



August 24, 2022

To Our Families and Staff Members:

I am writing to inform you of the precautions that the Fairfield Public Schools will be taking to guard against the spread of the COVID virus as our classes resume next week.

All of us are expecting that the new school year will be a time of recovery and progress after two years of concern and complications. We look forward to having our students where they belong – in their classrooms with their teachers pursuing learning opportunities that are vital to their growth and development.

On August 1st, we received guidance from the State Departments of Public Health and Education. This guidance further supports the state's general public health approach to the routine management of respiratory viruses in PreK-12 schools. On August 11th, the CDC issued further guidance that aligns with our state guidance.

Public health goals are now focused on minimizing impacts from respiratory disease outbreaks and maximizing successful in-person learning during the coming school year by thoughtfully employing familiar mitigation strategies: promoting **vaccination, monitoring symptoms with recommended at-home testing** and using community levels to determine the need for any enhanced prevention measures.

Students and staff with COVID-19 symptoms should test daily at home. We do not administer COVID tests in school. If a student develops symptoms while in school, the nurse will send a testing kit home for use by the child's parents. **Anyone testing positive must remain in isolation for 5 days, and mask for an additional 5 days upon returning to school (once they are symptom-free and fever-free for 24 hours). Quarantine due to exposure is no longer required. Individuals with known exposure should mask and test on day 5.**

Should there be a significant cluster or outbreak (as determined with the Fairfield Health Department), affected families will be notified as we would with any other communicable disease. We will no longer be communicating daily COVID updates to the public. **All other COVID related requirements will no longer be in effect.**

A set of Frequently Asked Questions regarding COVID are posted on the COVID-19 page of the school district's website. The full guidance documents are posted on both the Back to School and COVID-19 pages of our website and can also be found here:

- [CSDE/DPH Fall 2022 Respiratory Disease Prevention Strategies](#)
- [CSDE/DPH Fall 2022 Operational Strategies](#)
- [CDC Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#)

Finally, I want to thank Jill Mitchell and Sands Cleary of the Fairfield Health Department for the invaluable assistance that they have rendered to our schools throughout the pandemic. Please see below for a more detailed description of the COVID related procedures that they have developed for us – including the CDC Calculator that will help you to determine when an infected child can safely return to school.

If you have any questions or concerns about these procedures, I encourage you to contact the nurse at your child’s school.

Wishing you and your children all the best for a healthy, productive new school year.

Regards,



Stephen Tracy
Interim Superintendent
Fairfield Public Schools

FPS Approach to Respiratory Disease Prevention (COVID-19 and Flu) for SY 2022-2023

(rev. 8.18.22)

As we prepare for the start of the school year, Fairfield Public Schools will prioritize keeping students in school, and operating our schools as close to pre-pandemic practices as possible. This is in line with the CDC and the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), State Department of Education (CSDE) and Office of Early Childhood guidance. [Link to DPH/CSDE/OEC guidance.](#) District practices include the return to field trips, extra curricular activities, full attendance at sporting events and performances. The Fairfield Health Department will continue to monitor COVID-19 cases and implement respiratory prevention strategies as necessary. At this time, the following practices are no longer necessary: contact tracing, close contact quarantining, social distancing, cohorting, the use of the COVID dashboard and daily notifications.

Continuation of mitigation strategies

FPS will continue to employ thoughtful mitigation strategies to help prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses while maximizing in person learning.

1. Vaccinations

Vaccinations are the first and most important line of defense in preventing respiratory diseases like COVID - 19 and influenza from disrupting the continuous operation of schools. The Fairfield Health Department recommends that all students and staff stay up to date on their vaccinations.

2. Isolation of a Positive Case

FPS will continue to follow the CDC guidelines for individuals who test positive for COVID-19
If an individual tests positive:

- Stay home and isolate for 5 days from the date of first symptoms or date of positive test - whichever was first. [CDC Calculator](#)
- Report positive case to the school nurse

Individuals may return to school on day 6, as long as they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications, and symptoms have improved. A well-fitting mask should be worn when indoors and around other people. Continue wearing a mask through day 10.

3. Symptom Awareness and At-Home Testing

It is important that families continue to monitor for respiratory disease symptoms (cough, congestion, runny nose, sore throat etc).

Mild Respiratory Symptoms with a temperature of <100F:

- Use the TEST-MASK-GO Strategy. It is recommended that the student takes an At-Home test for COVID-19. If the results are negative with no known exposure and the student feels well enough to learn, the student may attend school. It is recommended to wear a mask when experiencing respiratory symptoms. The child should continue to test daily until symptoms improve. It is not necessary to report negative tests to the school nurse.
*If test results are positive, follow isolation guidelines above

Respiratory Symptoms with fever >100F:

- Stay home and test for COVID. If test results are negative, STAY HOME until symptoms have improved and the student is fever free for more than 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.
*If test results are positive, follow isolation guidelines above

Test kits are available on request through the school nurse.

4. Close contact exposure (i.e. Household, out of school, etc.) to a Positive Case of COVID-19

FPS will no longer recommend individuals who have been identified as a close contact to a positive case to quarantine. If you have been made aware of an exposure, the guidance is as follows:

No Respiratory Symptoms:

- The individual should wear a mask but can continue attending school and closely monitor for respiratory symptoms for 10 days. It is recommended to test 5 days after the last exposure to the positive case.

Respiratory symptoms (with or without fever):

- It is recommended to wear a mask and test for COVID
- If test results are negative and no fever, continue attending school

- If test results are negative and student has a fever > 100 STAY HOME until symptoms have resolved and the student is fever free for greater than 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication
- If test results are positive, please see isolation guidelines above