



2020-2021

Orange Southwest School District COVID-19 Operating Plan

For Safe Return to Schools

November 16, 2020

Preamble, Purpose, and Goals

This plan outlines the procedures and protocols that must be followed across all facilities and programs within the Orange Southwest School District (OSSD) and are designed to provide the safest learning environment possible for students and district personnel. These protocols are based on the guidance from the CDC, Vermont Department of Health, the Agency of Education as well as local and national health care organizations. The goals of the plan are simple: increasing factors that protect individuals from the spread of COVID 19 while decreasing factors that put individuals at risk of contracting COVID 19.

Each school building and department (i.e. transportation, food, facilities) will use these general protocols to develop more detailed guidance for their staffs that is specific to their unique context.

General Information and Coordination

As of July 23rd, decisions on the closure of schools due to incidents of Coronavirus in a district or the communities it serves will be made by the superintendent after consultation with the Vermont Department of Health. The OSSD has appointed two COVID-19 Co-Coordinators, Beth Osha and Sadie Lyford, who:

- Will interpret new guidelines as they are developed and assist with proper implementation.
- Will act as liaisons between the district and the Vermont Department of Health and local health agencies in terms of health-related matters, concerns, and procedures.
- Will review all protocols developed by the district workgroups to ensure they meet current standards of practice and are being properly implemented.
- Will establish and oversee a school-based clinic for flu immunizations and Coronavirus vaccinations if and when they become available.
- Will assist in providing COVID-19 training to staff and students.

Types of Learning: Learning Modalities

Remote learning means that students stay home and interact with their teachers synchronously (directly with) and/or asynchronously (doing work assigned by the teacher on the student's schedule while receiving occasional feedback through email, electronic chats, phone conversations or video conferences). **In person learning** means that students come to school and participate in traditional learning activities while following enhanced health and sanitation protocols designed to protect against the spread of the Coronavirus. **Hybrid learning** means that students spend some days in school and other days learning remotely from home.

Three Steps and Their Meanings

The State of Vermont has identified three steps or phases that a school may be directed to operate under. As of July 2020, schools are expected to open in Step/Phase 2.

Step 1: Schools are closed for in-person instruction. Remote learning opportunities should be provided for all students. Support provision of student services such as school meal programs, as feasible.

Step 2: Schools are open for in-person instruction with enhanced physical distancing measures and for children who live in counties that are eligible for quarantine-free travel.

Step 3: Schools are open for in-person instruction with distancing measures. Restrict attendance to those from limited transmission areas (counties eligible for quarantine-free travel) only.

*Please note: Daily commuting to school/work from counties outside of Vermont is considered essential travel, quarantine rules do not apply.

*As of September 26, 2020, all Vermont schools are in Step III. Schools will operate in Step III unless the Health Department determines otherwise, as provided for above.

The protocols contained in this operating plan will be in effect whenever students or staff are in school (Step 2 and Step 3). When students are in a state of remote learning, *The Remote Learning Plan* will guide how instruction is delivered

HC1-10: General Health Care Protocols

HC1:

For All Persons

All employees must complete the VOSHA training or equivalent and have a certificate of completion on file in central office before attending to in-person work with students.

- Employees who have not completed this training may not enter onto district grounds except to participate in this training by appointment.
- The VOSHA training may be accessed on the Vermont Department of Labor website: <https://labor.vermont.gov/VOSHA>

A robust and growing body of evidence now strongly indicates that younger children (PK-6), are less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to other children or adults. Children of all ages are at a lower risk for acquiring infection than adults, and when infected are also at a far lower risk for developing severe illness. Therefore, the added benefits of strict physical distancing in this age group is likely to be far lower than for other age groups. With these considerations in mind, the following guidance is provided on who should physically distance, and how and when this should occur:

- Adults and adult staff within schools should maintain a distance of 6 feet from other adults as much as possible.
- Teachers and staff should maintain a distance of 6 feet from students as much as possible. However, brief periods of closer contact, such as when a student may need one-on-one guidance, clarification, or assistance are expected and permitted. In these cases, staff should stand/kneel/sit side-by-side students (rather than face-to-face) for brief amounts of time (less than 15 minutes).
- Younger students (PK-6) **must** be spaced at least 3 feet apart.
- Older students (7-12) **must** be spaced 6 feet apart.
- Younger students, PreK through Grade 6, should remain in the same cohort group each day, to the best extent possible.
- Older students, Grade 7 to 12, may mix classes for educational purposes, as needed; schools should ensure careful attendance records are kept.

On the use of plexiglass/plastic barriers:

- Younger students may not be distanced less than 3 feet, even with the use of plexiglass/plastic barriers.
- Older students may not be distanced less than 6 feet with use of plexiglass/plastic barriers.
- Barriers should be securely installed on desk surfaces and be high enough to account for

- students sitting and/or standing behind them depending on their intended use.
- Barriers may have gaps or separation between the desk surface and the bottom of the barrier, but should, at minimum, block the student's natural breathing zone (i.e. front and/or sides depending on room configuration) while sitting and/or standing.
- Barriers should be cleaned and disinfected regularly, using the same protocol as desktops and other surfaces.

For more information about use of barriers, see the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine: <https://acoem.org/COVID-19-Resource-Center/COVID-19-Q-A-Forum/Could-you-provide-guidance-on-the-use-of-plexiglass-barriers-for-workplaces-for-sneeze-guard%E2%80%9D-dropl> .

With regard to materials and sharing:

- Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies or areas.
- Used items should be taken home each day and cleaned.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials.
- Library books may be used immediately upon return, without removing from circulation.

Please Note: it is now believed to be safe for students to share electronic devices, toys, books, musical instruments, games or learning aids. These items should be wiped down in between use by each student.

- Discourage the use of lockers due to their location in crowded hallways and tendency to encourage congregating.
- Consider alternative strategies to minimize the need for students to carry heavy bookbags and textbooks.

Students, families, and staff should make extra effort to avoid gatherings and other situations that put them at greater risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure in order to protect the district's ability to offer in person instruction.

All staff and students must do a daily health screening (HC2) before coming onto school grounds. Parents and staff will document the results of that screening by completing a health screening form each morning. Students will have their temperatures taken again by a staff member before entering the building.

- Staff and students must stay home if they are experiencing any symptoms listed on the *When to Stay Home Guidance* (HC4).
- Well students will come to school with their daily health screening form completed and signed by a guardian.
- Students and staff should wash their hands for twenty seconds with soap and water just before leaving home for school.

In order to protect others, staff and students must wear face coverings throughout the school day, including on transportation vehicles, inside school buildings, and generally when on school grounds.

- Cloth face coverings will be used by younger students if it is determined they can reliably wear, remove, and handle them following CDC guidance.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on anyone:

- Who has trouble breathing or is unconscious.
- Who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs.

