

West Haven Board of Education Reopening Plan

Neil C. Cavallaro, Superintendent
Anne P. Druzolowski, Assistant Superintendent

*Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow
Together*



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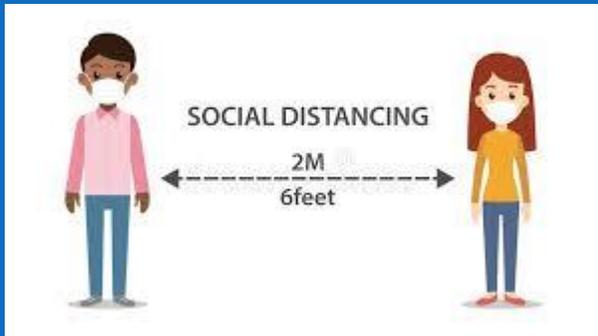
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Introduction

Today's circumstances have truly shown how resilient and dedicated we are to providing a quality education to all our students.

COVID-19 has challenged us in many ways, but we continue to adapt and overcome. We are hopeful that through a collaborative effort, we can continue to move forward towards normality. As we receive new virus updates and information, we are prepared to adjust to provide an accessible education to our students.

Maintaining Social Distancing



Students and staff members will wear face coverings / masks on all campuses despite social distancing

Schools will plan for the number of people that can be in all school spaces based on social distancing

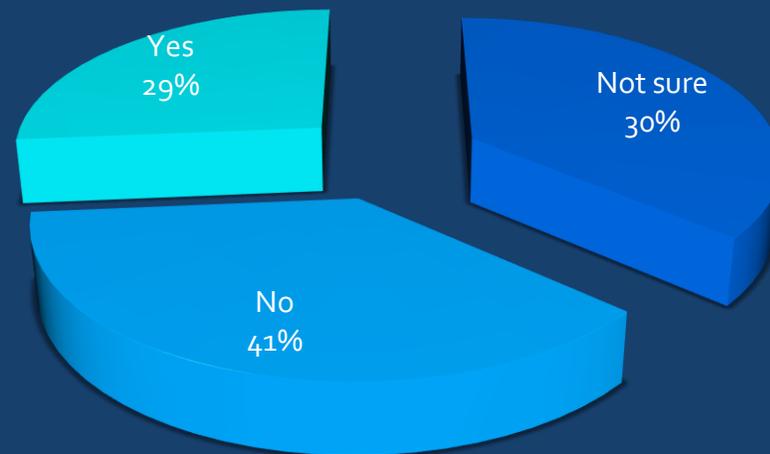
School administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing

Schools will create student/ teacher classroom cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day

Will have staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways, as appropriate

School Liaison, Communications Plans, and Data Collection

- The Liaison, along with the Superintendent of Schools, will engage with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions about the health & safety requirements and address questions about compliance.
- Signage in buildings will reflect the dominant languages spoken by students, as well as visual supports to increase accessibility for special education students and young learners.



■ Not sure ■ No ■ Yes

Use of Face Coverings, Masks, and Face Shields

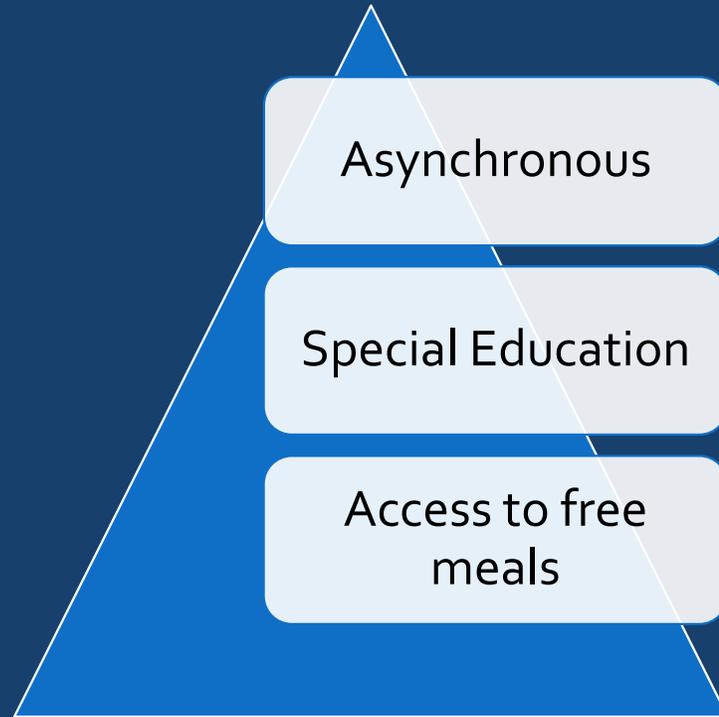
For the safety of all students and all staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to schools require that all students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus



