



2022 Guidance FAQs

Updated as of 2/22/22. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

▼ What has changed for the 2021-2022 school year?

Over the course of the pandemic, much has been learned about COVID-19. Public health goals have shifted to preventing the spread of new variants by promoting vaccination and limiting transmission. Both the federal and state government remain focused on full time in-person learning.

▼ Masks in School

We remain committed to a mask optional policy beginning on February 28, 2022.

As a school community, we commit to respecting the rights of students, staff, and visitors to wear a mask or not to wear a mask. The transition to mask choice may be difficult for some in our community. We have developed a series of [talking points](#) to support everyone through this change.

Please know that when the mask optional policy goes into place, if you choose to send your child to school wearing a mask, our staff will not be responsible for enforcing that expectation for you.

Speech and Language services: Clear masks should be worn by SLPs who choose to wear a mask when working with students who require seeing the therapist's mouth during speech therapy. Additional clear masks have been purchased for speech therapists who choose to remain masked when working with students. Also, the PPT may recommend that based on the intensity and nature of a student's disability, that service providers should unmask (intermittently or longer) when servicing students.

▼ Mitigation Strategies

Beginning Monday, February 14, we will continue to mitigate against the spread of COVID 19 with the following strategies:

- Daily, personal assessment of COVID-19 symptoms. Students and staff who are not feeling well should stay home. Please conduct a home test to determine if you are positive. Our schools can provide these for you if you need one.

- Encouraging vaccination for those eligible
- 3 feet distancing whenever possible

In addition, our staff may choose to use plexiglass barriers when working with students in small groups, sitting in close proximity, for an extended period of time

All other strategies and protocols will no longer be in effect.

▼ Daily Self-Checklist

Daily, personal assessment of COVID-19 symptoms. Students and staff who are not feeling well should stay home. Please conduct a home test to determine if you are positive. Our schools can provide these for you if you need one.

[COVID Daily Checklist](#)

▼ Vaccinations

We strongly encourage vaccinations and boosters for all who are eligible.

- COVID-19 vaccines are not mandated for students.
- Proof of vaccination for students is not required. However, *we strongly encourage those who have been fully vaccinated to provide documentation to their school nurse.* You may email a pdf or photo to your school nurse (email addresses are on your school website), or send in a copy with your child.
- Vaccines are mandated for all Fairfield Public School employees.

▼ Social Distancing

3 feet distance will be maintained whenever possible for students. The 6 feet distance for adults will remain in effect.

▼ Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine

New guidance from the State Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Education (SDE) supports the transition to the state's general public health approach to the routine management of respiratory viruses in PreK-12 schools.

February 18, 2022 Transitioning to a Model of Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control for COVID-19 in PreK-12 School Settings

Isolation and quarantine guidance remains the same for anyone who tests positive or has symptoms, including the need to mask for an additional 5 days upon returning to school. Quarantine will be based on out of school exposure only (as we do currently). There may be a need to go back to temporary masking and additional mitigation measures in the event of a cluster or outbreak (as determined with our health

department). We will continue to track and communicate positive cases via Infinite Campus messages and the FPS website dashboard.

For the most current information, go to: <https://fairfieldct.org/covid19>.

[December 31, 2021 Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing Policies and Procedures in PreK-12 Schools](#)

[January 10, 2022 CSDE School Update FAQ](#)

We will continue to communicate positive cases via Infinite Campus messages and the FPS website dashboard.

▼ Supporting Students in Quarantine

We will continue to provide instructional support for students in isolation or quarantine.

- [January 12, 2022 Student Support during COVID-related Absences](#)
- [December 31, 2021 Remote Learning Guidance](#)
- [September 15, 2021 Student Supports During Quarantine/Isolation](#)
- [Guidance Regarding the Future of Remote Learning in Connecticut.](#)

▼ Athletics and Extracurricular Activities

New guidance from CIAC is aligned with current DPH/CSDE guidance: **February 18, 2022 CIAC Winter Sports Guidance UPDATE**

Full information on athletics is available here: <http://ciacsports.com/site/> and

- [January 10, 2022 DPH Athletics UPDATE](#)
- [December 22, 2021 CIAC Winter Sports Guidance UPDATE](#)
- [November 29, 2021 CIAC Winter 2021 Sports Guidance](#)
- [November 29, 2021 UPDATED DPH CSDE Athletic Guidance](#)

All other student activities are possible as long as distancing is followed. Activity advisors should consult with their school administration.

