

Matthew C. Fedders
Superintendent of Schools

Andrea M. Wasson
Co-Director of School Transformation



Michaela B. Martin
Co-Director of School Transformation

Christopher F. Locarno
Director of Finance & Facilities

Committed to cultivating within all our students the knowledge, skills, and character essential to becoming purposeful, productive and engaged members of their world.

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction & Continuity of Services **Updated 9/1/2021**

As of April 23, 2021, The US Department of Education requires every school district to develop a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services. The details below provide a summary of the information provided on the CVSU website, including the following documents:

- [CVSU 8/26/21 COVID-19 Newsletter](#)
- [COVID-19 Safety Measures to Begin the 2021/22 School Year](#)
- [VDH June 2021 Guide to Masks and COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 Prevention Measures for Fall 2021](#)
- [MTSS Flyer](#)

The primary recommendation is to keep our school community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic including **staying home when you're sick, mask-wearing, regular testing and quarantining when necessary** to stop the spread of the virus. The following information provides additional details on CVSU's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction.

Cleaning and Health Protocols

Based on current data and the state's high vaccination rate, this year the Vermont Agency of Education (AOE) and Department of Health (VDH) issued [advisory recommendations](#) which include fewer mitigation measures than last year.

There are three primary strategies highlighted in the recommendations:

1. Stay home when sick
2. Universal mask wearing, and
3. Regular testing and quarantining when necessary

[CVSU's 8/26/21 COVID-19 Newsletter](#) provides additional information on symptoms, when to stay home, and when to visit your doctor.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Masks are universally required in all CVSU school buildings and on all modes of transportation (buses, vans, drivers' education, and contracted vehicles) until notified otherwise by the district. Masks are not required outdoors. The Agency of Education (AOE) and Vermont Department of Health (VDH) have recommended that schools continue to require universal masking until 80% of eligible students in a

school are vaccinated. We will continue to assess public health conditions statewide and in our community. The district will provide families with advanced notification if any changes are made to the district's universal masking requirement.

A mask must be worn properly to be effective and avoid spreading COVID-19:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before putting it on.
- Put it over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin.
- Make sure it fits snugly against the side of your face.
- Slip the loops over your ears or tie the strings behind your head.
- Do not touch it when you are wearing it.
- Remove it by handling only the ear loops or ties and fold the outside corners together.
- Be careful not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth, then wash your hands immediately after removing it.
- If you wear glasses, find a mask that fits closely over your nose or has a nose wire to help reduce fogging.

Additional information on the types of masks, proper fitting and wearing of masks, and clearing of masks can be found in a [Guide to Masks and COVID-19](#), published by the Vermont Department of Health.

Please review [Superintendent Fedders' letter to parents](#) to view the complete list of COVID-19 safety measures in place to begin the 2021-2022 school year.

Modification of Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

All CVSU school buildings are open for employees and students with limited visitor access.

Classroom seating will be configured with maximum allowable space between students. Students will not be required to cohort into learning pods to begin the year.

During meal services, K-6 students will eat in their classrooms. Students in grade 7-12 will be allowed to eat in school cafeterias, outside in tents and or other designated areas in order to space students out while eating to the greatest extent possible.

On busses, students will sit in assigned seats with as much distance as possible between students. Weather permitting, windows will be opened to increase air circulation.

Please review [Superintendent Fedders' letter to parents](#) to view the complete list of COVID-19 safety measures in place to begin the 2021-2022 school year.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Students and staff will be frequently reminded about the importance of proper handwashing. Hand sanitizer will be available on all buses, in high-traffic areas throughout the school, and in each classroom.

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities

All CVSU school buildings will undergo cleaning and disinfection on a regular basis. Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned often.

Water fountains have been disabled. Students should bring a water bottle and they can utilize our refillable water stations.

All CVSU Schools:

1) Quarterly air quality tests are conducted by KD Associates of Burlington, Vermont. The results are posted on our website and have always come back with no reportable issues.

Washington Village School:

Although our quarterly air quality tests have come back perfect - We are still actively pursuing upgrades to our air circulation system with available grant / Covid money. To that end:

2) In January 2021 - The Heating Ventilating Unit in the gym was replaced with new units using a grant from Efficiency Vermont for \$125,000, to cover the entire project.

3) We are currently in the process of analyzing the Heating Ventilating Unit (HVV) that sits in the Principal office ceiling, and handles the newer section of the school (built in 1991-92). We have tentatively set aside \$250,000 in ESSER money to replace that unit in summer of 2022 or 2023 depending on contractor availability.

Therefore, within 24 months we will essentially have a brand new Ventilation system in Washington.

Orange Center School:

Orange does not have a schoolwide ventilation system - instead they have individual classroom units that we are replacing 1 at a time.

Although our quarterly air quality tests have come back perfect - We are still upgrading our systems with available grant / Covid money. To that end:

1) In January 2021 -2 of the oldest Heating Ventilating Units left in the classrooms were replaced. This was also paid for in full with a grant from Efficiency Vermont, about \$10,000.

2) We are currently in the process of replacing the final 5 units that need replacing - this will be done by October 1st. This is paid for with Covid / ESSER money - no local funds will be used.

Therefore, within 1 month we will have a ventilation system in Orange that is considered brand new.

Williamstown Elementary School (WES):

Although our quarterly air quality tests have come back perfect - We are still pursuing a major upgrade of our ventilation system at WES with available grant / Covid money. To that end:

We are currently in the process of analyzing the entire Heating Ventilating Unit (HVU) system for the school. We have contracted with a local engineer to assess the current system and assist us with drafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to bring the entire system up to code and meet all current CDC

guidelines. We anticipate this work being complete by August 2023. We have tentatively set aside \$500,000 of ESSER money to do this work in the summer of 2023.