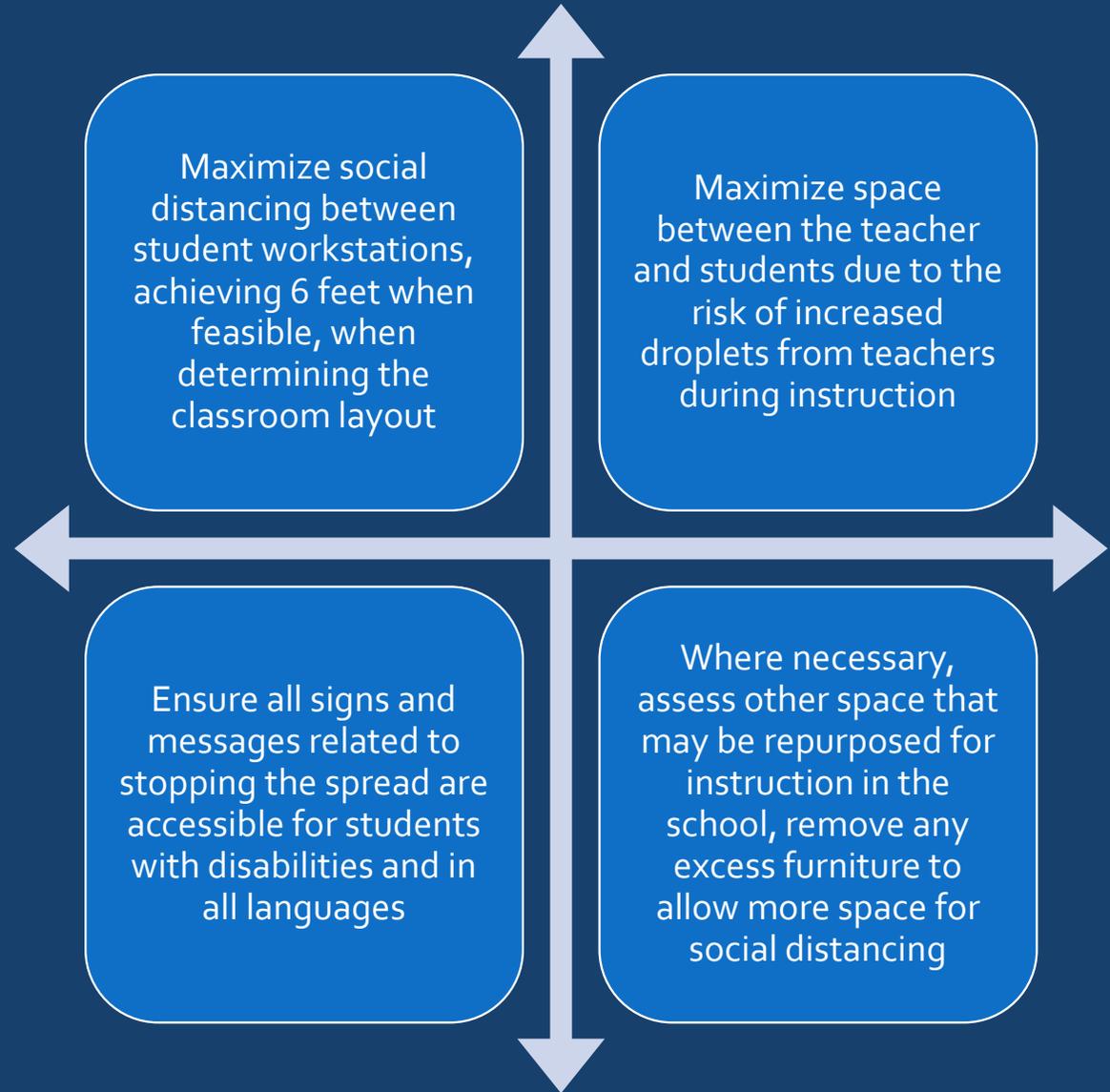
Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate

West Haven students without technology access will be provided with devices as appropriate for their instructional needs to access online learning

