

Woodbridge School District

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Updated February 27, 2023

I. Health and Safety Strategies

Related to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Woodbridge School District has currently suspended its policy related to travel and self-quarantine. Policy review continues to assess the degree to which policies should be enacted and/or revised.

For each of the following mitigation strategies, the Woodbridge School District will comply with relevant CDC guidelines, Connecticut DPH and CSDE guidelines, and State of Connecticut Executive Orders. Specific details follow.

Mitigation Strategy	WSD Response
Universal and correct wearing of masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of the date of this document, mask-wearing within the school building or on the schools grounds is an individual's choice <i>*Exception being Covid positive cases.</i>
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of this date, the CDC has removed the requirement for physical distance.
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent handwashing is expected and will be modeled and encouraged, particularly after one eats, touches one's face, or shares materials. Hand sanitation stations will continue to be maintained throughout the school building. Students and staff are expected to stay home if experiencing a fever.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgraded ventilation systems will continue to provide high-quality air filtration at Beecher Road School, including continued use of MERV 13 air filters. External doors and windows should be closed to facilitate the best indoor air quality via the building ventilation system. High-touch surfaces and objects (e.g., door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) will be cleaned within the school building and on school buses at least once per day, and more often if needed (e.g., when visibly dirty). Staff removing garbage bags or handling/disposing of trash will use gloves, and will wash their hands after removing their gloves.
Contract tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal Health Departments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on State and local guidelines, contact tracing has ended. All positive Covid-19 cases in the school building will be reported to the State of Connecticut per DPH protocols. Covid-19 positive cases will isolate for a minimum of 5 days and will contact school nurse.
Diagnostic screening and testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students and staff are encouraged to follow health guidance and stay home if experiencing a fever. (Further guidance can be found on Launching into Healthy Learning – Fall 2022.) Nursing staff will monitor all student absences and recommend to families when to follow-up with a pediatrician for guidance on returning to school. Project Covid DeteCT has ended, and there will be no testing in school. Free test kits and masks are available.

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff and students, if eligible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSD will offer coordination with State and local agencies to facilitate Covid-19 vaccination clinics. Information on vaccine availability for all community members will be disseminated to families.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will continue to assist students in strategies to increase tolerance for mask-wearing, physical distancing and handwashing. • Additional PPE will be made available to staff as needed.

II. Continuity of Services

Based on CSDE guidelines, all students of the Woodbridge School District continue to participate in full in-person learning. To address students’ academic, social, emotional, mental health and other needs, the following services are implemented:

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- Continued emphasis has been placed on social-emotional supports for all students and families.
- Technology staff ensure that all students have access to Wi-Fi, appropriate devices and materials for learning, including digital learning as necessary.
- Technology staff and classroom teachers provide students ongoing opportunities to learn how to be effective digital citizens.
- Nursing staff continue to recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety and continue to work with the school-based Wellness Team to determine appropriate supports for students experiencing stress-related physical symptoms.
- Cafeteria full use foster continues to foster students’ social connections

To address staff social, emotional mental health and other needs, the following services continue to be implemented:

- Administrators utilize informal check-ins with all staff on an ongoing basis, formal meetings through the staff evaluation process and regular visibility throughout the school building.
- Administrators provide staff opportunities for self-care and fun through celebrations, wellness activities and whole-school community building activities.
- Administrators provide staff time to work together in professional learning communities, including to identify priority curricular standards, to ensure appropriate curricular resources, to review student assessment data prior to teaching units of study and to continue to develop strategies for effective blended learning.
- Administrators utilize the intervention process for students needing differentiated resources and support.
- Administrators and nursing staff recognize psychosomatic symptoms of stress and anxiety and work with the school-based wellness team to determine appropriate supports for staff experiencing stress-related physical symptoms.

III. Public Comment

In 2021 the development of this Safe Return to In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan was accomplished by a committee of representative stakeholders. A Frequently-Asked Questions document was also developed in late summer 2021. Public input on the current updated Plan was accomplished via continued dialogue with individual members of all constituent groups, as well as with their formal representatives. In relation to the District’s implementation of “Screen & Stay,” feedback was solicited via: a google Forms survey, an open virtual forum for oral public input with members of the Reopening Committee and meetings with district staff. Well over 300 individuals participated in one or more of these opportunities. The Board of Education maintained a Safe Return Update on each regular meeting agenda during the 2021/22 school year and the Superintendent issued regular community updates inviting feedback. As required by the CSDE, ongoing review and revisions of this plan are conducted every six months.

IV. Periodic Review Process

Periodically through September 30, 2023, the Woodbridge School District will review, and as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan, utilizing the committee structure complemented by public input.

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Consistent with federal regulations, this Plan has been written in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, has been orally translated. Upon request, a parent who is an individual with a disability will be provided an alternative format accessible to that parent. Individuals requiring assistance with accessing or understanding the Plan should contact the Woodbridge School District Superintendent Vonda Tencza

Our Mission

Beecher Road School is a caring, creative community that models and inspires the joy of lifelong learning, embraces diversity and celebrates the unique qualities of each person.

Our Vision

To provide a dynamic educational environment that challenges and empowers students to persevere as innovators and collaborators in preparation for their role as responsible global citizens.