



WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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July 15, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, each school district in the State of Connecticut has been required to develop reopening plans based on the [Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#) plan provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education. These are the [key state requirements](#) we had to address in our planning for the 2020-2021 school year. In addition, the State of Connecticut requires all districts to address the following areas:

- Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff
- Allowing **all** students the opportunity to return **full time**
- Monitoring the school, students, and staff for potential school cancelation in the event of COVID-19 spread
- Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities emerging from this historic disruption
- Fostering strong two-way communication between all stakeholders
- Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety, social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school

Needless to say, this is a daunting task that cannot be accomplished without the hard work of teams of staff across the district. As I have previously shared, Wallingford Public Schools established COVID-19 Recovery Teams in April. The teams cover the following areas: Curriculum and Instruction, Facilities, Finance, Food Services, Health and Wellness, Personnel, Special Education, Technology, and Transportation. The teams consisted of members of all nine unions: Administrators, Clerical, Teachers, Food Services, Information Technology, Managers, Nurses, Paraeducators, and Teachers. Meeting weekly, these teams have provided an incredible amount of insight and effort in developing the plan I share with you today.

Please note that each district is required to provide three levels of plans to the State of Connecticut - LOW Level, MODERATE Level, and HIGH Level. The determination of when a community or the

state moves from one level to another will be provided by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Once we receive that information, I will share with families. The plan we have provided for your review included information on each level.

Many families have reached out about a variety of safety factors for our consideration in developing the plan. We did review each in accordance with the State of Connecticut requirements. The topic of greatest concern is the requirement for all students and staff to wear masks throughout the day beginning on the bus and up and through the ride home from school. The team and I have participated in countless hours of meetings with State of Connecticut staff and attorneys. At this time, it is still conveyed to all districts that masks must be worn at all times by students and staff. Each district does have the discretion to establish mask breaks throughout the day for students. We have taken this discretion, and you will see in our plan that breaks are provided throughout the day for students. I know this may be frustrating to many families; however, I cannot compromise the safety of others and/or the integrity of the district by knowingly violating the state requirement of facial coverings by students and staff.

The other topic for consideration which we have addressed is class sizes for next year. In consultation with our district partners in Cheshire, Meriden, and Southington, we are rescheduling middle school and high school to limit classes to no more than 25 students in core content classes. We are working to maintain no more than 29 students in our traditionally larger classes like physical education and some vocal and instrumental classes. Even though class size reduction is not a requirement of the State of Connecticut, we have and will always do what is best and put students first in our decision making.

With that said, based on nearly 150 voices investing in the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff, I am proud to present to you the Wallingford Public Schools 2020-2021 Reopening Plan. Please take the time to read through the district plan, and then go to the level/school-based plans on page 8 to read more specific information about your children's schools.

If you were unable to sign-up for a feedback session, please feel free to complete and return this [Feedback Form](#) by Friday, July 17, 2020. I thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding in this very challenging time. We will do everything within our powers to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Salvatore F. Menzo, Ed.D.
Superintendent



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Wallingford Public Schools



Reopening Plan Fall 2020

Plan for LOW level of COVID-19 Cases

Wallingford Public Schools is committed to offer students a safe and academically satisfying in-person learning experience this fall. The following plan is based on the **LOW LEVEL** provided by the State Department of Education. Following this initial plan, we have provided an outline for the **MODERATE** and **HIGH LEVEL** plans. Key to the successful implementation of our plan are the following areas of commitment:

- **Student and Staff Safety** - Provisions for student and staff safety are based on the requirements and guidelines set forth by the Connecticut Commissioner of Education, Governor, Center for Disease Control, and Connecticut Department of Public Health. Wallingford Public Schools is in compliance with the CT Department of Health's Guidelines for the cleaning of disinfection of schools. All plans were reviewed and approved by the Director of the Wallingford Health Department. In addition, the Wallingford Police Chief and Fire Chief have reviewed and approved the plan as well.
 - **Requirements**
 - All students and staff must wear face masks at all times. There will be times throughout the day during which students do not have to wear their masks (lunch, recess, physical education, and classes that may be outside). If a student forgets to bring his/her mask to school, one will be provided.
 - In very hot conditions, early dismissal or remote learning will be considered.
 - Hand washing is key and will be required throughout the day by students and staff. Hand sanitizer is available in all classrooms.
 - Social distancing will be maintained when feasible. In most instances, students will be in common groups throughout the day.
 - Social distancing dividers will be provided for classroom tables.



