the same as a sick day or vacation in terms of assigning student work. The student should be focused on getting well; however, if a student starts to feel better but is not well enough for school, it can be recommended to the parent to allow the student to do independent work such as read a book or work on available software applications for the appropriate grade level (Dreambox/Lexia or other program) to stay engaged in the learning process while home sick. If the student's absence due to illness related to COVID similar symptoms defined in the LLHD Guidance continues is beyond 3 school days and the student should quarantine, work will be assigned by the teacher.

Services for Students with an IEP who are Quarantined

- Students who are absent from school due to being quarantined from a pandemic are not covered in IDEA under FAPE so teachers and related service providers will provide services to the greatest extent feasible. Through collaboration with parents, case managers, and related service providers, teams will determine the model, mode, frequency and duration of learning opportunities to support students and families through the period of quarantine. Given the

students' learning strengths and needs, learning opportunities may differ for each individual student, including asynchronous or synchronous learning options. The district will consider utilizing Learning Model Implementation Plans (LMIP) to summarize these plans for students who are verified to be quarantined.

- If a student has a verified medical reason, including mental health issues, exempting them from attending in-person school, the parent should provide the note from the treating physician to the school nurse. The school nurse will then request written parental permission to consult with the treating physician to determine if the student can attend school with reasonable accommodations. If the conclusion is that the student cannot attend school for a partial day with accommodations, then the nurse will contact the Administration and Pupil Personnel Office for authorization to provide Homebound Instruction.

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Learning_Model_IEP_Implementation_Plans.docx