

Newtown Public Schools
Re-Entry Wellness & Mitigation Subcommittee Meeting
July 14, 2020

Minutes of the Re-Entry Wellness & Mitigation Subcommittee meeting on July 14, 2020
at 8 a.m. by video-conference

Attendees:

Anne Dalton
Michelle Ku
Lisa Kilcourse
Kerri Sommer
Karen Powell
Donna Culbert

- I. Within six categories, individual practices were reviewed for the relative effectiveness of the strategy for mitigating risk of spread (based on CDC, WHO, CSDE and other resources) and the feasibility of implementation.

Social Distancing and Minimizing Exposure
Hygiene Practices
Monitoring and Excluding for Illness
Cleaning and Materials Handling
Water, Ventilation, and Building
Transportation

Draft_Recommendations

Pillar: Wellness

The focus of this pillar of our Re Entry plan is to promote the health and wellbeing of our community as we return to school this fall. Ensuring the health and safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration in designing a re-entry plan for Newtown schools.

The primary means of preventing the spread of disease are based on:

- limiting the number of contacts each person has
- consistent use of masks
- frequent hand and surface disinfection
- physical distancing

Schools are a challenging setting to meet all of these measures at all times, but these measures must be adhered to as much as possible.

The following action steps are put into place to protect our students, staff and families. The action steps align with current guidelines from the CDC, the American Academy of Pediatrics and CT Department of Public Health and the Newtown Health Department.

Action Steps:	Details/ Considerations	Persons Responsible	
<p>Social Distancing & Minimizing Exposure</p>	<p><u>Daily Screening at home</u> -Covid screening tool home to parents and staff -Provide education/training on symptoms of Covid 19, when to stay home -App?</p>	<p>Parents Staff</p>	<p>At all times</p>
<p>*CT - priority p. 4</p>			
<p>p.20</p>	<p><u>Masks/Face Coverings</u> -Masks or face coverings covering both nose and mouth will be required for everyone on buses and in school buildings/campuses. -Exceptions to mask requirement: medical condition or disability. Teacher shall only remove mask for brief periods with prior approval if necessary for effective instruction (ie speech therapist). Teachers shall increase distance from students to > 6 ft if mask must be removed. -If mask is removed, face shield or other barrier shall be used. Teachers shall wear mask to decrease transmission risk and to model for students</p>	<p>Governance Operations Staff Students</p>	<p>At all times</p>
<p>*CT - requirement p 8</p>	<p>-Schools will be prepared to supply masks to any students or staff member who does not have one</p>		
<p>*CT - requirement, p 8</p>			
<p>*CT - requirement, p 21</p>			
<p>*CT - requirement, p 15</p>	<p>- Masks with a filtered valve will be prohibited</p>	<p>All Star & Administration</p>	<p>LOW: Buses at full capacity</p>
	<p><u>Buses:</u> -Encourage alternative transportation when possible</p>		<p>MOD: Space students 1/seat, every other row</p> <p>HIGH: No buses</p>