Until then, we have the duct work professionally cleaned; and ensured, through preventative maintenance services, that our systems are working as effectively as they should be.

Finally, out of an abundance of caution - we have purchased, with grant money, two (2) industrial fans to increase ventilation in our more open spaces (ie: gym (1), library (1)). We applied for and have also been granted ten (10) large HEPA Air Purifiers to be dispersed throughout the school as needed.

Northfield Elementary School (NES):

Although our quarterly air quality tests have come back perfect - We are still pursuing upgrades to our system at NES with available grant / Covid money. To that end:

We are currently in the process of analyzing the entire Heating Ventilating Unit (HVU) system for the school. We have contracted with a local engineer to assess the current system and assist us with drafting a Request for Proposal (RFP) to bring the parts of the system that need to be up to code and meet all current CDC guidelines. We anticipate this work being complete by August 2022. We have tentatively set aside \$50,000 of ESSER money to do this work in the summer of 2022.

Finally, out of an abundance of caution, we applied for and have also been granted ten (10) large HEPA Air Purifiers to be dispersed throughout the school as needed.

Northfield Middle High School (NMHS):

Our air quality tests come back perfect.

Northfield Middle High School took on replacing Heating Ventilating Units (HVU) prior to COVID. Between 2016 and 2019 the system was completely re-done.

Finally, out of an abundance of caution, we applied for and have also been granted ten (10) large HEPA Air Purifiers to be dispersed throughout the school as needed.

Williamstown Middle High School (WMHS):

Our quarterly air quality tests have come back perfect.

Williamstown Middle High School was completely rebuilt / renovated in 2006 / 2007 and everything was brand new at that time. Through monthly, quarterly and yearly preventative maintenance all systems are working as efficiently as they should.

Finally, out of an abundance of caution - we have purchased, with grant money, three (3) industrial fans to increase ventilation in our more open spaces (ie: gym (2), library (1)). We applied for and have also been granted ten (10) large HEPA Air Purifiers to be dispersed throughout the school as needed.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, & Quarantine

CONTACT TRACING

CVSU will work closely with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member at a school. The district will only be notified by VDH if the individual with COVID-19 was in school while infectious. If someone tests positive but was not in a school facility while they were infectious, the school will not have a role in contact tracing or communicating with families. The infection period is when someone with COVID-19 can spread the virus to others. It starts two days before symptoms begin - or for people who don't have symptoms, two days before they got tested - and continues until they have recovered.

CLOSE CONTACTS & QUARANTINE

When the district is notified of a positive individual, the CVSU COVID Response Team will use information including attendance records, classroom and bus seating charts, class schedules, and activity or co-curricular participation records to identify who at the school had close contact with the positive individual. A close contact is someone who was within six feet of the sick person, with or without a mask, for more than 15 minutes or sharing a space for more than four hours. Anyone identified as a close contact will be contacted by the district or VDH. Close contacts will need to quarantine unless they are fully vaccinated and are not having any symptoms, or have recovered from COVID-19 within the past three months. If the close contact needs to quarantine, it means staying home and away from others for 14 days. They do have the option to end quarantine early if they do not have symptoms and get tested with a PCR test on or after day seven and get a negative test result. All close contacts will receive information outlining quarantine in more detail including the dates on when they can test and return to school. For more information on close contacts, testing, and quarantine, click here to visit the VDH's website.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

SURVEILLANCE TESTING

With COVID-19 testing, people who test positive can get care earlier. Contacts of the positive individual can be traced and self-isolation or quarantine start sooner to help stop the spread of the virus. The district will be offering optional COVID-19 testing for all students and staff. This is the same program that was available to CVSU employees last year through the state. This year, it has been expanded to include students as well. Parents and guardians will have the option to sign their child up for testing at school. We are still waiting for specific details from the state that will include who will be administering the tests and how often they will be available. Outside of school-based testing, anyone can still get tested for COVID-19 at locations throughout the state, free of charge. Click here to find a testing site near you.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

Information on how individuals can obtain a vaccination is made available on a monthly basis through CVSU newsletters. Please view page 8 of [CVSU's 8/26/21 COVID-19 Newsletter](#) for more information on vaccinations and available clinics in our area.

Appropriate Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Students with disabilities or medical conditions who require accommodations and support to access their education and receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) should contact their case manager or principal for further guidance. Under some circumstances, a student's IEP or Section 504 plan team will meet to discuss how to accommodate the student while maintaining a safe environment for all students and staff.

Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

CVSU will continue to work closely with the Vermont Department of Health (VDH) for guidance and direction surrounding COVID-19. School nurses will work closely with VDH if a case of COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member at school.

Continuity of Services Checklist

Services to Address Students' Academic Needs- [MTSS Flyer](#)

All schools in CVSU support students' through their Multi Tiered System of Supports. Each school has a process for identifying students in need of academic support and time within their schedule to provide intervention each day.

Services to Address Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health, and Other Needs

All schools in CVSU have a student support team which includes a mental health clinician from Washington County Mental Health and a staff designated for school/home support. The student team meets weekly to identify student and staff needs and develops plans to support.

Provision of Meals or Other School Provided Services During a Period of School Closure

Students and staff identified as having a close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual may be quarantined. In such an instance, meal pick up will be available to families to ensure children continue to receive health and nutritious meals during their quarantine.

Comments, Questions, & Review of Plan

This plan will be updated as new information and data becomes available, but at least every six months.

If you have comments or suggestions regarding this information, please contact:

Matthew Fedders
Superintendent of Schools

mfedders@cvsu.org
(802)433-5818

Chantelle Stafford
School Nurse/ COVID-19 Coordinator

cstafford@cvsu.org
(802)455-8064