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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 3/28/2022**

[View Previous Update Here](#)

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:

- [General Guidance for All Vermonters](#)
- [RESCINDED: COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Measures for Winter 2022](#)
- [RESCINDED: Recommendations for Contact Tracing](#)

Under the latest guidance, the Agency of Education and Department of Health recommend schools follow the general guidance for all Vermonters. Prior memorandums on the topics of mitigation measures and contact tracing have been rescinded. The current recommendations to keep our school community safe during the COVID-19 pandemic include **staying home when you're sick, making a personal decision whether to wear a mask based on an individual's own personal level of risk, completing a test at home test kit if feeling symptomatic, and isolating for 5 days after testing positive for COVID**. The following information provides additional details on CVSU's Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction.

Cleaning and Health Protocols

As the level of severe disease has lowered in the community, as of March 14, 2022, the Agency of Education has rescinded the COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Measures for Winter 2022 memorandum. As of March 14, schools are directed to follow the general guidance for all Vermonters.

The general guidance recommends the following:

1. Stay home when sick
2. Each person can decide if they want to wear masks and take other precautions based on their own personal level of risk.
3. Follow the VDH guidance if you are identified as a close contact or test positive for COVID-19.

Universal and Correct Wearing of Masks

Masks are no longer universally required in CVSU school buildings or on all modes of transportation (buses, vans, drivers' education, and contracted vehicles). Masks are not required outdoors. Each person can decide if they want to wear masks and take other precautions based on their own personal level of risk. The district will provide families with advanced notification if any changes are made to the district's masking requirement.

Modification of Facilities to Allow for Physical Distancing

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

Students will not be required to cohort into learning pods or require physical distancing between students.

During meal services, students in grades Pk-12 will be allowed to eat in school cafeterias, outside in tents and/or other designated areas that were available prior to the pandemic.

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

The Agency of Education has rescinded contact tracing in schools.

CLOSE CONTACTS & QUARANTINE

The Agency of Education has rescinded all guidance specific to contact tracing and quarantining of students. As of March 14, 2022, the state suggests schools follow the general guidance for all Vermonters.

Diagnostic and Screening Testing

SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Surveillance testing has been discontinued across the state of Vermont.

Efforts to Provide Vaccinations to School Communities

Vaccination clinics were held at CVSU schools in December 2022.

Individuals are encouraged to contact the Vermont Department of Health for availability and locations of COVID vaccination sites in the state.

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

In the instance that the school experiences a closure due to COVID, meal pick up will be available to families to ensure children continue to receive healthy 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:

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