

**New Hartford Public Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
Antolini School
Multi-Purpose Room
August 24, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-_ZlomWmjG81dc_QM3rfg

- A. Chair to Open Meeting**
- B. Pledge of Allegiance**
- C. Reopening Plan 2021-2022**
- D. Adjournment**

***You can access the meeting by using You-Tube code provided above.**

NEW HARTFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Reopening Plan--2021-2022



I. Health and Safety Strategies

Describe how the LEA plan includes (or will be modified to include) the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed in the table on page 2:

The New Hartford Public Schools Reopening Plan will include the following changes:

Social distancing will be decreased to 3 feet;

Restrictions on sharing of materials or supplies will be removed;

Students will return to switching classrooms for specials and some content instruction;

Students will have lunch in the cafeteria. Additional lunch waves will be added to reduce number of students in the cafeteria at one time;

Quarantine period will be in accordance with State requirements and in consultation with FVHD;

Vaccination and/or testing will be scheduled in accordance with FVHD and Farmington Valley School Districts.

*All plans are based on the Interim Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention issued by the CSDE and DPH (Version Update: July 25, 2021). Additional changes will be made as new recommendations are released by the CSDE and DPH.

Please complete the table below with the LEA's mitigation strategy for each category. In developing the LEA's response, please review and consider the [CDC guidance](#) and the [Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidance](#) for each category.

	Mitigation strategy	LEA response
☒	Universal and correct wearing of masks	Face coverings or masks are required indoors for all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals based on Executive Order No. 13A issued by Governor Lamont. Mask breaks will be provided. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings/ masks. Backup disposable masks will be available for students who forget them. Masks are not required outdoors. Masks are required to be worn on school buses by drivers and by students. *The New Hartford Public Schools will continue to monitor any changes to the state mask requirements. If there are any changes the district will adapt its mask policy accordingly. If the CT State Dept of Education allows the option of student mask wearing, the district will reevaluate the mask policy.

	Mitigation strategy	LEA response
	Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	Students will maintain social distancing of 3 feet in the classroom to the greatest extent practical as part of a layered mitigation strategy. *The New Hartford Public Schools will continue to monitor the state's physical distancing recommendations. If there are any changes to the recommendations, the district will adapt its policies accordingly.
	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing is expected. We will continue to promote hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette before and after activities, including location change, mealtime, bathroom use, coughing/sneezing.
	Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	The Superintendent of Schools and Administrative Team will ensure that schools meet high cleanliness standards prior to reopening and maintain a high level of cleanliness during the school year. Routine daily cleaning of classrooms, bathrooms, and all additional locations within the building will be used to maintain a healthy environment. The Administrative Team will oversee the posting of appropriate signs and messages throughout the school building. All existing air filters have been replaced and upgraded.
	Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	If a student, staff member, volunteer, or visitor who has been present in school has a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent of Schools immediately. The Superintendent of Schools or designee will inform the district community regarding the confirmed student or staff COVID-19 case. Confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the ADA will be maintained. Quarantine period for the individual with COVID-19 will be in accordance with State requirements and in consultation with FVHD. Vaccinated students and staff no longer need to quarantine if asymptomatic. The determination about individuals who do need to quarantine will be made in consultation with FVHD. If students or staff need to quarantine, the quarantine period will be for 10 days. Pre-K families will not receive reimbursement if students need to quarantine during the school year.

	Mitigation strategy	LEA response
☒	Diagnostic screening and testing	Parents will screen their children daily before school to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees F and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Temperature checks and screening procedures are not required at the point of entry into the school. The school nurse will monitor screening while complying with relevant privacy laws with the goal of minimizing the risk of spreading the virus. The district will not conduct COVID-19 testing. Testing is not required in public schools by the State of Connecticut. The school nurse will refer students for COVID-19 testing outside of school if symptoms arise.
☒	Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	The district will continue to partner with the Farmington Valley Health District to schedule and provide vaccination clinics for eligible students and staff.
☒	Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	The Director of Student Services and the Special Education staff will oversee programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs. Students who cannot wear masks due to documented health concerns will be provided with appropriate accommodations. Developmental strategies will be reinforced to align with District health and safety policies.

LEA must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, each element of the most up-to-date guidance listed in the table.

II. Continuity of Services

Describe how the LEA plan will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services:

The New Hartford Public Schools plans to fully open schools for in-person learning only in the Fall of 2021. We will continue to provide social-emotional and academic learning opportunities for all students. There is no current requirement under Connecticut state law that school districts are mandated to provide students with daily access to remote learning at the unilateral request of students/families. Remote Learning (not live instruction) may be available under unique quarantine circumstances. The district will determine if Remote Learning applies.

III. Public Comment

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement, and at times a stand-alone element which may include dedicating time to open forums at board of education meetings, conducting surveys, or soliciting written input from external residents not involved in the decision-making process. Describe how the LEA plans to provide the public the opportunity to provide input and for public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account:

All stakeholders of the New Hartford Public Schools were invited to complete a survey to provide written input regarding our Reopening Plan. Additionally, a committee comprised of district stakeholders will review the Reopening Plan and survey feedback. Public comment is also allowed at Board of Education meetings. The biggest concerns regarding the district's mitigation plans this past school year were social distancing and masks. The most positive feedback centered around the district's response to the pandemic and following CDC guidelines.

IV. Periodic Review Process

LEAs are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* **at least every six months** through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

Below are the dates that LEAs must submit a refreshed or updated plan to CSDE via eGMS.

Review/revisit Dates:

- June 23, 2021
- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2021

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Describe the unique needs of the LEA's audience and confirm the LEA's approach to ensuring the document is accessible:

The New Hartford Public Schools will email the Reopening Plan to all parents and staff prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year. The Reopening Plan will be posted on our district website. Translation of our Reopening Plan is available to families who request it.