- Desks will face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or students should sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.
 - Other spaces (gymnasiums, libraries, etc.) may be repurposed for instruction in the school.
 - Teachers will maximize the space between themselves and the students.
 - Water systems throughout the district are in compliance with the [CT DPH Return to Service Guidance](#) for Building Water Systems guidelines.
 - Signage
- **Educational Opportunities for Students** - We are eager to get students back in classrooms and back to learning with their teachers and peers. We know the last several months have been challenging, and we want to transition students back in a meaningful manner in which we can review their present academic understanding and move forward with new instruction.
 - **Social and Emotional Well Being of Students and Staff** - While wanting to provide a rigorous engaging academic experience for all students, we also know that we must address their social and emotional needs and those of the staff as well. We plan to provide a wide range of district and school-based services and resources to assist in the transition back to school for everyone.
 - **Technology and Distance Learning** - We will continue to use Chromebooks and Google Classroom even when we are in session full time. Students at all levels will have access to the needed technology. Middle and high school students will take home the Chromebooks each evening. We will continue to provide hotspots to families with students for distance learning and be prepared to deploy those on a larger scale as we did in the event that we need to move to a hybrid or full distance learning plan.

Wallingford Public Schools will utilize the following instructional technology resources for students and staff and will continue to investigate others:

- Google Classroom - Used for PK-12 as our Learning Management System.
 - Google Apps for Education (Docs, Slides, Sheets, Forms and other extensions to assist in teaching and learning)
 - Screencastify Record/Submit - Used to create videos for both staff and students and allows for students to submit videos directly to Google Classroom.
 - Kami - Allows students to view/edit and manipulate PDF documents on the chromebooks and submit directly to Google Classroom.
 - EdPuzzle - Allows students to watch and engage with instructional videos while the teacher gathers data throughout the lesson.
 - TextHelp - Read & Write text-to-speech to read documents to students
- **Agility and Nimbleness** - We know that we may need to transition to a hybrid or full distance learning model of instruction at any time. Staff will continue to utilize the resources from this past spring, and they will also be provided with additional training to grow in their

use of technology prior to the school year starting.

- **Choice** - We know that some families are not comfortable with their children returning in-person this fall. We understand and honor that decision. The State of Connecticut has required all districts to provide distance learning for those students. Wallingford Public Schools has developed a separate plan for those students and families to ensure that they will be best prepared when the time is right for them to re-enter our schools.

Another option for families who do not feel comfortable sending their children to school or having them participate in distance learning is Homeschooling. These are the [guidelines](#) provided by the State of Department of Education.

- **Communication and Mutual Support** - Communication will be essential for all of us to successfully navigate these new times in which we live. We will continue to communicate regularly from the District and school levels. There may be times where we need to request that you complete surveys to provide us with additional information or feedback on how we are doing in meeting your families and student's needs. Your support is critical as we work tirelessly to ensure a safe educational learning environment for students and staff.
 - **Meet and Greet**s - For the past several years, parents and students have been offered the opportunity to visit schools prior to the first day. Unfortunately, that will not be possible this year. In August, administrators will share with families a plan for how students and parents will be greeted before the first day of school by their teachers.
 - **Open Houses** - In-person Open Houses will be difficult to hold based on social distancing requirements. However, building administrators will share plans with families as to how we would like to offer parents the ability to meet their children's teachers.
 - **Parent Conferences** - As is always the case, parents can request the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher at any time. We would ask that these meetings occur either by telephone or through Google Meet.

Staff Preparation and Training for the Reopening of Schools

The Wallingford Board of Education approved a calendar revision at a June Board of Education meeting. This revision extended the school year out one day (scheduled last day of school Tuesday, June 11) to accommodate 2 additional professional development days prior to school starting in August for all staff.

Reminder - the new first day of school for K-12 students is Monday, August 31, 2020. Preschool starts on Thursday, September 3, 2020.

The 5 days of professional development will provide ample time for staff to learn the new health and safety protocols, discuss and prepare for the social and emotional needs of students and themselves, review curriculum, and prepare for use of technology in distance learning.