The State of Connecticut will develop a Remote Learning Model for learning at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons



Facilities



Daily Operations



Classroom cohorts will be established and use the same classroom every day and for the most part utilize the same hallways, bathrooms, and other area of the school as much as possible in PK-8



Principals and teachers will educate students, families, and staff on the value of cohorts, ensuring they understand that other health and safety guidelines remain important to minimize the risk of infection



Teachers will push into the cohort classroom as much as possible for academic courses and special courses including Art, Music, Library, & Technology resulting in teachers of specific content areas rotating through the building, instead of student groups



Physical Education classes will take place in the cohort classroom and/or outdoors to the greatest extent possible



Students in each cohort will have assigned seating and materials in the cohort classroom as much as possible



Students in grades 9-12 will have a significant decrease in transitions/passing periods per day

Child Nutrition



Transportation

- Student passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask prior to boarding that completely covers the nose and mouth during full duration of transit
- Passengers will load into the bus from the back row to the front and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat
- This will reduce the number of people passengers walk by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading
- Daily cleaning on all buses
- If the state determines that we are in a “moderate status” student passenger density will be significantly reduced because schools will be employing a hybrid model of learning when in this status



Special Education/ EL's

- When a high need special education student is unable to wear a mask, staff members will be provided a mask, face shield and gown (clear masks could also be utilized)
- We have the space to practice social distancing for any PPT meetings but we are encouraging those meetings to take place during zoom or video conferencing
- Plexiglass will be used when appropriate/as needed for social work sessions, psychologists, hearing impaired, and speech-language pathologists
- Special Ed services will occur in the classroom, unless IEP dictates otherwise following state guidelines
- Upon request, families may be provided communication through translation and/or interpretation in their native language. If a student who is EL also has an IEP, he or she will continue to receive both services whether instruction takes place in school or through a blended or remote learning platform



- <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/pubs/other-languages?Sort=Lang%3A%3Aasc>

After-school Programming



- The Superintendent will oversee school activities, which will be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis
- The West Haven Community House before and after school programs will continue to provide services to the students of West Haven Public Schools in accordance with all school regulations

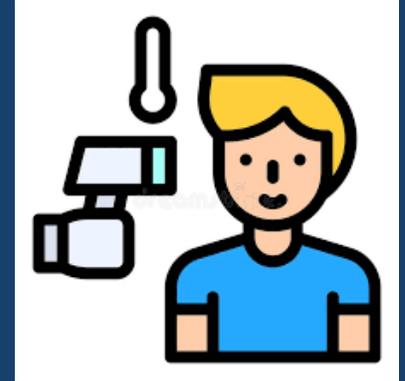


- Recess time and use of playgrounds will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing
- School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be restricted at the start of the school year
- Playgrounds will be sanitized continuously



- Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Principals and the Superintendent
- Virtual field trips will be encouraged

Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19



- CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools
- Parents or caregivers are strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

Planning and Distribution of Information



- Families, staff, and the community will receive weekly updates via email, website and/or social media during the school year directly from the Superintendent/Communications Director/Liaison or designee regarding this plan and future COVID-19 planning
- Changes to planning, changes in the status of the schools' schedules, and any school closures will be communicated directly from the Superintendent or his designee to the school community
- Principals will communicate any changes to status of school schedules, closures and plans to their individual school communities with guidance from the office of the Superintendent, in accordance with the CDC or DPH due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID- 19 disease, including transmission

Family Support and Communication

Communication shall be provided in a timely, universally accessible and ongoing basis



Utilization of surveys and other modalities of family and staff input to guide procedure and establish a responsive approach to meeting the needs of all stakeholders as feasible and appropriate



Opportunities for feedback and conversation about how students are doing will be provided on an ongoing basis

Frequently asked questions

Who decides when and how we return to school?

- The Governor has the authority to issue Executive Orders to close schools throughout the state. In August 2020, a decision will be made about whether schools will open for in-person, full remote, or a hybrid model.

Will my child have a mask break?

- Students will be allowed plenty of mask breaks and with electives such as gym being held outside, they will be able to social distance safely.

What will happen if my child refuses to wear his/her mask in school?

- In the event a student refuses to wear a mask or face covering and does not have a medical exemption, the student will be given a warning and opportunity to correct the problem. Should the behavior continue, the student will be referred to the office. The school administrator will follow the school behavior matrix and follow progressive discipline under the category of "Classroom Disruption and/or Defiance/Disrespect."

