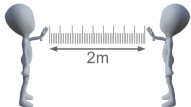


[Submit Your Questions Here](#)

The federal government requires that each Local Education Agency (LEA) create a *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* (the Plan). This plan will be publicly available online by June 23, 2021 and submitted to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) as a part of the ARP ESSER application due mid-August 2021. There will be ongoing review processes instituted across the year.

The Derby Public Schools Safe Return to In Person plan covers our preparedness around health and safety as well as the continuity of high quality academic and social emotional learning and services. **To give feedback on our plan please complete our survey: [Wellness Survey 2021-2022](#)**

Health and Safety Drivers		More Info
Morning Check (Home) 	Staying Healthy Be sure to check your temperature and stay home if you have any Covid symptoms or a temperature of 100.0°F or higher. This temperature is aligned with our policy when reviewing all communicable diseases (see DPS policy). Please inform your school if you are experiencing any symptoms. School nurses can provide families with information regarding staying healthy.	DPS Policy DPS Communicable Disease Policy
Social Distancing 	Social Distancing The following guidelines are in place to assist staff and students to maintain maximum social distancing and maintain a healthy environment: • Design physical layout to ensure proper distancing as best possible. • Disinfect communal spaces in between uses.	Mitigation Strategies (State of CT)
Mask Wearing 	Use of Masks/Face Coverings As of February 28, 2022 universal mask wearing is no longer required, yet recommended. Positive cases returning on day 6 are recommended to wear a face mask days 6-10 while in school. Symptomatic cases may be asked to wear a mask while waiting for pick-up from school.	CDC Mask Guidance
Handwashing & Respiratory Etiquette 	Hand Washing/Sanitizing Students and staff will continue to engage in frequent hand washing and/or sanitizing during entrance, before or after eating, bathroom use and after coughing or sneezing. Hand sanitizer will continue to be located at the entrance of every and efface space as well as any common areas.	CDC Hand washing help

Cleaning & Sanitizing Facilities



Cleaning & Sanitizing Facilities

In preparation for the reopening of schools, the facilities department will perform cleaning and sanitizing of all “high touch” hard surfaces. The facilities team will continue to follow a cleaning and disinfecting plan/schedule which identifies areas that need cleaning and disinfecting,

Reopening of Facilities Before First Day of Classes

In preparation for the full reopening of schools, the facilities department will perform deep cleaning and sanitizing of all “high touch” hard surfaces. The facilities team will develop a cleaning and disinfecting plan/schedule which identifies areas that need cleaning and disinfecting, the products to be used, the personal protective equipment (PPE) that is required, and the person responsible. The Facilities Manager will identify and procure appropriate cleaning and disinfection products, and train custodial staff in the safe use of these products. All buildings will be evaluated to ensure that all water and ventilation systems are safe to use after a prolonged facility shutdown.

Safe Classroom Set-up and Spaces

Signage and visual reminders will be used to illustrate social/physical distancing. Each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer.

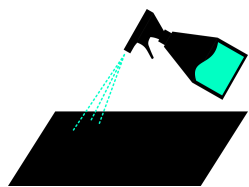
Disinfecting Guidelines

Contaminated surfaces are not thought to be a significant contributor to the spread of COVID-19 and, during this past Spring semester, CDC began to move away from the idea of “over-disinfection” in most settings, including PreK-12 schools. This messaging aligned with similar messaging DPH had provided to PreK-12 schools in Connecticut beginning in January 2021. For the upcoming school year, and consistent with CDC guidance, DPH advises that routine daily cleaning of schools (consistent with standard school cleaning practices), and regular daily (or more frequent if that represents past standard practice in schools) cleaning and disinfection of bathrooms, locker rooms, cafeterias, and health offices, is sufficient to prevent transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from surfaces in PreK-12 schools. In extreme cases where an individual with known COVID-19 and active respiratory symptoms (e.g., persistent coughing, frequent sneezing) was present for an extended period of time in an area, particularly if it is suspected that a mask was not worn consistently or correctly by that individual, facilities staff may consider cleaning

The focus will be on effective cleaning and disinfecting of

[Disinfecting Strategies](#)

[DPS Reopening Plan](#)



environmental surfaces, including “high touch” or frequently touched surfaces. Daily sanitizing of these surfaces and objects, such as desks, countertops, doorknobs and faucets will be conducted by custodial staff. Restrooms will be inspected and disinfected multiple times per day and completion logged on a form prominently displayed in each bathroom.

Staff shall use disinfecting wipes on personal electronic items that are touched often (e.g., phones and computers). Personal Protective Equipment will be supplied as required (e.g., face masks, gloves, hand soap, paper towels, disinfectant wipes).