Students should bring an extra set of clothing, if needed and all outdoor clothing necessary to school every day.

- Clothing/shoes/outerwear will not be available at school to borrow.
- Parents will be called by their child if extra clothing is needed.

Routines of hand hygiene will be built into the daily school schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities.

Handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds is the preferred method of hand hygiene but the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be taught and reinforced for when soap and water are unavailable.

- Staff and students will wash their hands at scheduled times throughout the day and as needed, typically:
 - Upon or just prior to arrival
 - Before and after eating
 - After using the toilette
 - After playing outdoors
 - Prior to switching locations within a building

Hand sanitizer should be used upon entering the building.

Physical distancing of six feet should be maintained while on school grounds.

HC1.1

Additional Face Mask Protocols and Guidance

Wearing cloth face masks or coverings has been shown to be effective in reducing the risk of spreading coronavirus. This is because the virus can spread even if a person does not have any symptoms. **All staff must wear facial coverings while in a District Building, they must also wear them outside if adequate physical distancing cannot be maintained. Adults should wear face masks during drop-off and pick-up.** The CDC recommends facial coverings in settings where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain, especially in areas of significant community-based transmission. **Adults doing drop-off and pick-up are required to wear facial coverings.** Instructions for wearing and making facial coverings can be found on the CDC website.

Facial coverings for children are recommended, with the following guidance:

- The CDC recommends no facial coverings for children under 2-years-old. Assuch,

- children under 2-years-old must not wear facial coverings.
- Parents should assist the district by reinforcing with their children the importance of wearing facial coverings to prevent the spread of germs.
- Facial coverings are developmentally appropriate when children can properly put on, take off, and not touch or suck on the covering.
- Children, older than 2-years, who have a medical or developmental reason for not wearing a facial covering should not wear one. These decisions should be made in partnership with the school, family, and the child's healthcare provider.
- Children should not wear facial coverings while sleeping, eating, or swimming (or when they would get wet). Physical distancing will be enforced during these times. Staff should keep 6 feet distance from children while eating, whenever possible.
- Facial coverings with ties are not recommended for young children as they pose a risk of choking or strangulation.
- Children may remove facial coverings during outdoor activities when they can maintain physical distancing and have ready access to put them back on as needed when activity stops.
- Student's face coverings should be clearly identified with their names or initials to avoid confusion and swapping.
- When not in use facial coverings should be stored in individually labeled containers or a paper bag.
- Face coverings should be washed after every day of use or before being used again.

Please note: Facial coverings are required for children in all programs in schools, including prekindergarten and after school programs, as medically and developmentally appropriate.

Staff will use facial coverings with clear plastic windows when possible to support communication when there is ongoing contact with individuals who are hearing impaired and for young children to visually read social cues. The use of clear **facial shields** (for adults only) that cover the eyes, nose, and mouth is less preferable, but allowable – they should be used for eye protection and a cloth mask should be used in addition to the shield. A facial shield must meet all the requirements of the Vermont Department of Health. Face shields must extend below the chin and to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece. Students should not wear face shields. Staff may take off their facial coverings in selected circumstances when physical distancing can be maintained, such as when a parent is hearing impaired and reads lips to communicate. In such cases a face shield should be used.

- Staff that work with students unable to control their secretions should wear a surgical mask and eye protection (either goggles or a face shield) for added protection. If surgical masks are not available, staff may use a KN95 mask if available.

For more specific information on facial coverings in the school environment, see: <https://education.vermont.gov/documents/safety-and-health-faq-5-cloth-face-masks-and-ppe> .

HC2

Conducting Daily Health Screenings

All staff and students must pass a daily health screening before they are allowed access to district buildings and facilities.

- Students will bring to school each day a completed health screening form filled out and
- signed by a parent or guardian. As part of this process, parents will check temperatures at home. Parents dropping off students will be able to pull up in cars and hand off their health screening forms to staff. All students will have their temperatures taken again before they enter the building.
- Students riding the bus should not be allowed to board the bus without a signed and completed form.
 - Students who do not have a completed health screening form, may be allowed to Board the bus if they pass a temperature check conducted by the bus driver. These students must be fully screened at the building entrance when they arrive.

Students who arrive at school (those who did not ride the bus) without a screening form cannot mix with students already screened.

- They must enter the building through a different door where a faculty member will be available to screen them.

HC2.1

Drop off and Pick Up Procedures

To aid in social distancing, schools will use multiple entrances during regularly scheduled arrival and departure times.

- During arrival, one door will be identified for use by those students who do not possess a health screening form (i.e. students that need to be screened before entry).

HC3

Advice for Older Staff or Those of any Age with Pre-Existing Conditions

Some individuals are at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19. Among adults, the risk increases with age. Older adults in the school and those with specific medical conditions should speak with their healthcare provider to assess their risk and to determine if they should avoid in-person contact when social distancing cannot be maintained.

People of any age with **certain underlying medical conditions** are at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19:

- Chronic kidney disease

- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 or higher)
- Serious heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Sickle cell disease
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

A list of conditions for people who **might** be at an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19 can be found on the CDC Website.

Staff are encouraged to talk to their healthcare provider to assess the risk and to determine if they should avoid in-person contact in which physical distancing cannot be maintained.

Parents are encouraged to do the same on behalf of their children who suffer from the above conditions. Communication with the schools about your physician's advice is vital to the development of a safety-learning plan for your child.

HC4

When Students or Staff Should Stay Home

Students and staff will be excluded from in-person school and sports activities if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19, such as a cough, fever (100.4 or greater), shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, loss of taste or smell, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea.
- Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Have a significant new rash, particularly when other symptoms are present
- Have large amounts of nasal discharge in the absence of allergy diagnosis
- Are currently quarantining due to out of state travel.
- Are currently in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19.

If any of the above signs and symptoms begin while at school (HC5), the student (or staff member) must be sent home as soon as possible.

Students and staff should be excluded from school when they are ill.

- The student's or staff member's healthcare provider may be consulted to help determine what medical course to take (e.g., whether or not COVID-19 testing may be necessary).
- Please reference https://www.med.uvm.edu/vchip/projects/vchip_champ_vdh_covid-19_updates for information on return to school recommendations. This resource is technical and intended for use between school nurses and other health care professionals. A version for families translated into several languages can be found in the "Families" section at this link: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/schools-colleges-child-care-programs>

Healthy students and staff with the following symptoms/conditions are not excluded from in

person school activities:

- Allergy symptoms (with no fever) that cause coughing and clear runny nose may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow medical treatment plans.
- Well-controlled asthma

Children with documented allergies or well-controlled asthma do NOT require medical clearance from a healthcare provider to enter school; however, a child with a new asthma diagnosis during the school year does need written clearance from the student's healthcare provider.