Before Coming To School Each Day

Staying at Home

Parents, students and staff will be instructed to stay home and inform the school nurse if they are sick with COVID-19 related symptoms, test positive for COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.

- The school nurse/administrator is the appropriate person to receive this information in each school.
- Surveillance documents and charting templates have been created to track staff, student and family COVID-19 related symptoms.
- The nurse will provide the latest guidance to the parent, student, and staff and direct them when needed to testing sites. Links to state testing sites, state and CDC Covid-19 resources are available on the school district website.
- The nurse will consult with and inform the local health department whenever they are notified of a positive COVID-19 test result and for guidance as needed.
- School nurses will provide presumptive COVID-19 individuals information on how to manage their symptoms at home.

Checklist for Preparing to Come to School

Each day before sending your child to school, we ask that you review the following information to ensure that they are healthy, don't put staff and students at risk, and will have a successful day. In the event that your child has any symptoms on this list, please do not send him/her to school. Contact your health care provider and school nurse for further information and next steps.

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms that are similar to many other illnesses and reports range from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

Symptom Checker - Any Symptoms Do Not Come to School

- Fever 100 or greater without fever reducing medication such as Tylenol, Motrin, Advil or Cold Medication
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Headache
- Changes in taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

*This list does not contain all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as they learn more about COVID-19.

Please try to make sure that your child has everything that he/she may need for the day in school. We need to limit visitors and movement of students within the buildings to prevent the potential spread of the virus and we need your help. Providing these items ensuring their preparedness is greatly appreciated.

Some ideas of items to provide:

- Chapstick
- Contact lens solution & case and/or spare glasses
- Small package of Kleenex
- Cough drops - age appropriate
- Water Bottle
- Personal care products
- Change of clothes, that can be put in a backpack - just in case

Remember to check for the following:

- Lunch or make sure lunch account is loaded with money
- Homework
- Chromebook/Notebooks/Books
- Musical instruments
- Sports equipment/uniforms
- Any forms or other materials

Preparing when someone gets sick in school

Parents, students and staff will be informed that a sick health office (isolation room) has been identified in each school. A room near the nurse's office will be used as a sick health office. Anyone presenting with COVID-19 symptoms in any school will be assessed by the school nurse and if warranted sent immediately to the "sick health office." The sick office will be staffed with an adult to monitor anyone in this office and appropriate PPE will be supplied to the monitor. When dismissed to home, parents/guardians are requested to have a plan in place to pick up any student immediately. Any staff member who becomes sick with COVID-19 will be asked to leave.

Staff/Student Return to school

After an absence due to COVID-19 related illness staff/students may report to school with one of the following criteria met:

The CDC has issued guidance for discontinuing home isolation following COVID-19 related illness. This guidance is for non healthcare workers:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

The CDC has identified two strategies that warrant discontinuing home isolation: Symptom-based strategy and Test-based Strategy.

Students and staff returning to school after an absence due to COVID-19 related illness may

discontinue home isolation when one of the following symptom-based strategies are met:

- At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed *since recovery* defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Improvement in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); **and**,
- At least 10 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>

Symptomatic students/staff will not be permitted to return to school until documentation from a medical provider indicates testing was negative and there are no other restrictions, there is no evidence of illness restricting attendance, or it is documented that the individual is no longer contagious. If the result is positive individuals must comply with CDC guidance.

Guidance for Non-COVID-19 related illness

A student may return to school after the first 24 hours of various antibiotic treatments for contagious infections (i.e. strep throat, pink eye, etc.).

Riding the School Bus

Per State of Connecticut requirements and guidelines, school buses can run at normal capacity as long as **all students, bus monitors, and drivers are wearing masks**. When entering the bus, students must fill the back seats first. This is to limit student interaction. As always, all students must be in their seats at all times facing forward.

When waiting for the bus, please remind your children to be socially distanced as much as possible. We ask that you discuss these rules with your child to ensure that they are prepared for the first bus ride of the school year.

Wallingford Public Schools must comply with these requirements. The district is working with the transportation contractor to hire bus monitors to assist with helping students as they ride to school.