[Derby Public Schools Cleaning/Disinfecting Template \(for Building Use\)](#)

Restrooms

Door knobs or handles, light switches and cover plates, paper towel dispenser knobs or handles, faucet handles, toilet and urinal flush levers, toilet and urinal partitions and doors (including knobs, levers, or slides

Cafeteria

Refrigerator door handles, microwave/warmer door handles, tabletops, door knobs or handles, light switches and cover plates, bottle filling stations

Classrooms and Offices

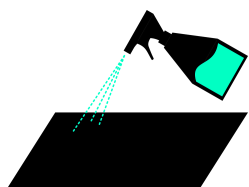
Doorknobs and handles, light switches and cover plates, telephones/intercoms, other commonly touched items (keyboards, touch screens, copiers, mouse)

Other Locations

Elevator call and operating buttons, stairway handrails, doorknob, switches; hallway door knobs, handles, drinking fountains; playground/recess area

Misc. Considerations and Practices

- Cleaning/disinfecting checklists will be utilized
- Hands-free water bottle filling stations are available in each school
- Classroom and bathroom doors will be left open, in the locked position, to mitigate high touch point exposure
- Students and staff will leave desktops clear at the end of the day to promote the cleaning and disinfecting process



	• Staff to utilize disinfecting wipes to periodically wipe surfaces and equipment • Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and common areas • Signage will be placed throughout the school reminding everyone to physically distance and to wash hands • Maintain a 30 day log for all visitors, which documents the date, contact phone number, and arrival/departure times. All visitors MUST wear face coverings. Entering and Movement Within the Building • All students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entry. Hand sanitizer will be available at all entries, exits and in each classroom as well as common areas throughout the building. • All visitors will stop in the lobby to sign-in prior to entering the school. • Signs and messages related to stopping the spread are accessible for students with disabilities.	
Contact Tracing 	Contact Tracing The district will continue to follow the CDC, state and health department guidance regarding effective contact tracing methods and protocols. For any length of quarantine, if any symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate, get tested, and contact the local public health department and healthcare provider. People are considered fully vaccinated: ± • 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as	StudentStaff Covid protocols CDC calculator for up-to-date Covid vaccinations

	the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or • 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine • Plus, any boosters available for the specific age range	
Food Services 	Food Services Derby Public Schools will continue to offer food services to all families. The district will use the latest guidance from the health department to guide the distribution of food and services. The district will continue to provide free meals to all students all year long. Food Service Derby Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Afterschool Snack Program, and Special Milk Program (SMP). The district currently operates under the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) which allows all schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications to determine eligibility for free and reduced-priced meals. To ensure safe meal operations for students, the Director of Food Services shall: 1. Ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines regarding child nutrition; 2. Oversee Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc; 3. Adjust the cafeteria and meal service delivery plans based on increased levels of concern of transmission; 4. Proactively plan and be prepared for emergency meal access during unplanned, extended school closures. 5. Ensure plans are inclusive of provisions for students with food allergies.	DPS Food Services Pick Up Times and Places
Vaccinations 	Vaccinations The district will continue to partner with our local health department, NVHD, as well as local providers to keep the community informed regarding local vaccination clinics.	NVHD Website Griffin Hospital Vaccination Info
Continuity of Services		More Info
Academics	Barring any restrictions from the state or the NVHD Derby Public Schools will continue to deliver fully in person high quality teaching and learning for all learners in grades Pk-12.	DPS Curriculum Website



Derby Public Schools has all of the key components in place and is prepared to launch a high-quality learning environment for all students. The following success factors include links which serve as evidence of Derby's readiness.

- **Success Factor #1:** Create a culture of learning and teaching
 - [A Strategic PL Calendar 2022-2023](#)
 - A SEL PL Calendar
 - [HQI in DPS](#)
- **Success Factor #2:** Establish assessment and data review cycles and protocols to monitor progress and modify learning plan or experiences with an emphasis on social emotional well being.
 - [DPS Assessment Summary](#)
- **Success Factor #3:** Create learning experiences with district standards-based curriculum as the lead designer for high quality, high impact instruction.
 - [Derby Public Schools Curriculum Site](#)
 - [HQI in DPS](#)
- **Success Factor #4:** All learners develop digital citizenship skills to participate fully in their communities and make smart choices online and in life.
 - [Tech Reimaging](#)
 - [Student and Parent Digital Tools and Resources](#)

Homeschooling Option

Homeschooling Option

If you choose not to have your child attend school in-person or participate in distance learning, homeschooling is an option for families. The [Connecticut State Guidelines for Homeschooling](#) can be accessed here.

