

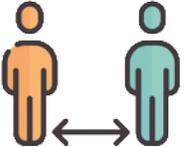


UPDATE: AUGUST 31, 2022

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 we learn to live with COVID in all facets of life, it is important to update our approach to manage our schools at this point in the pandemic. By and large, we are returning to normal operation procedures in the Simsbury Public Schools. Thanks to widespread vaccination efforts and a much better understanding of the virus itself, we are confident that our schools will be safe places as we continue to experience COVID in our community. Therefore, the following plan communicates mitigation strategy developments from our initial reopening plan as we approach the 2022 school year. Should further guidance from the CDC, Department of Public Health (DPH), CSDE, or the FVHD be provided, Simsbury will 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 and correct wearing of masks from August 2020 thru February 2022.</p> <p>The Governor's executive order requiring masks in schools was rescinded February 2022. Therefore, at this juncture, mask wearing will be a matter of choice for Simsbury students and staff unless legally obligated at a later date.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 Physical distancing	<p>Simsbury will implement physical distancing when feasible and appropriate for the activity. School provided transportation will continue with consistent bus assignments for students.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</p>	<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"/>	 <p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</p>	<p>The Simsbury Public Schools will continue our regular cleaning practices. Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple school locations. 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"/>	 <p>Contact tracing in in collaboration with the state or local health departments</p>	<p>Contract tracing is no longer required per the Farmington Valley Health District. Should an unusual cluster of cases be identified in the school setting, communication will occur from the building level.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Diagnostic screening and testing</p>	<p>As it is good practice, families will be asked to conduct daily health screens. If students or staff are mildly symptomatic, they are encouraged to implement the Test, Mask and Go protocol, participating in-person provided one is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fever free (<100.4 degrees) • not living with anyone who has tested positive for COVID in the past 2 weeks • testing negative daily each morning, prior to school arrival <p>It is recommended that mildly symptomatic individuals wear a mask consistently and correctly until symptoms subside. At home testing kits are available from the school health office should families need them.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students.</p>	<p>The DPH continues to stress that the most important mitigation strategy for those 6 months+ of age is vaccination. The FVHD successfully offered clinics to both employees and students during 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"/>		The Simsbury Public Schools will continue to provide accommodations to any staff or students in accordance with district policy and governing laws.
	Appropriate accommodations for people with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	