Bus Cleaning Protocols

- Disinfecting of vehicles will occur twice per day; once after the AM route and again after the PM route.
- Anti-bacterial cleaning supplies will be provided to drivers to enable them to spot-clean any surface that becomes contaminated during the route prior to the start of school.
- If we learn a driver or passenger on a bus has tested positive for the virus, we will take that vehicle out of service for a minimum of 24 hours prior to disinfecting it and putting it back into service.
- Drivers will disinfect vehicles once per day between morning and afternoon shifts for split shifts and at the end of the work-day for single shifts using company-provided cleaning supplies.



- All contact surfaces, including but not limited to vehicle seats, handrails, steering wheels, door controls, and armrests, will be disinfected.

Walking or Being Driven to School

We know that many more families may decide to drive their children to school each day or have their children walk to school. To ensure the safety of all students and staff, we ask that you respect all traffic patterns and follow directions from school personnel for loading and unloading. We anticipate this process to take longer than usual, so your patience each morning and afternoon is appreciated.

Finally, the key to each scenario is that when your child arrives on campus and begins to walk towards the school building, he/she will need to wear a facial covering at all times.

Reporting Attendance

- Attendance will be taken daily.
- If your child is going to be absent, please follow the normal attendance protocols by calling the school to notify them.
- Students who are attending school in-person will be responsible for missed work as usual.
- They can coordinate that with their classroom teachers. There is not a virtual learning option for students who are absent a day or a few days.
- Students will follow the normal steps for getting missed work from their teachers.
- If a student is going to be absent for an extended period of time (over two weeks) and is capable of doing work from home, then a student may need to transition to distance learning.
- These situations can be addressed with the assistance of the building administrator.

PLEASE NOTE - Regional Travel Advisory: Effective 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, anyone traveling into Connecticut, New York, or New Jersey from a state that has a new daily positive test rate higher than 10 per 100,000 residents or a state with a 10% or higher positivity rate over a 7-day rolling average are directed to self-quarantine for a 14-day period from the time of last contact within the identified state.

To help minimize the use of paper and potential transmission of the virus, we are developing an on-line form for providing absence notes, documentation for late arrivals, and requests for early dismissals.

Level/School-Based Daily Plans

[Grades PreK - 2](#)

[Grades 3 - 5](#)

[Middle School](#)

[Lyman Hall High School](#)

[Mark T. Sheehan High School](#)

[Adult Education](#)

Late Arrival/Early Dismissal

To help minimize the use of paper and potential transmission of the virus, we are developing an on-line form for providing absence notes, documentation for late arrivals, and requests for early dismissals.

Assessing Student Work

Students will be assessed as they were prior to distance learning last spring. That means that the use of PowerSchool will resume for traditional grading.

Special Education Services

IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION

- 1 - [WPS Special Education Re-Entry Plan](#)
- 2 - [Special Education Distance Learning Plan](#)
- 3 - [Special Education Modified Phase Service Decision Tree](#)
- 4 - [Wallingford Learning Model IEP Implementation Plans](#)

While reopening may present challenges for all, students with disabilities may experience these challenges to a greater extent than their peers and take longer to remediate lost skills. Students with disabilities face many challenges, including health concerns and may be disproportionately



affected by changes in their education, requiring flexibility in how their re-entry occurs.

To address the complexities of returning to school for our students who receive special education and related services, further guidance will be forthcoming and will be shared as it is released. See current [special education guidance](#) on the CSDE website.

- The District is prepared to provide all special education students with a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). When considering the least restrictive environment, the District is paying particular attention to minimizing the number of different “groups” a student interacts with within a given day. In the attempt to limit the number of “groups”, intensive planning and flexibility in the delivery of services will occur.
- To the greatest extent possible (when appropriate), students will receive special education instruction with peers in their general education classes to minimize the number of “groups” students are exposed to during their school day.
- When appropriate, related services (speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy, social skill instruction) will occur outside the students’ classroom to minimize exposure to students from other “groups”. The District will minimize instruction in related service offices/classrooms, however understands a quiet setting is appropriate at times.
- Students in specialized programs will be paired with a homeroom with which they will attend any general education classes outlined in the Individualized Education Plan. Students will remain with their teacher and self-contained class throughout the remainder of the day.
- Case managers, counselors, psychologists, social workers will communicate with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist special populations and special education students in their return to the school building.
- The use of social stories, visual cues, and other appropriate developmental strategies will be used to reinforce social distancing and protective equipment protocols.
- Students participating in community-based transition activities will follow all workplace safety protocols identified by OSHA, CDC and the State of Connecticut. Such protocols include but are not limited to social distancing, wearing face-masks, cleaning and hygiene.
- The District is aware some special populations may have difficulty following social distancing guidelines and/or require closer proximity to benefit from instruction. Precautions are in place for this population including:
 - Face shields may be worn by staff and students during speech and language exercises when face coverings/masks are not appropriate for the activity.
 - The District will provide face shields for students unable to wear face masks for developmental, safety or health reasons.
 - Classroom design will include dividers on desks and tables to optimize distancing.
- If students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, the District will facilitate individualized and alternative means of reentry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input.
- The District is aware there are high-risk students and/or families who may require continuing remote instruction full time due to underlying health conditions, undergoing disease treatment, or those with family members who are at-risk. In these cases, the District is prepared to provide individualized distance learning opportunities with the intent of implementing student IEPs to the fullest extent possible.