Students who arrive from out-of-state must follow ACCD and Health Department guidance around quarantine before returning to school which includes travel out-of-state at any point during the school year. That information can be found here: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/individuals> under the heading *Cross State Travel Information*.

Families and staff should make extra effort to avoid large gatherings or other situations that put them at risks for COVID-19 exposure.

HC5

Definition of Exposure and Infectious

Exposure is defined as: **close contact** with a person who has COVID-19 within the last 14 days. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a total of 15 minutes or more over a rolling 24-hour period.

- A person is considered infectious 48 hours before illness.
- If the person was asymptomatic when tested, the infectious period would start 48 hours before the test was conducted

HC5.1

When to Get Tested for COVID-19

The Health Department recommends testing for:

- People with COVID-19 symptoms.
- People who have had close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who tested positive for COVID-19.
- People who are referred by their health care provider for testing for another reason.

Please visit the Department of Health's Testing Site to learn more about who should get tested and where to get a test: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-covid-19>.

HC5.2

Protocol for When Symptoms Begin at School

The school nurse will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and will help coordinate with local health authorities regarding positive COVID-19 cases while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws.

Staff and families should self-report to the school nurse if they or their student has symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or had a close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in a manner that is consistent with applicable law and privacy policies, including with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

If a student or staff member develops symptoms at school, the school nurse will be notified immediately and isolate the symptomatic individual in the designated space at school and send them home. Parents will need to pick up symptomatic children as quickly as possible, ideally within thirty minutes.

The designated isolation space will be distinguished from areas where student health services will be delivered to those who are well and need routine types of care (e.g., medication administration or first aid). The designated space will accommodate social distancing of at least 6 feet for multiple individuals if needed.

Symptomatic students who are waiting to be picked up will remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is at least 6 feet away. Both the symptomatic student and the supervising adults should continue to wear a cloth face covering or a surgical mask.

Cloth face coverings/shields will not be placed on anyone who is unconscious or has trouble breathing, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a cloth face covering due to developmental, medical, or behavioral health needs.

Cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented following the COVID-19 *Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Schools and Child Care Programs* (HC6).

The school will maintain engagement with the family and offer distance learning activities for students who cannot be physically present in the classroom due to illness or exposure.

HC6

Protocol for when a person who attended school is confirmed positive for COVID-19

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member, schools will work with the Department of Health to determine the next steps.

In these situations, the COVID Coordinators and school administrators will be asked to communicate directly with teachers, staff and families of the pod or classroom to provide them with quarantine guidance. The Health Department will provide template language for these communications and detailed information on the start of quarantine (Day 0), the end of quarantine (Day 14) and Day 7 testing dates (should individuals with no symptoms choose to test out of quarantine at Day 7 or after).

Please note that while the guidance allows younger students to be spaced 3 feet apart, contact tracing questions are different. During contact tracing by the Health Department, the goal is to identify and exclude individuals from school if there is any risk that they might develop COVID-19, which, out of an abundance of caution, includes staff and students who have been within 6 feet of the person with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding agreed to between the Orange Southwest Teacher's Union the OSSD School Board, any school that has a confirmed case of COVID-19 will transition to remote instruction for up to fourteen days based guidance from the DOH.

- Close off areas used by the sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting; wait 24 hours if practical before beginning cleaning and disinfecting to allow aerosolized droplets to settle.
- Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas and shared electronic equipment used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Ensure cleaning and disinfecting products are used and stored as directed.
- Participate in contact tracing as requested by the Health Department.
- Communicate with staff and parents/caregivers with general information about the situation. It is critical to maintain confidentiality.
- Decisions about school closure will be made by the superintendent based on guidance from the Vermont Department of Health.
- Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should self-isolate according to guidelines set forth by the Vermont Department of Health.
- If a staff person or student has been identified as a close contact to someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should self-quarantine: they must stay home. Please refer to the Vermont Department of Health's website for what it means to be in close contact and for instructions on isolation, quarantine, and self-observation: <https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19>

HC6.1

Isolation of Symptomatic Individuals

All buildings must secure two separate areas (Clean and Isolation) to serve the school population. A Health Office should serve as the school's Clean office space to accommodate

medication administration, triage students, health screenings, etc. The school must have a separate Isolation room structured with a door. The isolation space must allow for ventilation to the outside. This space serves as an extension of a Health Office to accommodate symptomatic students and staff.

- Immediately isolate symptomatic people in the designated space at school and send them home as soon as possible.
- If multiple symptomatic people must be placed in the same Isolation room, ensure that the symptomatic people are wearing masks and maintain at least 6 feet of distance between them.
- The Isolation room should be cleaned and disinfected following each use. This should happen as soon as practical.
- Ensure that symptomatic students who are waiting to be picked up remain under the visual supervision of a staff member who is at least 6 feet away.
- The symptomatic student(s) should wear a surgical mask, unless there is a medical or behavioral indication not to do so. If the supervising adult is inside the Isolation room, they should be wearing a minimum of a surgical mask and face shield as PPE.

HC7

Identifying and Supporting Students and Staff at Heightened Risk

Develop a list in each school of high-risk students and staff through a process that allows such individuals to self-identify.

- Send a letter to staff and families containing the HC3 criteria and information on how to confidentiality self-identify as high risk.
- Create a hybrid learning model if possible that allows medically vulnerable staff and students as well as those students unwilling to return due to anxiety or having high risk members at home to engage in partial or full remote teaching and learning.
- Re-evaluate all current plans (IEP's, 504's, Individual Health plans) and update as needed to decrease risk of exposure to COVID-19.

HC8

Protocols for In-School Volunteers

- No volunteers are allowed until further notice.

HC9

Protocols for In-School Visitors

No visitors are allowed until further notice with the following exceptions:

- Individuals who ensure the health and safety of the school, such as licensors, fire inspectors, maintenance, etc. are allowed when following proper procedures and do not count in the group size.

- Student teachers, interns and other learners from established educational programs are allowed. These individuals must comply with all screening measures and follow all precautions outlined in this guidance. These individuals also count towards group size requirements.

HC10

Protocols for field trips

- No field trips are allowed until further notice

BT1-4: Buses and Transportation

BT1

General Protocols

Whenever possible, parents should transport their children to and from school to allow for more social distancing space on the district's busses. Older students should walk or ride a bike to school when possible. For those using district provided transportation the following protocols are in effect.