How often will my child be allowed to use the restroom?

- Students will be allowed to use the restrooms and wash hands as necessary, always accompanied by a staff member/ this includes walking hallways as well. Security will monitor restrooms to ensure safety and limit any congestion.

Frequently asked questions continued

Will the construction workers at WHHS have any temp check or requirements prior to reporting to work?

- Gilbane Construction Co. has a COVID-19 interim guideline on how to conduct all operations in a manner as to provide protection for all individuals who might encounter these operations, as well as our school requirements. Their plan is available upon request.

Will my child be allowed to participate in fall sports/ extracurricular activities if he or she does not physically attend school?

- No, in order to participate in any fall sports and extracurricular activities, our students must be physically in school.

If there is a Fall Sports season, can I go to watch?

- Further guidance on this will be coming from the CIAC.

Will I be allowed to visit my child at school?

- No, in order to maintain cohorts of students, we are discouraging any unscheduled visitors in our buildings. In the event of a meeting or having to pick up your child, you will be required to wear a mask to enter the building.

Frequently asked questions continued

If we have remote learning this fall will it look the same as it did in the spring?

- The district is working to ensure remote learning is robust and standardized across the district. Staff will receive professional training to meet this goal to support teaching and learning outside of the traditional classroom.

If I cannot come into the school, how can I contact my child's teacher for a meeting?

- Meetings can take place virtually and can be scheduled by phone or email.

My child is starting Pre-K and/or Kindergarten. Will there be an orientation?

- Further information on this will become available in the next few weeks.

How will safety guidelines impact extra curricular activities, including athletics?

- The CIAC is the governing body in charge of making state decisions on sports. Information on all Athletics will be disseminated from the Athletic Director.

If students are going to be eating breakfast in the classroom, what measures will be taken for students that may have allergies?

- No nut or egg products will be included in the "Grab & Go" breakfast for students. Once seated at their desk, students will be permitted to remove their masks to eat. Desks will be appropriately distanced. Teachers/staff will wear a mask and remain socially distanced (6 ft) during breakfast. Student desks will be wiped down after breakfast using disinfectant wipes.

Frequently asked questions continued

We are going on vacation out of state in August. Will this impact returning to school/work?

- To control the spread of COVID-19 in Connecticut, all travelers who have spent 24 hours or longer in one of the affected high-risk states within 14 days prior to arriving in Connecticut and who are staying in Connecticut for more than 24 hours are required to (1) complete the "Connecticut Travel Health Form" and (2) self-quarantine for a period of 14 days from the time of last contact with an Affected State or for the duration of the traveler's stay in Connecticut, whichever is shorter.

How will the schools enforce that protocols are being followed on the school bus?

- The district has arranged for bus monitors on the school busses to start the school year to help ensure elementary students are following all district safety protocols.

Will my child be able to switch from one model to another and how much advance notice should we provide to the school if there is a change?

- At this time, we are asking families to provide 72-hours notice if a voluntary change to the instructional model is requested (for example, from in-person learning to remote learning). This is subject to change based on guidance from the state.

Can my child bring his/her own hand sanitizer to school?

- Yes, as long as it is clearly labeled and approved by the school nurse. Additional guidance on this is pending.

Frequently asked questions continued

Will students take their Chromebook home daily?

- Yes, because of our new one to one initiative, students will take their Chromebook home daily. Chromebooks should be charged.

If I choose distance learning for my child, can they still come in to get any services that they may have?

- No, any IEP related services will be provided remotely via appointment, similar to a tele-health visit.

Will I be notified if a student or teacher of my child has tested positive for COVID-19?

- In the event that a student or employee tests positive, persons within that class setting/cohort will be notified to the greatest extent possible without revealing any confidential student information. Student information will remain confidential as required by law. We ask that all stakeholders respect people's confidentiality.

Can I drop something off at the school if my child forgot it at home?

- You may drop items off on a table at the entryway provided it is clearly labeled. You will not be allowed into the office to drop it off. The item(s) will be retrieved by a staff member and delivered to your child.

For more FAQs Regarding Reopening K-12 Public School and responses from the State of Connecticut

see here: <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2020-21/Reopening-FAQs.pdf>

**For any
questions or
concerns
please
contact:**

- **Marissa Acampora:**

LEA COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison

Marissa.acampora@whschools.org or 203-937-4300 ext.7134