English Language and Bilingual Students

While returning to school will present challenges for all, English learners (ELs) may experience these challenges to a greater extent than their peers, as they transition back to a school setting from remote learning and continue to develop their English language proficiency concurrently while learning grade-level academic content.

To mitigate these challenges, Wallingford Public Schools will:

- Make every effort to provide support to ELs to allow them to access academic content
- Provide our English Language Learners with supplemental language instruction while providing adequate scaffolds and supports to grade level content.
- Continue to provide bilingual education to eligible students.
- Communicate with parents and guardians that have limited proficiency in English in a language they understand as required by Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. As during traditional schooling, communications during school closures due to COVID-19 may be provided through translation and/or interpretation.
- Provide ELs who are also identified as students with disabilities, supports for their EL needs, as well as supports for their disabilities.
- Establish systems for ongoing collaboration between Bilingual and TESOL teachers, EL support providers and grade-level and content-area teachers. Ensure that mainstream teachers embed accessibility tools, such as scaffolds, explicit vocabulary instruction and differentiated supports into their grade-level and content-area instruction.
- Develop and maintain ongoing communication with families of ELs regarding remote learning and returning to their school building.
- Create procedures for supporting translation and interpretation for families with limited English proficiency regarding remote learning, instructional methods and returning to school.
- Establish a process for carrying out the required procedures for potential English learners and identified English learners including:
 - Ensuring adherence to the statewide identification procedures (i.e., Home Language Survey, English language proficiency screener);
 - Continuing to provide parental notifications (i.e., EL identification letter, EL continuation of services letter, EL exit letter);
 - Adhering to annual English language proficiency assessment requirements;
 - Offering translation and/or interpretation to parents/guardians with limited English proficiency.

Food Services



Our food service department will continue to provide meals for all students following all federal and state guidelines. Meals will also be made available for pick up for families who elect not to return their children to school in the fall and opt for them to participate in distance learning. Students who are withdrawn and homeschooled are not eligible for lunch service.

A schedule for off-site distribution of meals will be made available once data has been collected to determine how many families will be requiring this service. Information related to off-site meal distribution will be posted on the district website.

Social distancing requirements will impact how lunch is served and where students will eat. Since serving lunch at each school/level presents different challenges, please see your child's school/level plan for more specific information.

Health Practices And Protocols

Wallingford Public Schools will ensure that students are educated and engaged in the new expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. The district will assess the best approach to communicating the information for the age group, and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as frequent reminders, to review the new policies and protocols to appropriate students and staff.

Familiarize all participants of the standard public health practices used to prevent the spread of diseases. These practices include, but are not limited to:

- social distancing,
- frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer,
- use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth,
- respiratory and cough etiquette, and
- enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.

The District will provide adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol or 70% isopropyl alcohol (for staff and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, face coverings (as feasible), and no-touch/foot-pedal trash cans.

