

**COVID-19 Mitigation Measures for the 2021-22 School Year**  
*(Dated: September 14, 2021)*

The Farmington Public Schools follows the requirements of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) in partnership with the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE), and the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Based upon their mandates and guidance last year, our mitigation measures allowed us to keep all of our schools open for in-person learning the entire school year. Below you will find the current status of mitigation measures for the 2021-22 school year per DPH in partnership with CSDE and FVHD. We will continue to update this document as new information is received from CSDE, DPH and FVHD.

<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	<b>Update for the 2021-22 School Year</b>
<u>Daily Health Screening for Parents &amp; Staff</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families and staff should continue to use the <b>screening tool daily</b> before departing for school each morning</li> <li>Stay home when experiencing symptoms</li> </ul>
My child is ill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families should continue to use the <b>screening tool daily</b> before departing for school each morning</li> <li>If your child is symptomatic and/or not feeling well, please <b><u>do not send your child to school</u></b></li> <li>Contact your child's physician for next steps</li> </ul>
My child is awaiting a COVID test result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Please do not send your child to school</u></b></li> <li>If negative, provide the negative test result to the school nurse prior to having your child return to school</li> <li>If positive, isolate for 10 days from the first day of symptom onset or the positive test result (must be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours prior to return to school)</li> </ul>
My child has tested positive for COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Please do not send your child to school</u></b></li> <li>If your child tests positive for COVID, your child must isolate 10 days from date of symptom onset or the positive test result (must be symptom-free without medication for 24 hours prior to return to school)</li> </ul>
<u>Quarantining from school</u> after exposure to COVID-positive individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not required for students or faculty/staff who have been fully vaccinated AND are asymptomatic. It is recommended that those individuals be tested 3-5 days after the last exposure (preferably a PCR test).</li> <li>Not required for students seated at least 3 feet from a positive peer <i>in classrooms only</i> if both students were properly wearing masks and the non-positive peer is asymptomatic. This applies only to student-to-student contact within a classroom.</li> <li><b><u>Definition of "close contact":</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Student-to-student contact inside classrooms ONLY:</i> 3 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period</li> <li><i>Student-to-student contact in all other settings:</i> 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period</li> <li><i>Adult-to-student or adult-to-adult contact in any setting:</i> 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period</li> </ul> </li> <li>FVHD quarantine period: 10 days from date of last exposure</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Test-out option: 7 days if individual has no symptoms <u>and</u> receives a negative result on a test that is taken on days 5, 6 or 7</li> <li>● Final determinations of specific quarantine periods are made by FVHD</li> </ul>
Quarantining <u>from sports</u> (inside and outside of school) after exposure to COVID-positive individual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not required for students or faculty/staff who have been fully vaccinated AND are asymptomatic. It is recommended that those individuals be tested 3-5 days after the last exposure (preferably a PCR test).</li> <li>● <b>Definition of “close contact”:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Student-to-student contact while engaged in sports:</i> 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period</li> <li>○ <i>Adult-to-student or adult-to-adult contact in any setting:</i> 6 feet for more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period</li> </ul> </li> <li>● FVHD quarantine period: 14 days from date of last exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Test-out option: 10 days if an individual has no symptoms <u>and</u> receives a negative result on a test that is taken on days 8, 9, 10, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Final determinations of specific quarantine periods are made by FVHD</li> </ul>
Masks for students in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Per DPH and CSDE, masks are currently required inside schools, regardless of vaccination status</li> <li>● Regular mask breaks will be in place</li> <li>● Required for all students and drivers when riding district buses and vans</li> <li>● Not required when students are outdoors</li> </ul>
Masks for faculty & staff in school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Per DPH and CSDE, masks are currently required inside schools, regardless of vaccination status</li> </ul>
District Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Masks are required for students and drivers when riding district buses and vans</li> <li>● Assigned seating on buses and vans</li> <li>● Students may not change buses. Students will be permitted only on the bus they are assigned to and must ride the same bus from/to school. (Students will not be given bus passes at this time).</li> </ul>
Hand washing & sanitizing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students and staff will teach and practice regular handwashing</li> <li>● Hand sanitizer stations provided in classrooms and throughout school</li> <li>● Hand hygiene practiced before and after recess, specials, use of shared materials, etc.</li> </ul>
Desk shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Not required</li> </ul>
In-school COVID-19 testing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Voluntary and not mandated within schools</li> <li>● At this time, FPS will not be offering in-school testing</li> </ul>
Water fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For bottle filling only</li> </ul>
Social distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Students should, when practical and/or feasible, be seated at least 3 feet apart in classrooms and social distancing <b>of 6 feet</b> should be maximized in all other areas of the school</li> </ul>
Cohorting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Returning to the normal use of areas such as cafeterias, gyms and art rooms</li> <li>● Cohorting of students remains a recommended strategy to the greatest extent possible</li> <li>● Students from different cohorts may be placed together for music lessons, counseling groups, academic interventions, etc.</li> <li>● Assigned seating in all areas (classrooms, cafeteria, bus, music, art, interventions, etc.)</li> </ul>

Shared classroom materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students still encouraged to use their own materials and minimize the sharing of materials, if possible</li> </ul>
Lunches & cafeteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to promote spacing of students while seated and moving through the lunch line</li> <li>Single-use, disposable glasses, dishes, cutlery no longer required</li> </ul>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Current mitigation measures (e.g., bell covers, slitted masks, social distancing, etc.) remain in effect due to increased risk of virus transmission through vapor droplets</li> </ul>
Sports/Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor activities encouraged</li> <li>Most likely full fall season for interscholastic sports especially for teams with high vaccination rates and those that follow all mitigation measures</li> <li>Hand hygiene practiced before and after activities</li> <li>Per DPH and CSDE, masks are currently required during indoor PE and sports activities</li> </ul>
Visitors to buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage virtual meetings or conduct in-person meetings after school</li> <li>Limit non-essential visitors, volunteers, activities</li> <li>Visitors must comply with mitigation strategies inside schools</li> </ul>
Cleaning & Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Routine daily cleaning of classrooms, offices, etc.</li> <li>Cleaning and disinfection of restrooms, Health Office, and known exposure areas at least once daily</li> <li>Daily cleaning of buses</li> </ul>
School Events and Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No immediate return of large assemblies or concerts</li> <li>Modified school-wide events to allow for social distancing and mitigation practices</li> <li>After-school activities at all levels will be in place <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before and After-school activities will comply with school day mitigation measures</li> <li>Before and after-school activities may reduce the number of participants to allow time and space for mitigation strategies (i. e., cohorting, social distancing, handwashing, contact tracing, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recommendations about enhanced ventilation (i.e., maximizing fresh air intake) remain in place</li> <li>FPS contracts with the same vendor used last summer to implement ventilation recommendations</li> </ul>
Vaccinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DPH and FVHD, along with the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics, highly recommend COVID-19 vaccination as an important mitigation practice to prevent the spread of illness</li> <li>Individuals are considered “fully vaccinated” 2 weeks after the final dose of a vaccine series</li> <li>To locate a vaccination provider, please contact your healthcare provider or click <a href="#">here</a></li> </ul>
Travel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please follow <a href="#">Connecticut's travel advisory</a> at all times prior to returning to school after travel.</li> </ul>

*\*All mitigation practices above are subject to change given ongoing guidance from DPH in collaboration with the CSDE as well as the FVHD.*