

Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union Health and Safety Handbook for Students and Families



COVID-19 Response to a Strong and Healthy Start

Mt Ascutney, Weathersfield and Hartland School Districts

March 2022 (Last Edited)

Dear Windsor Southeast Families,

Windsor Southeast's Comprehensive COVID-19 Plan for FY 21-22 changed significantly in March 2022. As Governor Phil Scott has said throughout this pandemic, we have planned for the worst while hoping for the best. It is our hope that we will continue to implement the best-case-scenario plan as we continue to operate schools and keep our schools open. The biggest change in March 2022 was related to the masking protocols found on page 4. The Windsor Supervisory Union Board, voted at their meeting on March 14, 2022 to make wearing a mask optional. This is consistent with the new recommendations from the Agency of Education.

As the spring unfolds, and we receive additional recommendations from the Governor's office, the Agency of Education (AOE) and the Department of Health (VDH), we will update and adapt our plans accordingly. As of today, we have used all the latest information to create this document. Our #1 priority is the health and safety of our entire school community and that will be the guiding principle as

we determine the best plan to implement for our students. I appreciate the work of our COVID Task Force made up of administrators, nurses, and medical personnel from Mount Ascutney Hospital. The one thing we are certain is to keep our schools open, everyone in school buildings must:

- ❖ Practice Effective Hand Hygiene
- ❖ Respect Spatial Distancing with others
- ❖ Stay Home If You Are Ill
- ❖ Fully Vaccinate if eligible

We will update this page as often as needed, but it is more important that you read the weekly updates sent out by the Superintendent. Thanks for all your cooperation as we navigate these difficult times together.

Warmly,

The WSESU Administration and COVID Task Force

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Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union (WSESU)

Comprehensive Covid-19 Return to School Plan

The Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this plan is to outline the safe operation of Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union during the COVID-19 pandemic. These guidelines were updated in March of 2022 to address the safety, health, and welfare of our community. These procedures are subject to the continual updates directed by the [Office of the Governor](#). WSESU is committed to the following values:

- School campuses will remain open with health and hygiene related practices that are science-based, clearly communicated, effectively implemented, and diligently enforced for the safety of our communities.
- Social and emotional well-being is critical to engage students, support adults, and build and maintain relationships to promote academic success.
- Schools will be creative with their spaces, schedules and systems in order to maximize learning for students and to be ready to adjust as circumstances change.
- Outdoor environments will be maximized as vital spaces for learning, and connection to place, each other, and the world around us.

It is the WSESU's expectation that students and school families will be responsible for upholding the community standards and plans set forth by the cCOVID Task Force. We work much better as a team, so let's stand together, continue to keep our schools open.

Basic Expectations: Face Masks, Health Screenings, Hand Hygiene, and Spatial Distancing

1. Face Masks Are Optional

- ❖ The Windsor Southeast Supervisory Union serves 1,200 students in grades Prek-12. We will be following the recommendations developed by the Vermont Department of Health and the Agency of Education, which were last revised March 9, 2020.
 - These guidelines, per the [Vermont Department of health](#), are the procedures we want all to follow. Please review the document to master these skills. See the latest guidelines [here](#). These VDH guidelines are for all Vermonters and the AOE

has, based on recent low positivity rates, has recommended these guidelines for schools.

- If a person chooses to wear a mask, the fabric face masks are allowable, but should be washed daily either by hand or by machine - KN95 masks provide better protection and should be considered.
- Gators, bandanas, and vented masks are not allowed.
- ❖ The expectation is that every individual in the building who wants to wear a mask will be treated with respect. This is a personal decision based on individual factors.
- ❖ The supervisory union board reserves the right to change the masking protocol based on local, country and state positivity rates and the AOE and VDH guidance.

2. Health Screenings

- ❖ Health screenings are no longer required but are strongly recommended for any individual who has tested positive for COVID 19 or has been identified as a close contact.
- ❖ **School Bus Health Screening** - Health screenings are no longer required but recommended for any individual who has tested positive for COVID 19 or has been identified as a close contact.

3. Hand Hygiene

- ❖ All students and staff are expected to practice effective hand hygiene at the following times; arrival at school, before and after eating, after using the restroom, after coming in contact with bodily fluid, before and after handling facial coverings, after playing outdoors, and before switching locations.
- ❖ All students and staff and contracted service providers should engage in hand hygiene at the following times:
 - o Arrival to the facility
 - o After staff breaks
 - o Before and after preparing food or drinks
 - o Before and after eating, handling food or feeding students
 - o Before and after administering medication or medical ointment
 - o After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
 - o After coming in contact with bodily fluid
 - o Before and after handling facial coverings/face shields
 - o After handling animals or cleaning up animal waste
 - o After playing outdoors
 - o Before and after playing with sand and sensory play

- o After handling garbage
- o Before and after cleaning
- o Prior to switching rooms or locations
- ❖ Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- ❖ Hand sanitizing is also recommended. Sanitizer will be provided in each classroom.