- Parents and district staff will encourage students to maintain social distancing while waiting at bus stops and while entering and exiting the bus.
- Students should present a completed health screening form signed by a parent or guardian to board a bus each morning. Students without such a form may enter the bus if they pass a temperature screening conducted by the bus driver. These students will have to undergo a full screening upon arrival to school.
- Sick individuals must not enter or approach the bus.
- All persons on the bus must wear masks with the noted exceptions outlined in HC1 above.
- Windows should remain open as much as possible given weather conditions.
- Drivers should carry a box of disposable masks, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer and a thermometer at all times.
- Only one bus can unload students at a time when multiple busses are present; the first bus in line should unload first.

BT2

Seating

All students should have assigned seats. Where possible:

- Siblings should sit together.
- Students should be placed in cohorts by school (e.g. RUHS students at the back of the bus).
- Empty seats should be used to provide for social distancing.

- If possible, the two seats behind the bus driver should be left open.

BT2.1

Winter Weather Considerations

As the colder weather begins to approach, transportation providers (school buses) must consider the health and welfare of all passengers on the bus while at the same time ensuring they remain as comfortable as possible. It is recommended that transportation providers do the following:

- Regardless of weather conditions, maintain constant airflow through the interior of the bus by:
 - Having at least 4 windows open
 - 2 windows in the front of the bus (each of the front passenger seats)
 - 2 windows in the rear of the bus (very last windows on each side of the bus)
- Keeping the driver's window open, basing the opening amount on weather conditions. Preferably the windows should remain fully open, however, if inclement weather mandates window openings be reduced to prevent snow, ice, rain from coming in then the opening should be reduced.
 - If window openings are reduced more windows should be opened. Leaving roof hatches partially open, weather permitting. Hatches should be opened on the rearward side.

Maintain a suitable temperature on the bus:

- Recommend students wear weather appropriate clothing
- Utilize heaters, per vendor instructions, to maintain a suitable interior temperature

BT3

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Busses will be subject to routine cleaning and disinfection each morning and after each trip with a focus on frequently touched surfaces including those in the driver's cockpit.
- Driver's will wash their hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer on a regular schedule throughout the day.

BT4

If a Known or Suspected Person with COVID-19 Has Been Transported

- The person will be seated in the front seat with the window open. No other persons should sit with this individual.
- The bus driver will immediately notify the principal and nurse of the student's school who will immediately work with the bus garage to enact and follow the CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfection of non-emergency transport vehicles: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/disinfecting-transport-vehicles.html>.
- The Vermont Department of Health will be contacted to assist in determining who should

- self-quarantine (see HC4 and HC6).

FB1-7: Facilities and Buildings

FB1

General Cleaning and Disinfecting

All building must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every day. All facilities staff must be trained in the proper use and storage of the clearing and disinfecting agents used. A particular focus should be placed on high touch surfaces and objects:

- Door handles and handrails.
- Phones.
- Eating surfaces.
- Metal and plastic playground equipment.
- All bathroom surfaces.
- Water and drinking fountains.

At a minimum, these surfaces should be cleaned and disinfected at the beginning, middle, and end of each school day. Additional deep cleaning is not needed on a weekly basis unless there is a case of COVID-19 in the school.

- Facilities will develop a plan with each principal to solicit the help of teachers (children should not use cleaning and disinfecting products) for the wipe down of student chairs and desks before each transition (one group of students leaving and another group entering) and at the end of each school day. This plan will also include the wipe down of toys and shared classroom objects. Special considerations should be made for staff and students with asthma as cleaning and disinfecting can trigger asthma exacerbations.
 - Toys that cannot be cleaned and sanitized should not be used, including items such as soft toys, dress-up clothes, and puppets.
- Discourage the sharing of items.
- Desks that students eat at should be cleaned with routine cleaner or soap and water following snack/mealtime.

When managing accidental large volume spills or body fluids such as vomit or urine from non-porous surfaces that require cleaning fluids, mopping equipment, and or prolonged drying times the risk of generating potentially pathogenic microorganisms can be reduced by:

- Removing as much of the material before cleaning and disinfecting.
- Thoroughly disinfecting the remaining material and surfaces.
- Following manufacture's guidance on vacuum filters (like a HEPA filter) to capture ultrafine particles like viruses.
- Properly removing soiled items.
- Closing the space for use until items are clean and dry if mechanical cleaning equipment is used or fans are required for drying.
- Discouraging the use of machines that aerosolize particles, e.g. steam cleaners or some

- carpet cleaners.
- Wearing of appropriate PPE by cleaning personnel as recommended by product or equipment manufacturers.

FB2

Care of Other Equipment

Students' books, art supplies and other paper-based materials such as mail or envelopes, are not considered high risk for transmission and do not need additional cleaning or disinfection procedures. That said, attention should be paid to the following:

- Unnecessary cloth furniture should be removed from the classroom and other spaces.

FB3

Building Entrances

No one except for healthy screened staff members and students should be allowed entrance to any district building.

- Laminated signs must be posted at all entrances directing parents and visitors to conduct their business with the schools remotely, those signs should include the school's main office phone numbers.
- Laminated Signs must be posted clearly indicating that no one may enter if they have symptoms of respiratory illness or fever.
- Hand sanitizing stations should be set up at the entrance of each facility. Laminated signs can route students and staff to entrances that are close to sinks so they can sanitize/wash their hands immediately upon entry into the facility.

FB4

Signage at Sinks

Developmentally appropriate laminated posters describing handwashing steps should be placed near all sinks. They can be downloaded from the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/posters.html>

FB5

Products that May be used for Cleaning and Disinfecting

The following products may be used for cleaning:

- Products certified as environmentally preferable by an independent third party (e.g. EPA's Safer Choice, Green Seal or ECOLOGO)
- Environmentally preferable cleaning products under state contracts with the Department of

Buildings & General Services

The following products may be used for disinfecting:

- A product from EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2.
- Products that contain ethanol, isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol), hydrogen peroxide, L-lactic acid or citric acid are preferred because they are safer for health and the environment.
- Alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol
- Diluted household bleach solutions.

See the CDC's website on Cleaning, Disinfecting and Hand Hygiene in Schools: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/clean-disinfect-hygiene.html>

FB6

Ordering

The facilities team will be responsible for coordinating the ordering of all COVID-19 related supplies and equipment to prevent duplication of orders and to benefit from bulk purchasing.

Principals and directors should work directly with facilities communicating their needs so that periodic districtwide orders can be placed. The facilities team should establish ordering dates for the 2020-21 school year and deadlines for requests.

Adequate Basic Supplies Should Be Kept in Stock:

- Soap
- Hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol)
- Paper towels
- Tissues
- Cleaning and disinfection supplies
- Cloth face coverings (as feasible)
- Disposable food service items

FB7

Building Ventilation

Natural ventilation through windows is desirable. Schools can consider using window fans or box fans positioned in open windows to blow fresh outdoor air into the classroom via one window and indoor air out of the classroom via another window.