▼ Adjustments or Return to Pre-Pandemic Protocols

▼ Arrival/Dismissal

Schools will return to pre-COVID procedures. Parents can drop off and pick up their children at designated spots at the school.

▼ Buses

At this time, the Center for Disease Control still requires anyone using district transportation to wear a mask. This covers all students and staff on school buses. [CDCMask.pdf](#)

Schools will return to pre-covid protocols, as follows:

- No seating charts; students may sit with friends.
- Parents may request to have their child dropped off at an alternative location. They should follow pre-pandemic practices for requesting that decision with the building principal.
- Multiple classes may share buses for field trips.

▼ Recess

There are no COVID-19 restrictions on indoor or outdoor recess.

Schools may implement restrictions for safety and classroom management purposes (as was done pre-pandemic).

▼ Lunch

Three feet distancing is still in place. Students' assigned seating will no longer be a mitigation strategy. Elementary schools will return to any pre-pandemic seating requirements based on safety and classroom management. Students may use barriers if they choose. Middle school students will continue to have lunch in grade level groups.

▼ Snack

Snack will also return to pre-pandemic procedures and rolling snack is discontinued.

▼ Visitors

School visitors are allowed. Schools may restrict based on the activity and the ability to maintain social distance. Schools should check with Central Office before not allowing an event that includes visitors.

Parents must follow all pre-pandemic visitor/volunteer protocols, as well as current mitigation strategies, during their visit.

Permitted elementary activities include class parties, book buddies, mystery readers, school stores, book fairs, etc. Birthday Visits: Schools will reinstate parent birthday visits. Each school has their own special approach to celebrating student birthdays, please contact your child's teacher before scheduling your visit.

▼ Parent Meetings

Planning and Placement Teams/ 504s / Team Meetings: Parents may request an in-person meeting and will be accommodated when 6 feet distancing can be maintained given the number of meeting participants.

▼ Staff Meetings/Professional Development

Faculty and staff meetings should be in person, beginning Feb 16th. Six feet distancing remains the standard for adults.

Professional development and trainings should be done in person with appropriate distancing.

▼ Classrooms and Instructional Groupings

Classrooms should be set up with three feet of distancing. However, small pods or other combinations may be used.

The teacher's first recommendation for grouping should be the grouping strategy that best fits the instructional purpose. The mitigation strategy should be considered thereafter. For example, small group reading instruction at a kidney table is appropriate if the teacher's approach is to instruct a similar skill group during the reading lesson.

Small group instruction is imperative to students' success and should be a common feature of classroom instruction as indicated by the teachers' planning and students' needs.

Student desktop barriers may not be used in the classroom. Staff may use a plexiglass barrier if they choose.

Cohorting will no longer be in effect. Classes and grade levels may mix as appropriate.

▼ Music Rehearsals / Performances

Before school elementary music rehearsals can go back to classroom mixing (i.e.: common instrument types are grouped together). Band and strings participation will be noted in the daily update.

Middle and High School performances for grade 5 students at elementary buildings may resume. Students should maintain distance in the performance location.

Due to spacing concerns, grade 5 chorus concerts will be incorporated with the (outdoor) moving up ceremonies for grade 5.

Middle and High School rehearsals/performance will be held in person with appropriate spacing considerations. The [performance schedule](#) is also posted on the [Calendar](#) page.

▼ Events

Building assemblies or group meetings: Three feet distancing is still in place, however, assemblies can be planned and carried out. This includes having multiple classes in a building's space at the same time (e.g.: library media center).

Dances, Pep Rallies, Battle of the Houses, and other large events may be held indoors with appropriate spacing considerations.

▼ Lockdown Drills

With the three feet social distancing requirement still in place, emergency drills will continue to be performed in a modified way to maintain social distancing. Teachers will verbally review where the safe zones are in the classroom during the lockdown rather than have the students physically move shoulder to shoulder and crouched down in the safe zone (corner or smaller room) of the room. All other lockdown procedures will remain the same.