



Committed to Excellence

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Updated August 26, 2021

I. Health and Safety Strategies

Describe how the LEA plan includes (or will be modified to include) the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies and a description of any such policies on each of the strategies listed in the following table.

The Trumbull Public Schools are committed to the safety of our students and staff. As such, we will follow all of the mitigation strategies outlined below on page 2 and 3 of this document. We recognize that the prevalence of COVID in our community and State should be a significant factor when determining the district's response. In addition, the percent of our community that is vaccinated will play a significant role in the impact that COVID should have on our school community. However, mitigation strategies like hand washing, regular cleaning of high touch surfaces, vaccine distribution, and proper ventilation will provide a healthier environment for all. Please see the [August 20 letter](#) from our Director of Nursing which provides helpful information on staying healthy. While providing a very safe environment, we also understand that our mission is to educate students. Therefore, we must provide the least restrictive environment for all students so that we may educate all students to the highest level possible. This means that teachers must be allowed to use high-quality instructional strategies (small-group work, student to student discourse, feedback, etc.). In addition, we recognize the importance of Social Emotional Learning which requires that students and staff interact face to face.

Mitigation strategy	Local Education Agency (LEA) Response
Universal and correct wearing of masks	All students and staff will be required to follow all State and/or Federal laws/mandates as they pertain to masks. As these laws/mandates are updated, the schools will align with the updates. The Trumbull Public Schools reserves the right to develop more stringent requirements if necessary based on COVID cases, infection rates, and spread in our school buildings. Educational materials will continue to be provided to parents and staff about the proper way to wear a mask. Currently, Executive Order 13A requires that all students and staff wear properly fitting masks through September 30, 2021 regardless of their vaccination status while indoors. Students and staff are not expected to wear masks while outside. Executive Order 13A allows the State Department of Education to write specific guidelines for reopening. See the State Plan that specifies rare medical exemptions to the mask mandate. These are the same rules followed during the 2020-2021 school year. Any mask exemption request must be provided to the school nurse for review.

Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	The Trumbull Public Schools will adhere to all State and Federal laws/mandates as it relates to social distancing. We will maximize the distance between students and staff, as possible, while allowing staff to use instructional strategies that maximize learning. Cohorts will be utilized as a mitigation strategy if COVID cases reach thresholds that may be determined by the State Department of Public Health, Office of the Governor, or the Trumbull Public Schools. Students may need to cross cohorts to maximize their educational benefit (e.g. pull out instruction with a specialist).
Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	Teachers and staff will remind/train students on proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizer will be readily available to all students and staff. Students will be directed to wash their hands throughout the day, especially before and after eating.
Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	High touch surfaces (door handles, bathrooms, stairwell railings) in all school buildings will be cleaned on a provided schedule, this will be especially true when COVID or Flu cases are rising or expected to rise. We will continue to start our ventilation systems an hour before students arrive and an hour after students have been dismissed. We will continue to use Merv-13 air filters in all of our HVAC systems as possible and follow the manufacturer's recommended replacement cycle. We will continue to identify ventilation systems that need upgrades and work to make those upgrades.
Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments	Trumbull Public Schools will follow all required State and Federal mandates around contact tracing and quarantining . PK-5 students will be assigned seats on school buses and all PK-12 students will have assigned seating in their classrooms. Only students who are identified as close contacts (less than 3ft and 15 minutes) will be quarantined. In order to keep families aware of cases and quarantines in the district, we will update our district COVID tracker daily. Students required to quarantine will receive a notice indicating the requirements. <i>No person who is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic will be required to quarantine.</i>
Diagnostic screening and testing	Students and staff will have the opportunity for diagnostic screening at locations around the State. We will not be participating in weekly diagnostic screening at the schools. However, Executive Order 13D does require all public and non-public staff to be vaccinated or submit to weekly COVID testing protocols.
Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible	The Trumbull Public Schools has collaborated with the Trumbull Health Department to communicate and provide a location for multiple vaccination clinics. We have also worked with an off-site provider to provide additional vaccination clinics for staff and students. Our Health Department provides links to staff and families to help them find additional vaccination clinics. We will continue to work with our staff and families to identify need and then work with our local Department of Health to identify these opportunities. If and when booster shots are recommended we will support this effort as well.
Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies	We will continue to allow for appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies. These accommodations will be reviewed and approved either through the mask exemptions and/or through the Planning and Placement Team process.

II. Continuity of Services

Describe how the LEA plan will ensure continuity of services including but not limited to services to address the students' academic needs, and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services:

Trumbull Public Schools have reviewed academic data and identified additional staffing in the form of math specialists and literacy consultants to address learning loss. These additional staff will provide both coaching support to staff and intervention to students. We will do a complete review of our formative and summative assessments to ensure that we have a system that provides high-quality data to our leadership teams and teachers so that proper instructional adjustments can be made. We will also make sure the system provides for vertical alignment in order to track cohort progress. Supplemental programs will be developed as deemed appropriate through our data analysis (e.g. credit recovery, before and after school programming, summer school). For social emotional health, our schools already have well established support systems for students and staff. Each school has a well established PBIS system. Our mental health staff recently updated their risk assessment/threat assessment protocols to ensure a consistent response to potential risks. We will implement a new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to support all staff. We are hiring an additional social worker who will provide greater student and staff support. We are providing professional development to bring positive psychology to our staff and then students. Our food services will operate in a traditional manner but if COVID cases require it, we may return to a food delivery system that includes reduced density in our cafeterias. We can also return to meal pick-ups if necessary. Our health services team will continue to educate our community on the importance of self-screening and staying home when sick. The team will also monitor health trends and recommend changes to our daily mitigation strategies. Health services will continue to work with families for the purpose of quarantining if applicable.

III. Public Comment

Public comment is a key element of stakeholder engagement, and at times a stand-alone element which may include dedicating time to open forums at board of education meetings, conducting surveys, or soliciting written input from external residents not involved in the decision-making process. Describe how the LEA plans to provide the public the opportunity to provide input and for public comment in the development of the plan, a summary of the input (including any letters of support), and how the LEA took such input into account:

The Trumbull Public Schools have been fully open starting on April 26, 2021. At each BOE meeting a "Reopening Update" was provided by the Superintendent. There was also a public comment opportunity for any Trumbull resident or school staff member to speak. We will continue providing these updates at each BOE meeting. Throughout the year the Superintendent met weekly with a Reopening Committee consisting of teachers, administrators, and health professionals to review the COVID data and needed changes. We completed a community-based "ThoughtExchange" and staff focus groups to collect input on next year's school year. This Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan was developed with feedback from the entire Trumbull Public Schools Reopening Committee. In addition, this plan will be shared with all parents and staff via email in early June with an included link to provide feedback on the plan. The collected input will be reviewed by the Trumbull Public Schools Reopening Committee and changes will be made as needed.

IV. Periodic Review Process

LEAs are required to periodically review and, as appropriate, revise their *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan* **at least every six months** through September 30, 2023. Each review must include seeking public comment on the plan and developing the plan after taking into account the public comment.

Below are the dates that LEAs must submit a refreshed or updated plan to CSDE via eGMS.

Review/revisit Dates:

- June 23, 2021 - Completed
- December 23, 2021
- June 23, 2022
- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2023

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent practicable; is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. Describe the unique needs of the LEA's audience and confirm the LEA's approach to ensuring the document is accessible:

This document was written in simple, straightforward language to ensure better access to all readers. This document will be available on our website which includes multiple tools to make it accessible to all users. Links on our website will also allow this document to be read in multiple languages.