The following modifications to building HVAC system operation should be considered, as recommended by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE):

- Increase outdoor air ventilation (disable demand-controlled ventilation and open outdoor air dampers to 100% as indoor and outdoor conditions permit).

- Improve central air and other HVAC filtration to MERV-13 (ASHRAE 2017b) or the highest level achievable. Change filters every 3-4 months.
- Keep HVAC systems running longer hours (24/7 if possible, but a minimum of two hours prior to occupancy and through the duration of occupancy)
- Keep bathroom exhaust fans operating 24/7 on school days.
- Ensure staff understand the importance of ventilation fans – they must run all day.
- Add portable air cleaners to classrooms. Use HEPA or high-MERV filters with due consideration to the clean air delivery rate (AHAM 2015).

Take appropriate precautions when servicing HVAC Systems and replacing filters (wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE))

- bag and dispose of filters in regular trash, immediately wash hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer)

Where feasible, the school nurse's office/isolation room should:

- Have a dedicated HVAC system.
- Have a dedicated restroom (ideal).
- Exhaust its air directly outdoors in order to maintain negative pressure relative to adjoining spaces.

FS1-5 Food Services

FS1

Covid Related Health and Safety Procedures Food Service Staff Must Follow

- Thermometers will be available in each of the Schools' Cafeterias for employees upon entering with a sign in sheet for the purpose of a secondary health screening.
- Food Service Staff will use disposable aprons and gloves which will be changed regularly throughout the day and in between cohorts.
- Food staff will perform frequent handwashing and will use of antibacterial hand sanitizer when soap and water is not immediately available.
- Compostable packaging (following the single use packaging law) will be used when it is necessary to package individual meals.
- Regular cleaning (after each cohort is served) and disinfecting of all surfaces, equipment and student tables will be required.
- Food services staff will clean and disinfect vending machines, custodial staff will clean and disinfect water and drinking fountains.
- A staff member will be required to input student codes into the pin pad.
- Trays, utensils, and dishes/cups that are washed and sanitized between uses can be used.
- Transportation of food should happen, as usual, on clean equipment, with proper handwashing before handling.

FS2

Protocol for Determining if Meals will be served in Classrooms or the Cafeteria

The learning phase the district is operating under will determine how meal service is provided.

Phase 1 (remote learning)

- Meals will be prepared and distributed to families via drive through pick-up, as was done in March through June of the previous school year.

Phase 2 (hybrid learning)

- meals will be delivered to classrooms, other non-congregate spaces, or outdoors.

Phase 3 (hybrid or all in person)

- meals may be served in the cafeteria following guidelines outlined below in FS4.

FS3

Protocol for Providing Meals Outside of the Cafeteria

Food Distribution for students for the days they are learning remotely (AB schedule)

1. Fridays will be food distribution day for 1 week's-worth of food for days students are remote (3 days)
2. The food distribution pick-up sites will remain as they were in March-June 2020.
3. The times will be 11am-1pm
4. If it is deemed necessary, we can move towards bus distribution (re-evaluate late September)

Elementary Level (in school)

- At the elementary schools, food will be brought to the classrooms. The cart will be delivered to the wing.
- Warming units will ensure hot food stays hot and refrigerated units or ice pillows will keep cold foods cold.
- All food will be grab and go (packed in compostable sealed containers).
- Supervising staff will be the only ones to grab the meals from the carts and to distribute them directly to the students in the classroom or designated eating spaces.
- Students are responsible for placing their trash in the provided garbage or compost bins.
- Custodial staff will remove garbage and compost immediately after meal and provide clean, empty bins for new cohorts if shared.

High School Level

Breakfast

- Breakfast for RTCC will be pre-ordered and a staff member from RTCC will pick up food and distribute the pre-made breakfasts to students in programs.
- Breakfast for RUHS students will be made available upon student entry into the building where a staff member will distribute pre-made breakfasts.

Lunches

- We will continue to have 3 lunch times: Middle level, High School and RTCC.
- All food will be grab and go (packed in compostable sealed containers)
- ONLY students requiring school lunch will enter the cafeteria and create a socially distanced line (marked on floor)
- There will be no self-service. Lunches will be served by food service staff.
- ALL Students will eat lunch in designated spaces to ensure proper social distancing. (Middle Level gym, High School Gym or Outside under tents).
- Designated eating spaces will be staffed in such a way as to ensure duty-free lunch for staff.
- Students are responsible for placing their trash in the provided garbage or compost bins
- Custodial staff will be responsible for table set up prior to lunches, wiping tables between cohorts and removing garbage and compost immediately after meal. Clean empty bins/garbage will be provided for each new cohort.

FS4

Protocol for How if/when Meals will be Provided in the Cafeteria

- Students will be allowed in the cafeteria at 50% capacity; currently no more than fifty students will be allowed in any space if proper physical distancing can be maintained.
- Food Service Staff will type in all student codes into the pin pad.
- A plastic barrier will separate the food preparation area from the service line.
- Markers/stickers or tape will be used on the floors to delineate 6 feet spacing of students in line.
- Students will be required to sit 6' apart from each other
- Food Service staff will wipe down all tables in between cohorts.
- Custodial staff will remove garbage and compost in between cohorts.

FS5

Protocol for How Meal Trash will be Collected and Removed When Meals are Served Outside of the Cafeteria

- Additional rolling garbage cans and compost bins will be available in hallways in each wing of the schools (or in the designated non-congregate eating spaces) during the students designated lunch time
- Custodial Staff will be responsible for pickup and disposal in between cohorts as they had been when in the cafeteria.

SE1-5 Counseling and Socio-Emotional Services

SE1

Protocol for conducting universal emotional screenings

Students complete a short, weekly (first 10 weeks to 1st quarter) Health & Wellness survey via cohort/homeroom/classroom (5 simple, focused questions).

- Surveys (or the surveys of the higher risk respondents) given to Student Services or Elementary school counselors and/or health offices to determine next steps for support.

This is not intended to take the place of genuine connections and relationships between students and teachers, which are part of the critical foundation of education work.

These surveys in no way take the place of psychological screening. Psychological screening must be done using clinically validated assessments, administered by trained mental health professionals, when needed.

SE2

Protocol for providing services to support students in need - including the potential use of outside wrap around service providers

Schools will follow their referral processes already in place, which includes conversations on grade level teams, Student Services, and school-based clinicians. Those teams will then make decisions about the most appropriate referrals to be made.

- Counseling staff will proactively seek out those who are at a higher risk of stress to provide support and intervention.
 - Those who have experienced a death
 - Those with significant disruptions to their lifestyle (food insecurity, financial insecurity)
 - Those with a history of trauma and chronic stress or pre-existing mental health problems
 - Those with exposure to abuse and neglect
 - Those who have experienced significant anxiety, depression and/or suicidal ideation
- The district will Reactivate the social support system that was in place during March-June of last year if the district is forced to resume full remote learning.