Immunizations and Health Assessments - the Wallingford School District will follow the guidance provided by the state in the area of immunizations and health assessments

- Immunizations:
 - [Guidance from the Department of Public Health](#) was issued dated June 17, 2020 emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
- Health Assessments:



- Guidance from the CSDE was issued dated June 26, 2020 outlining the requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- Temperature screening for all is not recommended as it can be unreliable, inefficient, and does not address asymptomatic individuals.
- School nurses have been provided with touchless thermometers for their use in the event screenings need to take place.
- If an individual tests positive for COVID-19, we will continue to collaborate with the Wallingford Health Department to conduct contact tracing and to determine the quarantining of individuals as necessary.
- Protecting the identity of any impacted individual, the district will notify members of the school community in the event someone tests positive.
- We are awaiting information from the Connecticut Department of Public Health as to the criteria for determining temporary or prolonged school closures.

Cleaning Protocols

- Wallingford Public Schools is in compliance with the CT Department of Health's Guidelines for the cleaning and disinfection of schools.
- Any areas in school buildings that have been unoccupied for seven (7) or more days have received routine cleaning, not disinfection. The virus that causes COVID-19 cannot survive outside of the body for long periods and after seven (7) days, it is unlikely that any viable virus will have survived on any type of surface, even under ideal conditions.
- Areas that have been occupied during the summer months have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according to CDC guidelines and a deep cleaning of all areas has been completed.
- A cleaning and disinfecting plan for our schools has been developed that identifies what areas need cleaning, what areas need cleaning and disinfection, a schedule for cleaning and disinfection, what cleaning and disinfection products are needed, what personal protective equipment (PPE) is needed, and the person responsible for the cleaning and disinfection. This plan reflects the following guidelines from the CT Department of Health (DPH):
 - Areas needing only routine cleaning include:
 - Outdoor areas such as benches, tables, railings, and playground equipment. Cleaning of wooden surfaces outdoors is not recommended.
 - Areas or items located indoors that are not touched or used frequently, such as floors, walls, windows, carpeting, light fixtures, and air vents.
 - Areas needing cleaning, followed by disinfection include: – “High-touch areas”, which refers to hard surfaces indoors that are routinely touched by different individuals.



- Examples may include (but not limited to) desks and chairs, doorknobs, countertops, bathroom surfaces, copiers/scanners/fax machines, computer equipment, shared laptops, Chromebooks, or tablets, physical education equipment, locker rooms (benches, showers, and toileting areas), shared break room appliances, handrails, door knobs, and light switches.
- Any soft or porous materials that are shared by many individuals (such as blankets, towels, oven mitts, jerseys, etc.) need to be laundered frequently to properly disinfect them.
- Porous materials are not as easy to disinfect as hard surfaces, so it is recommended that porous surfaces that may be contacted by many different individuals throughout the school day but are not easily laundered (such as upholstered chairs, soft balls and other soft physical education items, etc.) be removed from shared use areas or programs.
- Schedules for cleaning and disinfection
 - Daily
 - Routine cleaning of all areas of the school used during that day.
 - Cleaning and disinfection of “high-touch” areas
 - Twice Daily
 - Cleaning and disinfection of bathroom surfaces twice per day, especially during times of full occupancy in the school and in high-traffic bathrooms that are in areas where they are more commonly used.
- Appropriate cleaning and disinfection products have been procured for our facilities.
 - Cleaning Products: – Detergent products (soap) and water are effective for surface cleaning and are very effective at removing the virus that causes COVID-19 from surfaces.
 - Instead of soap and water, commercially prepared cleaning products may also be used.
 - All cleaning products purchased by schools must comply with the Connecticut School Green Cleaning Law.
 - Staff members are not permitted to bring cleaning products from home and should only use those products provided by the district.
 - “Foggers” or tank sprayers are not to be used in schools as they are potentially dangerous to the custodial staff and other occupants of the building.
 - Staff are to be trained in the proper use of cleaning and disinfection products.

Signs and Messages

Wallingford Public Schools will post all signs and messages related to stopping the spread are accessible for students with disabilities and in languages appropriate for the school population. The district will also distribute information and provide on-going communication about the actions we are

taking to stop the spread.

- This includes:
 - posting signs in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures, and providing instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing cloth face coverings;
 - educating students about how coronavirus is spread, and how preventative actions help avoid the spread (for example, that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keep the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes);
 - broadcasting regular announcements related to stopping the spread on school intercoms, and ensure related resources (e.g., messages and videos) are distributed when communicating with staff, students, and families (such as on school websites, in emails, and on school social media accounts).
 - posting signs near sinks reminding students and staff to wash hands before and after using the restroom.

