


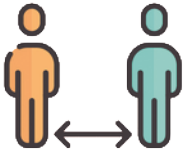








**UPDATE: AUGUST 16, 2021**

## 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 12 years of age and older, and the State has modified previous restrictions in public places. Therefore, the following plan communicates mitigation strategy developments from our initial reopening plan as we approach the 2021 school year. 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"/>	  <b>Universal and correct wearing of masks</b>	<p>Simsbury students and employees participated in universal and correct wearing of masks during the 2020 school year.</p> <p>The Governor's executive order requires masks in schools and on bus transportation <i>regardless of vaccination status</i>. The DPH and FVHD also made mask recommendations in alignment with this order. Therefore, please send your child to school each day with a clean mask, as wearing them will be required of anyone while in our school buildings.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	  <b>Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)</b>	<p>Simsbury will implement physical distancing of three feet when feasible. Cohorting of students remains a recommended strategy that can be implemented with greater flexibility. School provided transportation will continue consistent bus assignments for students.</p>

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Handwashing and respiratory etiquette</b>	<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 need is demonstrated.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation</b>	<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"/>	 <b>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the state or local health departments</b>	<p>Should contact tracing become necessary, our school nursing staff and administrators are well-versed in the practices and procedures of this process. They will contact trace using the guidance of less than three feet of distance for 15 or more minutes. They will continue to collaborate with the FVHD and follow guidelines related to any required quarantine. Communication will occur from the building level.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Diagnostic screening and testing</b>	<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>Diagnostic testing is available at local health centers (CVS, Walgreens, etc.) should families determine that need. The FVHD is also offered as a resource to families.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <b>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</b>	<p>The DPH continues to stress that the most important mitigation strategy for those 12+ years of age is vaccination. The FVHD successfully offered closed 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"/>	 <b>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</b>	<p>Students with IEPs were provided the ability to access in-person instruction through the use of necessary accommodations and the direct teaching of skills needed for mitigation (mask wearing, hand hygiene and respiratory health, etc.) prior to the timeline of their typical peers. The Simsbury Public Schools will continue to provide accommodations to any staff or students in accordance with district policy and governing laws.</p>