SE3

Protocol for connecting staff with support services

Self-care is a priority for all staff; acknowledging that mental health and physical wellness of staff need to be maintained for schools to function well.

- EAP contact information is shared regularly and posted in prominent places
- Data from an anonymous survey of staff gauging stress and peoples' needs will help guide PD decisions, in terms of ways to support staff.
- School administration to provide opportunities for regular, virtual, small group check-ins. This should be a safe space to speak freely.

SE4

Protocol for general stress reduction

Staff:

- Clear and regular communication and guidance from administration
- Scripts from administration for clear communication that is consistent with information to be shared across the school or district
- Appropriate PD and support.
- For the first quarter, faculty meetings support wellness and connections not new initiatives, this may extend well into the year depending on needs.

Students & families:

- In school focus on social-emotional wellness and connections.
 - [Supporting teens in reopening](#)
- Mindfulness activities
- Advisory circles
- Communication about the impact stress has on the brain and learning
- Clear and regular communication from schools that happens in regard to transparent planning prior to the start of school, what the beginning of the school year will look like, what the first few weeks will look like, and any time there is going to be a shift in procedures, protocols or learning modalities.
- Use surveys to gain a better understanding of families concerns regarding reopening and use that information in the development of the reopening plan.
- Follow the recommendations from school-based clinicians.

SE5

How school counselors and clinicians will connect with families to help them feel comfortable sending children back to school

- Provide school counselors, school based-clinicians, behavioral support staff with time to create a district-wide collaborative plan and communication strategy that is cohesive, accessible, and shared
- This work needs to be done collaboratively and should include:

- District distributed surveys to families to help inform the work
- Virtual forums hosted by admin and school counselors
- Individual appointments, prior to opening, for students who are experiencing higher or clinical anxiety about re-opening
- Virtual new student orientation.
- Modify the traditional transition activities for 7th, 9th and 12th graders.

LHS1-6 Health, Safety and Sanitation Related to Learning Activities

LHS1

Protocol for keeping students together in the same groups and spaces as much as possible

- Students must be in cohort groups, not to exceed the maximum number allowed by state guidance, including teachers and staff.
- Whenever feasible, keep cohorts together to include the same group of students each day, and keep the same teachers and staff with the same group each day. This will need to be addressed differently to meet the education needs of high school (and maybe middle school) students.
- Learning spaces will be identified in each school that allow for proper ventilation and social distancing among faculty, staff and students to adhere to 6 foot spacing between individuals
- Restrict mixing between groups.
- Occupancy guidelines must be posted outside of each learning space
- Minimize students and employees traveling to different buildings; staff and students should wear facial coverings and avoid congregating during these transitions.
- Broadcast in-class instruction to multiple rooms to allow students to spread out.
- Only allow supervisors and staff who are required for instruction to be in the classrooms.

LHJS2

In-classroom protocols for spacing, social distancing, and shared objects

- All students should have assigned seats to enable proper physical distancing.
- Install physical barriers in reception areas and employee workspaces where the environment does not accommodate physical distancing
- Students standing in line should be spaced apart
- Limit sharing of materials:
 - Keep each student's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas. Used items should be taken home each day and cleaned.
 - Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials (art supplies, lab equipment, computer equipment etc. assigned to a single student) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and clean and disinfect between use.

- Do not share electronic devices, toys, books, musical instruments, games or learning aids
- Space seating/desks and bedding at least 6 feet apart
- Desks and chairs must be arranged in a manner that maintains social distancing guidelines
- Require students to stay in an assigned section of the school yard as opposed to mingling with other classes.
- Hold virtual meetings with students, families and staff in stead of in person meetings.
- Rearrange employee workstations to ensure they are separated by six feet
- As much as possible, classes should be moved outdoors.
- Discourage the use of attendance awards or perfect attendance incentives for students
- Plan activities that do not require close physical contact between multiple students
- Rearrange furniture to avoid clustering in common areas
- All “soft” materials must be removed from classrooms, including toys, furniture, cloth textiles, etc.
- Ensure that teacher planning spaces allow for proper social distancing while in use.

LHS3

Protocol for large group activities

- Large group activities must conform to the maximum number allowed by current state guidance.
- Communal spaces such as gymnasiums and cafeterias should be closed for their intended use; these spaces, however, may be used as an extension of the classroom to allow for physical distancing
- Limit school-sponsored/school-associated gatherings, events, and extracurricular activities to those that can maintain physical distancing, support proper hand hygiene and restrict attendance of those from higher transmission areas
- While there will be no gathering of students for assemblies, they can occur virtually, by classroom
- Fire and safety drills must continue to occur according to state regulations. Social distancing must be maintained during drills.

LHS4

Protocol for library use

- Libraries can be opened if physical distancing can be achieved (no congregating) and restricted to one consistent cohort of students. If the library cannot be opened or must be closed, each school needs to develop a delivery to ensure students’ access to library materials.

LHS5

Protocol for recess

- Outdoor recess spaces where students can keep physical distance may be opened
- Students may use playground equipment only under the following conditions:
 - Plastic and metal playground equipment must be cleaned frequently and routinely over the course of each day, ideally after each cohort has used the equipment.
 - Disinfectant should be allowed to dry completely before allowing children to play.
 - Staff should continue to reinforce physical distancing during playground play.
 - Hand washing/sanitizing stations must be set up on the playground
- In addition to the permanent playground structures, equipment may be provided to faculty and staff that is dedicated and assigned to each cohort
- Students may remove facial coverings if they remain 6 feet apart and faculty and staff are able to monitor and ensure adherence to social distancing
- Signs and paint will visibly identify social distancing and guidelines for use of permanent playground structures
- Time will be allotted to stagger student access to outdoor spaces to allow for measures related to proper sanitation and hygiene

LHS6

Protocols for band and chorus

- Group activities with the potential to generate increased respiratory droplets and aerosols should be avoided. This includes activities such as singing (e.g. choir, glee club, a cappella groups, musical theater, etc.) and music that involves woodwind or brass instruments.
- Such activities may be conducted outside with increased social distancing if the district is placed on step/phase three.

ATH1-5 Athletics

ATH1

Sports Programs

All coaches must complete the VOSHA health and safety training and have their certificates of completion on file with the OSSD athletic director prior to meeting with their athletes.

Fall Sports

School-based fall sports programs may initiate coach-led practice sessions (e.g., skills and drills work) and inter-squad scrimmages **within** the OSSD.

- Programs may not begin prior to September 8, 2020.
- Facial coverings are required to be worn by all players, coaches, officials, staff, and

spectators at all times, including during active play with the exception of cross-country runners if social distancing is maintained. Cross-country competitions must be run using staggered starts.