Ventilation

Ventilations systems throughout the district have been assessed for optimal performance. Maintenance and setting adjustments have been made to accommodate any determined need for additional ventilation.

Teachers will be encouraged to open windows whenever possible except in those cases where students with health conditions might be adversely affected.

Window fans that blow air into a room or free-standing fans that only serve to circulate existing air around a room should not be used.

Visitors to School

We understand that there may be a need to drop something off for your child during the school day. We also know that there may be the need for a meeting at school. We ask that in both instances that you call the school ahead to inform them that you are coming. The majority of our meetings will be conducted virtually. Meetings that must occur should be scheduled in advance. When arriving at the school, you will follow normal safety protocols. We are asking that you wear a mask once inside the building. When it is necessary to come into the building, visitors will need to complete the COVID Screening form and sign in to allow for contact tracing.

During this period of COVID-safe practices, volunteers will not be entering the building. Although



volunteers are an important part of our schools' functioning, we are choosing to limit student exposure at this time.

Fire Drills and Lockdown Drills

While we are focused on maintaining a clean and virus-free learning environment, we cannot lose sight of the safety measures we take each year for students and staff. We will continue to have monthly fire drills that will be modified to meet the needs of the social distancing requirements as determined by the Wallingford Fire Marshal.

Under the guidance of the Wallingford Police Department lockdown drills will be modified to maintain social distancing while providing students with the necessary skills and information to respond appropriately in the event of an emergency.

After School Programming

School Clubs

It is our goal to have school clubs run as usual with appropriate social distancing protocols and face coverings worn by all participants and facilitators.

Athletics

All fall sports programming will follow the guidelines provided by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) in accordance with local and state health department requirements.

Band Camps

We are awaiting guidance as to Band Camps from the Department of Public Health and coordination with local health officials.

Community-Based Programming

YMCA programming will occur in all elementary schools before and after school. Their protocols for safety and wellness will be provided to participating families.

Field Trips

Based on the State of Connecticut requirements, there will be no field trips at this time. We will await to hear from the state officials as to when they can resume.



Planning for Social and Emotional Needs of Students

The District is aware of the need for robust social and emotional supports for students in the fall. As a guideline for our reopening plan the District has adopted CASEL's (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning) theme of "Reunite, Renew, Thrive". The District has three areas of focus (Pre-Entry, Entry and Post-Entry)

Pre-Entry:

- The school staff will identify at-risk students and prepare supports for a safe return to school in the following ways:
 - Virtual tours of buildings
 - Videos of staff and students participating in summer school
 - Social stories for students who require repetition and support in understanding the changes in the school day
 - Develop transition plans for students struggling with re-entry
 - Respond proactively to families and students through regular communication, meetings and phone calls
- School staff will receive training in trauma-based interventions.
- PreK-2 principals and staff will receive consultation and training in trauma-based supports by CTARI (The Center for Great Expectations)
- School staff will engage in conversation and receive training in diversity, equity and inclusion

Entry:

- Staff will identify students in need of social and/or emotional support
- SRBI teams will develop and implement intervention plans to support students in need
- "Special Friends" program in PreK-2 schools will provide opportunities for at-risk students to receive support in developing social skills and relationships.
- Continued consultation
- Universal implementation of scientific research-based instruction in social skills and emotional regulation

Post-Entry:

- Evaluate and measure student growth and response to intervention
- Provide additional supports to students/families experiencing difficulty with re-opening
- Continue consultation and training by CTARI
- Continue training and community conversations in diversity, equity and inclusion

Protocols for Testing Positive for COVID-19

If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19 the entire class cohort should be quarantined

for 14 days.

- The students in the same cohort in addition to the teacher should be monitored under the guidance of the school nurse for COVID-19 symptoms over the 14 day period.
- The classroom and associated common areas shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the most current CDC guidelines relating to COVID-19 affected areas.
- For contact tracing purposes a 48 hour lookback prior to the onset of symptoms will be utilized to identify potential close contacts.

If a household contact of a student or teacher is a laboratory confirmed COVID-19 case, that particular student or teacher should be removed from the class for a minimum of 14 days.

- The remaining students should be monitored under the guidance of the school nurse for COVID-19 related symptoms over that time period.
- The classroom and associated common areas shall be cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the most current CDC guidelines relating to COVID-19 affected areas.
- For contact tracing purposes a 48 hour lookback prior to the onset of symptoms will be utilized to identify potential close contacts.