If you decide to homeschool your child, please review the steps below:

- Notify your child's school of your intent to withdraw for the purposes of homeschooling.
- Sign and scan back the [Withdrawal Form](#) indicating "homeschooling" as the reason.
- Complete the [Intent to Homeschool Form](#) and submit it to the Superintendent's office. You will receive a letter from the Superintendent's office upon review and approval.
- The homeschooling form requires you to identify the core content you are teaching during your year of homeschooling

It is suggested you do the following:

- Keep a log of attendance with days and hours of instruction

	• Maintain a portfolio for each child which contains samples of activities, assignments, projects and assessments, as well as a log of books and materials used • Contact potential colleges and universities in order to learn what is required for admission Note: If you intend to homeschool, your child will not have access to the district curriculum, resources or technology. The State of Connecticut has designed a Remote Learning Hub (https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub) which includes sections accessible to the public.	
Social, Emotional Health & Needs 	The district will continue to implement integrated and targeted social emotional learning experiences for all learners. Additionally, evidence based resources will be provided to staff to provide learners with high quality experiences to address social and emotional growth. Our community, like others, has experienced high levels of stress from the disruption of daily lives and worries about one's physical health, and many have been under financial strains from loss of work. Children who may be living with these strains, may feel stress and anxiety; this impacts both the body and brain. Derby Public Schools is committed to providing social emotional learning and additional support that will help all students rebalance and refocus on learning so they can be productive and succeed in school. In preparation for the reopening of schools, DPS Wellness Committee Reopening Committee has/will: • Evaluate and develop mental health readiness protocols for staff, students, and families • Develop resources and professional development for staff self-care • Develop general best practices of talking through trauma with children • Define resilience strategies for children • Develop a protocol for school-level outreach to at-risk students for use by school Crisis Team • Administer mental health screeners and develop initial student support decisions . • Develop crisis management support protocols related to COVID-19 to be used by the Child Study Teams (CST) • Create instructional lessons in the areas of Social-Emotional Learning to ensure student needs are being met through team building with social distancing protocols in place • Implement a school-wide tiered mental health support system Mental Health Awareness & Monitoring	Relationship Framework Ruler Second Step

Students' mental health will be a priority. Upon return to school, the Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) teams will utilize the COVID-19 School Adjustment Risk Matrix (C-SARM) provided by the National Association of School Psychologists to determine the appropriate level of support and service for each student. [COVID-19 School Adjustment Risk Matrix](#),

Students at low risk/concerns for school adjustment would be provided Tier 1 interventions; those at moderate risk/concern would be offered both Tier 1 and 2 interventions; and those with high to extreme risk/concern would be considered as appropriate recipients of all levels of support, including Tier 3. Services will range from indirect and consultative supports, to direct and intensive professional mental health interventions.



Tier I: Universal (Primary) Crisis Interventions

Tier I supports are provided to all students through classroom instruction, caregiver training, informational bulletins, flyers, and handouts.

- Conduct universal screening to identify social-emotional needs of students.
- Conduct routine check-ins using a trauma- and resilience-informed lens
- Establish and implement daily routines for both in-person and remote delivery.
- Include stress management or mindfulness practices in daily classroom routine.
- Develop a system to connect with students and families to promote attendance



Tier II: Selected (Secondary) Crisis Interventions

Tier 2 supports often involve group interventions with ten or more students participating. Specific Tier 2 interventions include practices such as social skills groups, self-management, and academic supports. Targeted interventions like these, implemented by typical school personnel, are designed to increase student engagement.

	 Tier III: Indicated (Referral) Crisis Interventions Tier 3 supports are provided to those who were severely impacted which has created barriers to learning. Specific Tier III strategies may include psychotherapy, individualized counseling, referral to outside agencies for mental health support. Staff Mental Health Awareness & Monitoring The Wellness Committee will provide self-care strategies through presentations and consultations such as: Self-Care for Staff Presentation . Staff received training by the Wellness Committee on a variety of topics including: safety, mindfulness, teamwork, relationship building, self-regulation, communication and expression. Community Mental Health Assistance Families, students and staff who would benefit from additional community mental health assistance will be provided a Community Resource List to access services within the community.	
Accommodations & Special Populations 	Barring any restrictions forthcoming from the state, all specialized instruction will be conducted in person or otherwise as identified on the student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) document. PPT meetings will also be conducted in person. If adaptations or modifications are required they will be outlined within the IEP implementation plan.	Guidance for Special Populations
Fire and School Safety During COVID-19 –	Fire and School Safety During COVID-19 – Addendum 8 This document contains requirements for conducting drills (fire, crisis response, lockdown, etc.) as part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency, and must be continued throughout the 2022–23 school year.	