- Locker room use must adhere to physical distancing and masking requirements.
- There can be no spitting on the fields or sidelines.
- There can be no sharing of water bottles.
- During times when athletes are not actively participating in practice or competition, appropriate physical distancing will be maintained.
- Teams will structure team meetings to limit congregation and ensure physical distancing between players on the sidelines or benches.
- The number of spectators be limited as much as possible and spectators will be expected to follow social distancing protocols (though they may congregate by family).
 - For outside events on OSSD grounds, at no time shall the total number of spectators exceed current limits on event size – currently 150.
 - Spectators will not be allowed at OSSD indoor events.
- All athletic activities will cease if schools are ordered to operate under Step 1, or if all in-person instruction is eliminated via the superintendent or school board in response to local conditions.

Winter Sports

School-based winter sports programs may initiate coach-led practice sessions (e.g., skills and drills work) and inter-squad scrimmages (within a school program) no earlier than November 30, 2020. Students traveling out-of-state over the Thanksgiving holiday, or at any other point in time, must follow ACCD and Department of Health guidance around quarantine before returning to school; the same quarantine requirements also apply to participating in any school-based activity, including sports. Out-of-state travel to participate in any recreational sports activity currently requires a mandatory quarantine upon return.

Facial coverings are required to be worn by all players, coaches, officials, staff and spectators at all times, including during active play. Students who have a medical or behavioral reason for not wearing a facial covering should not be required to wear one; these decisions should be made in partnership with the health care provider and school nurse.

An exception is provided for participants in outdoor sports during interscholastic meets/competitions, as long as a minimum of six feet of physical distancing can be maintained between individual participants at all times using staggered starts or other means, and for gymnasts engaged in activities that require inversion (i.e., tumbling, vaulting, bars, etc.).

Any officials working indoor games or competitions must properly mask at all times and use an electronic, handheld whistle. For outdoor sports, referees and other game officials are exempt from wearing a mask during active play if masking inhibits their ability to officiate (i.e., blow a whistle). Referees and other game officials must have a mask on their person at all times and are required to wear a mask during arrival, departure, warm-ups, half-time, etc., and anytime there is need to approach a player or coach to explain a call or manage the game when six feet of physical distance cannot be maintained.

School-sponsored winter sports programs may initiate interscholastic games, meets and competitions among Vermont schools no earlier than January 11, 2021, as long as the school is operating under Step III

- Athletes should arrive for practices, games, meets and competitions dressed to avoid having to use a locker room.
- Non-contact activities should be used for drills and conditioning.
- Outside spectators at events are limited to 150 mask wearing people.
- No spectators will be allowed at indoor events, key personnel only.

ATH2

Daily Health Screenings

All coaches, students, officials, and other contest personnel will be screened for signs/symptoms of COVID-19 before any training session or competition. If an individual has already been screened that day by a school, it is not necessary to screen them again. Screening includes a temperature check and the following questions:

1. *Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?*
2. *Have you travelled outside the State of Vermont in the past 14 days? If yes, have you complied with Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) and Department of Health guidance around quarantine?*
3. *Do you feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19? For example, have you had a cough, fever, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell?*

Any person with positive symptoms reported and/or a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit shall not be allowed to take part in team activities and must be sent home immediately; the school nurse and school administration will be notified as soon as possible. Symptomatic persons must self-isolate at home and contact their primary care provider or other appropriate health-care professional.

- The district's response to a student athlete or team personnel testing positive for COVID-19 will follow guidelines as determined by the Vermont Department of Health.

ATH3

Personal Hygiene of Athletes

- Individuals must wash their hands for a minimum of 20 seconds with warm water and soap before touching any surfaces or participating in training. If hands are not visibly soiled, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol can be used in the absence of soap and water.
- Hand sanitizer must be plentiful at all contests and practices and available to individuals as they transfer from place to place.

- There shall be no shared personal gear (i.e. towels, clothing, shoes, water bottles) between students. Personal gear must be washed/cleaned after every session.
- Students and coaches must wash their hands at the end of training sessions and contests.
- Students must be encouraged to shower and wash their workout clothing immediately upon returning to home.
- Facial coverings must be washed daily.

ATH4

Competitions

- Fall sports programs may only initiate interscholastic games, meets and competitions when Vermont schools reach Step III.
- Games and meets may only occur between or involve Vermont-based teams or teams from counties eligible for quarantine-free travel, based on the most recent map published by the Agency of Commerce and Community Development.
- Visiting teams will not be allowed inside OSSD facilities unless the competition is happening in the gym. Outside team members will be allowed access to pre-specified bathrooms but must limit the number of people going to the bathroom at one time: two per bathroom.

Outdoor Sports Involving No or Low-Contact

Fall

Once Step III is reached, Cross country running, golf and bass fishing may hold team practice sessions and interscholastic meets/competitions. The number of participants in any meet or competition may not exceed current limits on event size – currently 150. A meet may involve multiple groupings through the day if the groups do not interact with one another. For example, meet organizers may consider staggered starts and departures to ensure the number of participants on-location at a single point in time does not exceed limits on event size. Meet organizers must maintain lists of participants in each grouping for 30 days to assist in contact tracing.

Winter

Nordic skiing, downhill skiing and snowboarding may hold team practice sessions and interscholastic meets and competitions. The number of participants in any meet or competition may not exceed current limits on event size – currently 150 for outdoor events; event sites may choose to implement additional restrictions or requirements that school-sponsored sports programs will need to observe.

A meet may involve multiple groupings through the day if the groups do not interact with one another. For example, meet organizers may consider staggered starts and departures to ensure the number of participants on-location at a single point in time does not exceed limits on event size. Meet organizers must maintain lists of participants in each grouping for 30 days to assist in contact tracing.

Indoor Sports Involving Short-Duration, Incidental Contact

Fall

Once Step III is reached, Soccer and field hockey may hold team practice sessions, inter-squad scrimmages within your school program and interscholastic games. “Jamboree” or tournament-style play (one team playing multiple games vs multiple opponents in a single day/weekend) is not currently permitted.

Volleyball may hold team practice sessions limited to no and low contact physical conditioning and skill building drills. Indoor inter-squad scrimmages within your school program are allowed only if all participants (players and coaches) are wearing cloth facing coverings at all times while play is occurring. Outdoor matches, including interscholastic games, may be considered if all participants are wearing cloth facing coverings at all times while play is occurring.

