



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan 23-24

Section 1: Health and Safety Strategies

- All schools will continue to be open and in-person 5 days a week for the full school day.
- Distance/remote learning into a classroom will **not** be an option for the 23-24 school year.
- The following strategies apply to the Stratford Public Schools. Stratford community programs may follow different guidelines.
- SPS will follow CDC Covid-19 Community Level Guidance. For more information, see: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators> .
- **Masks**
 - The Stratford Public Schools will follow guidance given by CT DPH and Stratford Public Health authorities and/or CT State Department of Education.
 - The CT Mask Mandate is no longer in effect.
 - Mask Choice will be followed by SPS. Paper masks will be available at all schools if your child forgets their mask at home.
 - When community transmission levels are listed in the **CDC HIGH** category Stratford Health Department and SPS will review CDC guidance and determine if implementation of a universal mask recommendation is needed.
 - Per the CDC guidance, individuals returning after 5 days of COVID isolation will wear a mask for 5 additional days upon their return to school and/or work. If a member is not able to wear a mask, they will continue to isolate at home for 10 days and return to school/work on day 11.
- **Wellness/Illness, handwashing and respiratory etiquette**
 - School community members should remain home if feeling unwell and contact their physician for further guidance.
 - Students will be instructed regarding 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, 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 8/1/2022, this guidance is:
 - Maintain normal cleaning practices in all areas
 - Clean high-touch areas daily
 - Resting blankets used in Pre-K settings will be sent home weekly to be laundered.
 - Student PE/Sport clothing/uniforms will be taken home weekly to be laundered. Shared equipment should be wiped with SAFE T cleaning wipe after each use.
- **Isolation, quarantine, and contact tracing**
 - The Stratford Public Schools will follow all guidance given by CDC 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 5 days and return to school /work on day 6 if they are fever free for at least 24 hours, and symptoms have improved.
 - **See below for updated COVID guidelines.**

SPS COVID-19 Guidelines 2023-2024 “Launching Into Healthy Learning”

A. Mild Respiratory Symptoms /TEST-MASK-GO Strategy (Regardless of vaccination status)	B. COVID-19 Symptoms or are not feeling well. (Regardless of vaccination status)
<p>TEST-MASK-GO allows someone meeting the following criteria to continue to report to work and attend school while having mild symptoms. If the criteria below is met individuals will <i>TEST-MASK and GO</i>.</p>	<p>Examples of COVID -19 Symptoms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever or chills • Cough • Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing • Fatigue • Muscle or body aches • Headache • Loss of taste or smell • Sore throat • Congestion or runny nose • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea
<p>If you have <i>mild</i> symptoms, for example :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrequent cough • Congestion • Runny nose • Sore throat <p>And if you are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever free (< 100°F) • Not living with anyone who has had COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks. • Able to wear a mask consistently and correctly while symptomatic. • Testing negative for COVID-19 prior to reporting in-person on every day you are symptomatic, as well as one final test on the morning of when symptoms have resolved. 	<p>Individuals with COVID -19 symptoms do not fall into the Test-Mask and Go strategy should :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate at home. • Get tested for COVID-19 with a PCR, antigen, or home test as soon as possible. • Avoid activities outside of home. • If the COVID-19 test is negative, and after symptoms improve, including being fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication, may return to work/school.
<p>Individuals who have any respiratory disease symptoms should not use Test-Mask-Go strategy if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a fever (≤ 100°F). • Or are living with someone who has had COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks. 	

C. Tested Positive for COVID-19 (Regardless of vaccination status)	D. Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 and are symptom free. (Regardless of vaccination status)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received a positive COVID-19 test result Isolate at home for 5 days. Return to work/school on day 6 if you are feeling well, symptoms have significantly improved and are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Upon returning to work/school, wear a mask for an additional 5 days. If a mask can not be worn a 10 day isolation period is required. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to report to work and attend school. Take a COVID-19 test 5 days after exposure. If the COVID-19 test result is negative, continue to report to work and attend school. Wear a mask at all times around others for 10 days and monitor for symptoms.
E. School Outbreaks / High Risk Classroom Exposure to COVID-19 case/cases (Regardless of vaccination status)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SPS will notify CT DPH and Stratford Health Department to determine appropriate course of action when there are multiple positive cases in a school or a specific classroom. Quarantine, isolation, contact tracing and COVID-19 testing may be required. 	

- **Diagnostic screening and testing**
 - Rapid Covid testing (when test kits are available) will be conducted by the school nurses based on symptoms. Parental consent will be obtained prior to testing.
 - Surveillance Covid testing (when test kits are available) may be used prior to large group events for example, school dances, return from school vacations and or classroom outbreaks.
- **Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students**
 - SHD offers vaccination clinics for students and staff as they become available. This will include COVID and Flu vaccines.
- **Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies**
 - 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 program with enrichment programming, space for additional students, and no tuition for Stratford Public Schools students
 - Utilization of SRBI strategies will be leveraged to support academic needs

- **Student and staff social and emotional needs**

- Implementation of RULER (www.rulerapproach.org) at all schools, and throughout our community—staff, students, and community stakeholders, including lessons and daily routines.
 - Ongoing professional development for staff
- Continued professional development on Culturally Responsive Teaching (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.

- **Isolated students**

- Students who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for 5 days and return on day 6. Students who must isolate are encouraged to reach out to their teachers for assignments, homework, and other relevant information.
- Meals will be made available to students who are in isolation and may be picked up at designated schools during designated times.

Section 3: Public Comment

- The Reopening Plan for 2023-2024 will be posted to the district website prior to the beginning of the school year and updated as needed. The public may comment through the website or via email to the administration office.

Section 4: Periodic Review Process

- The Stratford Public Schools will submit an updated plan to the state on the following dates:
 - August 31, 2022
 - February 28, 2023
 - September 29, 2023
 - February 28, 2024
 - August 31, 2024
 - More frequently if needed, based on a quarterly review of conditions

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 administration office, or
- by telephone.

This district 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.