A student on a bus tests positive for COVID-19, who must be quarantined from that bus?

- The students on this bus would be quarantined as well as the driver.

A driver on a bus tests positive for COVID-19, who must be quarantined from that bus?

- All students who ride this bus with this driver would be quarantined.

A student or teacher with a laboratory confirmed case of COVID-19 can return to school under the following conditions:

- The person has had NO fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use of medicine that reduces fevers) **AND** other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) **AND** at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared).

***This guidance is subject to change per CDC guidelines.**

While out, if physically capable, classroom instruction continues as distance learning is provided by the teacher.

Plan for Students Not Attending In-Person Classes

Families that opt to have their child(ren) not attend school for in-person instruction will be provided with distance learning. These students will be assigned to teachers and follow a traditional school schedule participating in a mix of live and recorded learning sessions.



Distance Learning Structure

- Students will be assigned to a teacher who has been designated to provide distance learning instruction.
- Students will follow a regular school day schedule.
- Distance learning will consist of a mix of live Google Meets and previously recorded sessions.
- Parents will be asked to commit to distance learning no later than Monday, August 10, 2020.

Distance Learning - Attendance

- Attendance will be taken daily.
- If your child is going to be absent, please follow the normal attendance protocols by calling the school to notify them.
- Students should coordinate with their assigned distance learning teachers for missed work.
- There is not a virtual learning option for students who are physically attending school, who are absent a day or a few days.

Distance Learning - Assessment of Student Work

Students will be assessed as they were prior to distance learning last spring. That means that the use of PowerSchool will resume for traditional grading for all levels.

Distance Learning - Extracurricular Activity Participation

Students who participate in distance learning may participate in extracurricular activities. Students choosing to do so will need to follow all of the safety measures required for in-person attendance when required by the activity (face covering, hand washing, social distancing).

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 Department of Education guidelines can be found here: [Connecticut State Guidelines for Homeschooling](#).

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 Wallingford Public School's Withdraw Form indicating homeschooling as the reason. The school will provide this to you.
- Once notified by the school, the Curriculum Office will send you a letter confirming your request to homeschool and an Intent to Homeschool Form that should be filled out and sent back. On this form, you will identify the core content you are teaching during your year of homeschooling.

It is suggested for you to 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.

Wallingford Public Schools





Reopening Plan Fall 2020

Plan for Moderate Level of COVID-19 Cases

If the level of concern regarding community spread or the number of cases in Wallingford and/or the State of Connecticut increase, we may be required to move to a **MODERATE LEVEL** response.

The key plan components are:

- Reduced school capacity
- Reduced transportation capacity
- Increased safety measures

Reduced School Capacity

REVISED WALLINGFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS REOPENING PLAN

This is implemented as the LOW LEVEL Plan for all Levels.

The middle school and high school LOW LEVEL Plan would be implemented at the MODERATE LEVEL as well

The elementary level would implement a similar early release model as employed at the middle and high school.

Reduced Transportation Capacity

In the **MODERATE LEVEL** response, buses will run at a reduced capacity with bus monitors, facial



coverings in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders, spaced seating between unrelated riders.

Increased Safety Measures

In the **MODERATE LEVEL** response, in addition to all of the safety measures put in place during the **LOW LEVEL** response, Wallingford Public Schools will also:

- Continue to require face coverings for students and staff while inside school buildings
- Maximize spacing of seating up to six feet or more when feasible with reduced class sizes
- Continue to identify/isolate sick students/staff
- Group students, restrictions on congregating, staggered start/stop times and hallway transit
- Suspend indoor extracurricular activities
- Consider restrictions on activities such as sports and other outdoor activities based on State and CIAC requirements
- Increase cleaning and sanitization protocols

Wallingford Public Schools



Reopening Plan Fall 2020

Plan for High Level of COVID-19 Cases

If the level of concern regarding community spread or the number of cases in Wallingford and/or the State of Connecticut increase, we may be required to move to a **MODERATE LEVEL** response.

The key plan components are:

- Schools closed
- 100% distance learning



- Bus transportation suspended
- Extracurricular activities suspended, including sports

Specifics of the distance learning plan will be forthcoming.