Winter

Bowling, dance and gymnastics may hold team practice sessions and interscholastic meets and competitions. The number of participants in any meet or competition may not exceed current limits on event size – currently no more than 1 person per 100 square feet to a maximum of 75 people in any indoor space 17,100 square feet or smaller in size. Large indoor spaces with more than 17,100 square feet and 10' ceilings may have up to 150 people indoors. Events should be structured in a manner that ensures a minimum of six feet of physical distance is maintained between individual participants for all non-essential activities (e.g. spotting a routine is allowed). A meet or competition may involve multiple groupings through the day if the groups do not interact with one another. For example, meet organizers may consider staggered starts and departures to ensure the number of participants on-location at a single point in time does not exceed limits on event size. Meet organizers must maintain lists of participants in each grouping for 30 days to assist in contact tracing.

Indoor track will not be sanctioned during the Winter 2020-21 season due to concerns related to training and restrictions on meet venues.

Sports Involving High Contact

Fall

Football and cheerleading may hold practice sessions limited to no and low contact physical conditioning and skill building drills. Full contact scrimmages, games and cheer stunting will not be allowed during the Fall 2020 season. Low contact alternatives, such as 7-on-7 football or sideline cheer, may be considered.

Winter

Cheerleading squads may hold practice sessions and competitions. Stunt groups should be kept together in their cohort; refrain from mixing and matching bases and tops from different groups. Six feet of physical distance should be maintained between individual stunt groups when possible (i.e., when not building pyramids). Modifications to skills (i.e., stunting and lifts) should be considered to ensure participant safety while wearing face coverings, such as limiting

inversions, twisting, and tosses. Because of the increased risk of transmission associated with vocalization, cheerleading squads may not perform vocal routines in practice sessions or competitions during the Winter 2020-21 season.

Basketball and hockey programs may hold team practice sessions, inter-squad scrimmages and interscholastic competitions. Teams must implement measures to ensure six feet of physical distance is maintained between players not actively involved in game play.

Indoor sports teams engaged in interscholastic competition in sports that involve close proximity or moderate contact are limited to no more than two games in any seven-day period and allow a minimum of at least three days between competitions.

Wrestling will not be sanctioned during the Winter 2020-21 season.

ATH5

Transportation

Whenever possible, parents, caregivers or designated adults should transport their own students to and from offsite games to allow for increased social distancing on the district's busses.

- Anyone utilizing shared transport (i.e., bus or carpooling with anyone outside their immediate household unit) is required to wear facial coverings and comply with all other relevant guidelines in the most current health guidance published by the Agency of Education

** Guidelines for school-based spring sports programs will be published by March 1, 2021.

FIP1-5 Protocols For Full In Person Instruction

The decision to transition a grade or school to full in-person instruction will only be considered when the State is in Step 3. Further, such a transition will be recommended only after full consideration of local conditions, additional risk factors due to such a transition, the ability to enact additional protective factors, and the ability to properly staff the district. Lastly, any transition will be phased in starting with the youngest students first, skipping any grades with too many students to properly social distance based on the current guidance at the time.

All previous guidance in this document remains in effect unless altered by the protocols outlined below.

FIP1

General Procedures

- Younger students, PreK through Grade 6, should remain in the same cohort group each day, to the best extent possible.

- Older students, Grade 7 to 12, may mix classes for educational purposes, as needed; schools should ensure careful attendance records are kept.
- Younger students must continue to be spaced out by a minimum of 3 feet.
- Older students must continue to be spaced out by a minimum of 6 feet.
- Indoor individual activities with the potential to generate increased respiratory droplets and aerosols (such as solo singing or woodwind performances) should be avoided.
 - However, if the student is the only occupant of a well-ventilated room, this is permissible. Singers should remain masked for the entire time. Musicians should wear a mask with a slit and mask the instrument for the entire time. Once finished, no other person should enter the room for at least 20 minutes.
 - Theater (non-musical) may occur with facial coverings and physical distancing. Any performer contact should be brief and low intensity.
- There will be no spectators for any indoor activities.

FIP2

Physical Education

- Facial coverings must be worn.
- Students should be physically distanced; contact should be limited.
- The use of shared equipment is allowable and should be cleaned according to pre-COVID-19 protocols.
- Students must practice appropriate hand hygiene, especially in between using shared equipment and before and after PE class.
- Students should be outside whenever possible.

FIP3

Field Trips

Are only allowed under the following conditions:

- The program must be able to maintain all health guidance.
- Outdoor and virtual field trips are strongly preferred to indoor field trips.

Indoor field trips are not preferred, but allowed under the following conditions:

- Proper social distancing on buses and in the facility can be maintained.
- Students must not mix with students from other pods, schools or the general public.

FIP4

Cafeteria Capacity, Seating and Spacing

While students may return to eating in the cafeteria, consider maintaining meals in the classroom if it is working well. If moving meal service to the cafeteria, take the following measures:

- Cafeteria capacity should be limited to ensure that minimum physical distancing is achieved (A minimum of 3 feet for PreK through Grade 6; 6 feet for Grades 7 through 12).
- Schools should ensure that groups of students do not come into contact with each other

- upon entry and exit the cafeteria; classrooms should be staggered going through the line.
- The total capacity should not exceed the current state or local limits on indoor gathering size, as indicated on the ACCD website: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance> .
- Assign seating so students eat with their classmates and do not mingle with other classes. If the building has multiple cafeterias or common areas where students may eat, consider consistently assigning classrooms to one area or the other to reduce interaction between cohorts.
- Seating should be set up so that children are not facing each other.
- If long cafeteria tables with built-in stools are used, children should be seated only on one side of the table, with seats blocked off in between each student to allow for appropriate spacing.
- Take steps to ensure physical distancing when students are waiting to receive their meals and at the end of the meal when disposing of compost/trash and returning trays. This could involve placing markers on the floor and using crowd control stanchions to direct lines.
- Students should not remain in the cafeteria any longer than is necessary for their class/pod/cohort to finish eating.

FIP5

Meal Service

- Meals should not be self-serve
- Staff members can serve students, or pre-portioned items could be provided for students to choose from.
- Salad bars may only be used if items are pre-portioned and packaged, or when an adult is doing all serving and plastic barriers are installed.
- If pin numbers are used, have a staff member enter the pin number on behalf of students.
- Engineering controls such as sneeze guards should be installed in the cafeteria.
- No-touch beverage dispensers may be used; however, students should be reminded through signage to use a new cup each time they use the dispenser.
- Consider eliminating beverage dispensers that require buttons to be pressed or having an adult serve the beverages from the dispenser instead. If this is not possible, the buttons should be frequently sanitized between groups of students.

Guidance Updates

As time passes, enhanced guidance is provided to the schools from the CDC, the Vermont Department of Health, the Agency of Education, and local health officials. When this happens, these protocols will be updated to reflect those changes. The most up to date version of these protocols can be found on the OSSD Website: <http://orangesouthwest.org/return-to-school>

These protocols will be refined by each of the district's schools to fit their unique environments.