4. Spatial Distancing

- ❖ Where appropriate we will; continue to practice physical distance, especially in small spaces, and choral and instrumental participation. But this practice is **no longer required**.

Student Sick Day Guidelines

1. Symptoms Requiring Absence and/or Immediate Pick Up from School

- ❖ Students and staff will be excluded from in-person school activities, if they;
 - Have tested positive for COVID-19
 - Or present symptoms that are of concern to the school nurse (examples below)

2. Other Conditions requiring absence

- ❖ The first 24 hours of various antibiotic treatments (i.e. strep throat, pink eye, etc.)
- ❖ Undiagnosed, new, and/or untreated rash or skin condition note requiring an individualized plan of care to stay home

3. Immediate Pickup

- ❖ If required, pickup should be within a reasonable amount of time (approximately 45 minutes) from location
- ❖ If there will be a delay, parents or caregivers must delegate an emergency contact to pick up your student from school.

Communication Regarding Positive COVID-19 Case and Return

If a positive case of COVID-19 is identified, the WSESU staff will refer to VDH Guidelines. If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member then the individual will be required to quarantine for no less than five (5) days and be symptom free. It is strongly recommended that a negative antigen test be secured for two consecutive days before return - this is not required according to the new VDH guidelines. If the symptoms persist, the individual must remain out of school for no less than 10 days and be symptom free in order to return.

Close Contact Protocols

- ❖ No one needs to be quarantined for COVID 19 exposure. The new guidelines recommend that families test anyone identified for that exposure. The school will provide the Family Antigen Test Kits. Please report only positive results to the school nurse.

Return to Play

- ❖ Students who have tested Positive for COVID 19 must be cleared by their PCP before returning to physical activity including sports, PE and recess. Accommodations will be made to help parents if this becomes a hardship. Call the school nurse.

Food Service Considerations

1. WSESU school meal program will continue to be a safe and nutritious source of food for students throughout the school district
 - ❖ Students will continue to be able to access locally sourced, wholesome food prepared by dedicated food service providers.
 - ❖ Meals will be delivered to rooms as appropriately determined by the school staff. There will be an effort in March and April to reopen our cafeterias in accordance with the school's timeline.
2. All students continue to eat free under the Universal Lunch Program. Applications for Financial Assistance for school meals are still recommended since they provide data for other sources of funding for our schools. Lunch applications will be available throughout the school year to accommodate families with changing economic circumstances
 - ❖ Information on additional forms of food assistance will be provided to students and families
 - [3SquaresVT](#)
 - [WIC](#)
 - [Free and Reduced Breakfast and Lunch Application](#)

Cross-State Travel and Self Quarantine Recommendations

Travel and/or relocation to the State of Vermont from any location no longer has any restrictions. Please be cautious and use antigen testing after significant travel; especially outside the country.

Student and Family Resources

1. World Health Organization rolling updates on COVID-19
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.
3. Handwashing and Hand Sanitizer Use at Home, at Play, and Out and About,
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>
4. CDC How to Manage Your COVID Symptoms at Home:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

5. AAP COVID-19 Planning Considerations for Return to In-Person Education in Schools:
<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>
6. CDC Child Care, Schools, and Youth Programs Guidance:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html>
7. Cover your Cough Posters (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/protect/cdc_cough.pdf
8. Cover Cough and Sneezes https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html
9. How to Protect Yourself and Others
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention-H.pdf>
10. Stay Home if you are Ill Posters (CDC)
<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/stay-home-from-work-poster.pdf>
11. Physical Distancing
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/social-distancing.html>
12. Guidance for disinfectant education for staff
<https://www.quill.com/content/index/education/education-resources/stay-healthy/cleaning-disinfecting-classroom.pdf> <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/cleaning.htm>
https://apps.cdpr.ca.gov/schoolipm/school_ipm_law/differences_antimicrobial_gpc.pdf.
13. Office of Governor Phil Scott <https://governor.vermont.gov/>
14. Wear a Face Mask to Keep COVID-19 from Spreading
<https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/COVID-19-VDH-mask-guidance.pdf>
15. A Strong and Healthy Start; Safety and Health Guidance for Reopening Schools, Fall 2020
<https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vdh-guidance-strong-healthy-start-school-health-rev-20200617.pdf>
16. Public Health Guidance for Community-Related Exposure
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/public-health-recommendations.html>
17. Cross State Travel Information <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
18. [What Every American and community can do now to decrease the spread of the coronavirus](#)

(Figure 1)

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
FEVER 	✓		✓		
COUGH 		✓	✓	✓	✓
SORE THROAT 	✓	✓	✓		✓
SHORTNESS OF BREATH 				✓	
FATIGUE 		✓	✓	✓	✓
DIARRHEA OR VOMITING 	✓		✓		
RUNNY NOSE 		✓	✓		✓
BODY/ MUSCLE ACHES 	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Symptom of illness



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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