<p>*CT priority - cohorts, p 4 *CT requirement: classroom lay out, p 8</p> <p>*CT Guidance for PE, p 36 Arts & Music, p 37</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Space students out as widely as possible on bus -Assigned seats. Seat family members together-Load bus from back to front -All occupants will wear masks or face coverings, and the driver will be shielded by a Plastic shield for driver -Bus monitor on all buses initially -Unload/Load one bus at a time -Masks will be required for everyone on the bus -Buses will have masks for Students who board the bus without one -Windows on buses will remain open when possible <p><u>Arrival/Dismissal:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staggered arrival and dismissal times will be spread out as much as possible at each school -Separate entrances if feasible -Doors open for touchless entry/exit -Touchless hand sanitizer at entrances and located throughout the buildings -Manage/limit locker use as much as possible. Stagger times as needed. Consider alternatives to lockers. Lockers will not be used -Allow more time for arrival and dismissal -Any student who appears ill on arrival will be escorted directly to the Health Office for assessment. <p><u>Hallway:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staggered bell schedule at NHS, NMS to decrease 	<p>Principals & Staff</p> <p>Allstar - conversation</p> <p>Operations Principals Staff</p> <p>Facilities Operations Administration Staff</p> <p>Facilities Operations Staff</p>	<p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>At all times</p> <p>LOW: space students 3-6 ft apart</p> <p>MOD: space students at least 6 ft apart</p> <p>HIGH: school closed</p>
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<p>AAP Guidelines for Returning to School (Physical Distancing Measures)</p> <p>*CT requirement - bathroom protocols, p 10</p> <p>*CT guidance, p 10</p>	<p>crowding in halls</p> <p>- use strategies and continue to evaluate means to decrease the number of students in hallways and congregation of students during passing times</p> <p>-Floors marked to indicate direction of traffic</p> <p>-Signage</p> <p>-One way halls where feasible</p> <p><u>Classroom:</u></p> <p>-Maintain cohorts of students whenever possible</p> <p>-Desks spaced 3-6 ft apart whenever possible.</p> <p>-Desks facing same direction.</p> <p>-Avoid tables where students face each other</p> <p>-Assigned seats</p> <p>-Mark floors to indicate spacing</p> <p>-Keep classroom doors open where possible or maintain hand sanitizer, paper towels and trash can near the door</p> <p>Hand sanitizer in every classroom?</p> <p>-Modify specials: PE, music, band, library to allow adequate space (12 foot spacing for singing, wind instruments)</p> <p>-Have teachers move from class to class rather than students</p> <p>-Use Google Meet for specials when possible (during distance learning)</p> <p>PE/Music - Reach out to Michelle</p> <p>LMS Protocol - Reach out to Suzanne</p> <p>-Avoid use of shared equipment/materials</p> <p>-Ensure handwashing/Sanitizing access</p>	<p>Principals Staff</p> <p>Operations Facilities Principals Staff</p> <p>Operations Facilities Principals Staff</p> <p>Operations Facilities Principals Staff</p>	<p>LOW: space students 3-6 feet apart</p> <p>MOD: space students at least 6 ft apart</p> <p>At all times</p>
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<p>*CT requirement, p 12</p>	<p>-Keep classroom doors open when possible and/or Place paper towels and trash can at door of classroom to use when opening door to avoid touching door handle</p>	<p>Governance Operations Principals Security</p>	<p>At all times until further notice</p>
<p>*CT requirement, p 41</p>	<p><u>Snacks/Lunch:</u> -Hand hygiene before & after eating -Eating in classroom is preferred where possible. Each principal will develop a plan for students to safely distance, use provided shielding and remove masks while eating lunch. -Space students as far apart as possible -Desk shields for extra protection -Use additional eating spaces including outdoor areas -Box lunches delivered to classroom -Paper covering for desk to ease cleanup</p>	<p>Governance Mark Pompano Fire Marshall</p>	
<p>*CT requirement, p. 12</p>	<p>-Maintain safety for food allergic children -Mask break at snack time, lunch</p>	<p>Principals - Facilities</p>	
<p>*CT requirement, p. 21</p>	<p>-staggered snacks within the classroom in order to minimize number of students with masks off at one time -emphasize removing mask only during eating and putting it back on once finished -Clean surfaces after eating</p> <p><u>Recess:</u> -hand washing before and after use or use of hand sanitizer, - supervision of students to ensure physical distancing is maintained Maintain cohorts</p>	<p>Principals - Facilities</p>	

~~during recess in younger grades~~
~~-Assign different classes to separate areas of playground~~
~~-Hand hygiene on re-entry into building~~

Bathrooms:

-Assign cohorts to designated bathrooms in younger grades
-Turn off hand dryers
-Provide adequate soap and paper towels
-Touchless wastebasket near door
-Cleaning of bathrooms per DPH

Cleaning Protocols

-Designate BR to be used by individual in isolation
-Signage
Place trash can and paper towel roll by the bathroom door for students and staff to use to avoid touching the door handle with their hands.

Visitor Prohibition:

-Parents not to accompany students into school
-Parent drop off of materials in vestibule
-No parent volunteers
-Virtual meetings for 504/PPT, conferences
-No use of building by outside organizations (Parks & Rec??)
-Ed Advance before & after school program IS allowed
Include ways to safely allow access for before- and after-school and childcare programs.
-Before and after school staff members should be trained with the same protocols that

