



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction  
& Continuity of Services Plan

Stratford Public Schools

## **Section 1: Health and Safety Strategies**

- All schools will be open and in-person 5 days a week for the full school day.
- Distance/remote learning will **not** be an option for the 21-22 school year.
- The following strategies apply to the Stratford Public Schools. Stratford community programs may follow different guidelines.
  
- **Universal and correct wearing of masks**
  - The Stratford Public Schools will follow all guidance given by CT and Stratford Public Health authorities and/or CT State Department of Education.
  - The district is following the Governor's executive order which is in effect until further notice.
    - All staff and students will wear a cloth mask. No gaiter masks or masks with valves will be permitted
    - Mask Exemption - Note from physician stating reason for exemption must be sent to school nurse for review.
  - Masks will be removed while eating in the cafeteria. Each student will be eating with a desk-top barrier in place.
  
- **Physical distancing**
  - Elementary: Cohorting (students remaining grouped together throughout the day)
  - Secondary: No Cohorting because of available vaccines for this age group
  - We will still utilize 3 feet of distancing when possible. When not possible, other mitigation strategies will be used.
  
- **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**
  - Students will be instructed in proper hygiene.
    - cover mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing
    - use tissues and throw them away
    - wash hands or use hand sanitizer every time they touch mouths or noses.
    - Make sure that hands are scrubbed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and dried. When soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer will be used.
  - Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom and at each exit and entrance and in the cafeteria.

- **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities**
  - The Stratford Public Schools will follow the CDC guidelines provided to districts. As of 8/17/21, this guidance is:
    - Maintain normal cleaning practices in all areas
    - Clean high-touch areas daily
  
- **Isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing**
  - The Stratford Public Schools will follow all guidance given by CT and Stratford Public Health authorities and/or CT State Department of Education.
  - Staff and students who test positive for COVID will be asked to isolate for 10 days and return to school on day 11 if symptom free. This includes being fever free for at least 24 hours.
  - **Members in close contact:**
    - Unvaccinated members who are in close contact (as defined by the CDC) with a positive individual will be asked to quarantine for 10 days. Those members may return to school on day 11 if symptom free.
    - Vaccinated members who are in close contact (as defined by the CDC) with a positive individual will not be required to quarantine. However, those members will be asked to take a COVID test 5 days after exposure. A Rapid COVID test may be administered by the school nurse or by an outside clinic or testing facility of your choice.
  - **Travel for SPS-Anyone who is unvaccinated and travels outside of CT for more than 24 hrs. must quarantine for 7 days and take a COVID test on day 5.If result is negative they may return on day 8.**
  
- **Diagnostic screening and testing**
  - Rapid testing will be conducted by the school nurses based on symptoms. Parental consent will be obtained prior to testing.
  - Voluntary pool testing (COVID PCR test administered to unvaccinated staff and students on a weekly basis)
    - More information will be provided when it is available
  
- **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students**
  - The Stratford Public Schools will continue to offer vaccination clinics for students and staff as they become available.

- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**
  - Mask Exemption: Note from physician stating reason for exemption must be sent to school nurse.
  - Alternate learning settings provided under special circumstances.
  - Other mitigating strategies such as desk shields or greater distancing provided under special circumstances.

## **Section 2: Continuity of Services**

- **Student academic needs**
  - All students will receive grade-level content and instruction.
  - Evidence of student progress will be collected.
  - Academic support materials will be utilized based upon student needs.
  - Grant funding has been allocated to provide:
    - Additional tutors (before, during, and after school based on building needs)
    - Enhanced summer programming
- **Student and staff social and emotional needs**
  - Implementation of RULER ([www.rulerapproach.org](http://www.rulerapproach.org)) at all schools, including lessons and daily routines.
    - Ongoing professional development for staff
  - Continued professional development on Culturally Responsive Teaching ([www.culturallyresponsive.org](http://www.culturallyresponsive.org)), including new learning materials
  - Continued partnership and promotion of community resources such as 2-1-1, Stratford Community Services, and other partners.
- **Quarantined students**
  - All days missed due to quarantine will be treated as excused absences.
  - Absences due to quarantine will be treated as any other long term absence, with assignments sent home and support provided upon return to school.
  - Meals will be made available to students who are quarantined and may be picked up at designated schools during designated times.

## **Section 3: Public Comment**

- May 24 - June 18: DRAFT plan posted on [www.StratfordFamilyHub.org](http://www.StratfordFamilyHub.org) and [www.StratfordK12.org](http://www.StratfordK12.org) (Available in English and Spanish)

- 2 Surveys available on [www.StratfordFamilyHub.org](http://www.StratfordFamilyHub.org) (one for community members, one for families)
- June 1, 2021 - Teachers Focus Group
- June 1, 2021 - Public Forum
- June 2, 2021 - Diversity Committee Focus Group
- June 4, 2021 - Community Focus Group
- June 8, 2021 - Portrait of a Graduate Focus Group Committee
- June 14, 2021 - Family/Caregiver Focus Group

#### **Section 4: Periodic Review Process**

- The Stratford Public Schools will submit an updated plan to the state on the following dates:
  - June 23, 2021
  - December 23, 2021
  - June 23, 2022
  - December 23, 2022
  - June 23, 2023

#### **Section 5: Understandable and uniform format**

Stratford Public School parents and families speak dozens of languages, and some family members have visual and/or other disabilities. The plan will be posted in English and Spanish using the PDF format. Parents who need a written or oral translation, or an alternate format, may contact the Stratford Public Schools via:

- a web link on the plan's page,
- email to the Superintendent's office, or
- by telephone.

This district's central office has translation resources, both technology-based and personnel, to assist parents and families with understanding the plan. Similarly, district or community resources will be used to provide the plan to a parent with a disability in a format readable by appropriate assistive technology.