


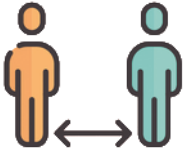








UPDATE: MARCH 7, 2022

Health and Safety Strategies

During Summer 2020, the Simsbury Public Schools formed a Return to School Task Force. Its purpose was to address our initial return to in-person learning for Fall 2020, inclusive of guiding principles, instructional models, mitigation strategies and requirements of families and students to assure a safe return. These protocols were articulated throughout the publication [Simsbury Plan for Reopening](#).

As the pandemic has evolved, so has guidance and understanding of Covid-19. Additionally, since the penning of this plan in August 2020, vaccinations have become widely available for individuals 5 years of age and older, hospitalizations continue to decrease, and the State has modified previous restrictions inclusive of rescinding the mask mandate in schools (February 2022). Therefore, the following revised plan communicates mitigation strategies as we approach Spring 2022. As further guidance from the CDC, Department of Public Health (DPH), CSDE, or the FVHD is provided, Simsbury will certainly review and revise this information and our strategies accordingly.

	Mitigation Strategy	Simsbury's Response
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Mask Wearing	<p>Simsbury students and employees participated in universal wearing of masks from August 2020 through February 26, 2022.</p> <p>The Governor's executive order requiring masks in schools was rescinded effective February 28, 2022. Additionally, the federal mandate requiring masks on school buses was rescinded on February 25, 2022. Therefore, as of February 28, 2022 mask wearing will be a matter of choice for Simsbury students/staff unless legally obligated at a future date.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	<p>Simsbury will implement physical distancing of three feet when feasible across school settings. Cohorting of students remains a recommended strategy that can be implemented with greater flexibility.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	<p>As handwashing and respiratory etiquette are effective at mitigating the spread of any disease, these taught practices will be reinforced throughout the school day. Direct teaching of these skills will occur as needed.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	<p>The Simsbury Public Schools will continue our regular cleaning practices. Cleaning logs will be completed for each public space (classrooms, restrooms, etc.). Ventilation will continue to meet or exceed building standards set by the CSDE and defined by our ventilation study as we continue to implement recommendations in this area.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Contact tracing in collaboration with the state or local health departments	<p>Contact tracing will be modified and implemented to define outbreaks or spread as opposed to utilized for school exclusion. Our school nursing staff and administrators are well-versed in these practices and procedures. They will continue to collaborate with the FVHD and follow guidelines related to any requirements. Communication will occur from the building level.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Diagnostic screening and testing	<p>As it is good practice, families will be asked to conduct daily health screens. If students or staff feel ill, they are asked to remain home and be symptom-free for 24 hours prior to their return.</p> <p>At home testing kits are available from the school health office should families need them.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, staff, and eligible students	<p>The DPH stresses that the most important mitigation strategy for those 5+ years of age is vaccination. The FVHD continues to successfully offer clinics to both employees and students since their onset in Spring 2021. Staff and families may reach out to the FVHD should assistance be needed in finding a vaccination site.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	<p>The Simsbury Public Schools will continue to provide accommodations to any staff or students in accordance with district policy and governing laws.</p>