	<p>school is using. -Making sure substitute teachers are trained in school/district protocols.</p> <p>Fire Drills/Drills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Modify drills in accordance with Fire Marshall & Security to avoid crowding & mixing of cohorts <p><u>Specialists and Interventionists</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- maintain a log of student contact- "meet" virtually when possible- use alternative space if office space does not provide room for safe distancing-Have these teachers move from class to class instead of students. <p><u>Staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- meetings should be virtual as much as possible-congregating in break rooms, especially for eating, should be avoided as much as possible. Alternative break areas may need to be provided.		
<p>Hygiene Practices</p>	<p><u>Handwashing:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Education for staff & students-Adequate supplies of soap & paper towel, hand sanitizer at building entrance and in every classroom-Signage <p><u>Cough/Sneeze Etiquette:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Education for staff & students-Adequate supplies of tissues & handwashing materials-Touchless wastebaskets-Surgical masks for anyone with cough	<p>Operations Facilities Nurses Staff</p> <p>Nurses Facilities-supplies</p>	<p>At all times</p>

	<p>-Signage</p> <p><u>Mask & PPE Use/Care:</u></p> <p>-Education on wearing & care of masks, face shields, other PPE</p>	<p>Nurses</p>	
<p>Monitoring Attendance/ Exclusion for Illness</p> <p>*CT requirement, p 19</p>	<p><u>Attendance:</u></p> <p>-Eliminate penalty for absence</p> <p>-Monitor patterns of absence</p> <p>-Communicate trends to Health Department</p> <p>- Clearly define what differentiates distance learning, homebound instruction, and absence.</p> <p>- Clearly define when a student will receive distance learning education (will a student who is sick or isolated for a short duration receive the same instruction as a student who is on the distance learning plan? What if a parent decides to remove the student for an extended period?)</p> <p><u>Illness:</u></p> <p>-Education for all on when to stay home, symptoms to report and referral for testing.</p> <p>-Daily screening at home by staff & students (App or written guidelines in a communication from the district)</p> <p>-Instruct staff & families to inform the school nurse if they are sick with Covid 19 symptoms or have been exposed to someone with confirmed Covid 19. This information will be kept in a confidential health record</p> <p>-Provide thermometers to families (500x\$8.50=\$4,250)</p> <p>-Anyone with a fever ≥ 100 will be excluded from school</p> <p>-Track attendance patterns</p>	<p>Governance</p> <p>Nurses/Health Dept</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Nurses</p> <p>Nurses</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Parents</p> <p>Nurses & Health Department</p> <p>Operations</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Families</p> <p>(possible use of an app to prompt people to report symptoms daily. There is one called COVIDSymptom Study from Massachusetts General Hospital that is free and crowdsources reporting of symptoms. CDC is supposed to be offering one soon)</p>	<p>Low: Full school attendance allowed. Monitor patterns. Ongoing communication with HD</p> <p>Mod: 50% attendance in buildings. Close communication with HD/contact tracers</p> <p>High: Schools closed per administration & Health Dept</p>

<p>*CT requirement p.23</p>	<p>-Work closely with Health District for case identification / contact tracing</p> <p>-Students or staff who become ill at school will be sent to the school nurse for assessment</p> <p>-Identify isolation area in each school for individuals with possible Covid 19 at school (with a means for observing student in the room)</p> <p>-For the purposes of contact tracing, schools shall log all persons who enter the isolation room. The individual supervising the room must be equipped with proper PPE.</p>	<p>Health Dept. Nurses</p> <p>Governance Operations Nurses Health Dept</p>	
<p>CT plan, p. 25</p>	<p>-Staff or students with symptoms of possible Covid 19 will be immediately isolated at school, sent home & referred to their MD for assessment</p> <p>-If an individual within the school is identified as Covid 19 positive, The Superintendent and the Health Director will be notified immediately. School will be closed for a period that will 2-5 days to allow time for the Health District department to assess circumstances and conduct contact tracing. and All staff and district families will be notified of the school affected</p> <p>-All staff and families of students who were in contact with a COVID+ student or staff member will be notified through contact tracing protocols (i.e., classmates, busmates, sports teammates)</p> <p>-If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID, entire</p>	<p>Governance Instruction Principals Human Resources</p>	

<p>*CT requirement, p. 18</p> <p>*CT requirement p. 23</p> <p>Protecting Vulnerable Populations</p> <p>*CT Guidance, p 19</p>	<p>cohorts may need to be quarantined for 2 weeks – including buses, lunch waves, classes, sports teams. Depending on the extent of the exposure, particularly in the Middle School and High School, it may be necessary to close an entire school for the two week period.</p> <p>-Specific community and school-based indicators will be monitored according to The Connecticut Department of Public Health guidance (yet to be issued) to assist in decisions about extent of schools being open/closed.</p> <p><u>Return to School after Illness or Travel to a Travel-Restricted Area:</u></p> <p>- If positive for Covid 19, students and staff must follow guidelines from the Health District and provide documentation to the school nurse upon return</p> <p>- For possible Covid 19, students and staff must provide negative test results or MD note before return to school</p> <p>- If returning from a travel-restricted area (as defined by the State of Connecticut), students and staff must quarantine for 14 days before returning to school</p> <p><u>Health</u></p> <p>- Students must be up-to-date on immunizations. (The School-Based Health Center</p>	<p>Governance Nurses</p>	
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Support Mental Health & Wellness

CT requirement p.39

will be available to assist)
- Students must fulfill requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school. Health assessments are required for all students in grades six or seven and grades nine or ten.

-Encourage parents, staff and students who have concerns about health risk related to Covid 19 to consult their health care provider regarding school reentry

-Revise policies for absences and truancy

-Provide remote learning for students unable to return to in person instruction

-Human Resources will work with staff individually to advise those unable to return to work & those that need to stay home due to illness or quarantine

Address Mental Health Concerns related to Covid 19

-Use "minute meetings"(2-4 min each) to check in with students. Use predetermined questions

-Identify students who need connection & provide small group or individual work to build connection

-Prepare staff to identify issues related to abuse and neglect in the context of the pandemic and comply with all mandated reporting requirements.

Support for Students With Emotional Dysregulation

	<p>-Educate staff re new protocols, need for PPE if unable to maintain distance from student with unsafe behaviors</p> <p><u>Normalizing Mask Wearing</u></p> <p>-Provide parents with information on masks, encouraging practice before re entry</p> <p>-Parents, staff will serve as role models</p> <p>-Posters, newsletters with mask information for parents</p> <p><u>Mental Health Support for Staff</u></p> <p>-Provide access to district Social Worker</p> <p>-Make EAP programs clearly and readily available</p>		
<p>Cleaning/ Materials Handling</p> <p>CT requirement, p. 18</p>	<p>-Avoid sharing of equipment and materials as much as possible, especially high touch materials such as books, computers, calculators, writing utensils, keyboards, art supplies</p> <p>-Provide classroom materials for each student</p> <p>-Provide individual computer keyboard sleeves for each student</p> <p>-Every student will be assigned a laptop.</p> <p>-Clean, disinfect, sanitize materials at the end of each day per CDC guidelines or quarantine materials (such as library books) for an adequate time before re-use. 48 hours?</p> <p>- Provide adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol or 70% isopropyl alcohol,</p>		

	<p>paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, cloth face coverings (as feasible) and no-touch trash receptacle in each classroom.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leave classroom and office doors open as much as possible, and if the door is closed, compel the use of hand sanitizer before and after touching the doorknob. - Clean handles of main entrance/exit several times a day - Close all drinking fountains unless they have a water-bottle filling function. 		
<p>COVID19 Program Coordination</p> <p>CT requirements p. 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The school nurse will serve as the School Liaison and will engage with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions or concerns about health and safety - The School Liaison will provide staff training before school starts in hygiene, distancing, health and safety protocols - A Central Office administrator and building principals will serve as COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaisons and will be appointed to answer any compliance issues - All staff and students will be familiarized with good practices and expectations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - social distancing, - frequent hand 	<p>Nurses</p> <p>C.O.</p> <p>C.O. & principals</p>	

	<p>washing and use of hand sanitizer, – use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth, – respiratory and cough etiquette, and – enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Professional development will take place prior to school start to familiarize staff with new practices and protocols- A Communications Plan will be developed to include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- systems to communicate the most up to date policies and protocols to staff, students, and families.- multiple communication methods (mail, e-mail, phone calls, text messaging, social media, LEA and school websites).- policies and protocols are clearly marked with version and date, as they may change over time.- a COVID-19 landing page in which communication and guidance can be updated regularly.- communications plans available in relevant languages of families in the community, as well as accessible to those with visual and/or hearing		
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	<p>impairments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Detailed updates with time critical information regarding policies, protocols, or health data changes.- a plan for how the community will be notified of any changed policies, need to cancel classes, or other changes or restrictions.		
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