

Voluntown Public Schools



*Reopening
Voluntown Elementary School*

Fall 2020

195 Main St.

Voluntown, CT 06384

Version 2.0 as of August 13, 2020

Based on Guidelines from the Connecticut State Department of Education

Reopening VES - COVID-19 Update

Schools throughout Connecticut were closed by Executive Order by the Governor on March 16, 2020 for the remainder of the year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This required suspension of scheduled events. Our school administrators along with the faculty and staff implemented extensive adjustments to implement a series of distance learning programs. Parents and students also made many adjustments. Our efforts resulted in distance learning opportunities that were well attended and quite successful through many hours of hard work.

The State Department of Education is now guiding a process to safely have all students, in all districts, return to school for full-time instruction so long as public health data continues to support the reopening of school. School systems must prepare a Reopening Plan that also supports a partial reopening or to allow for scaling back at a future date if the public health data changes. Schools must also identify gaps and develop action plans for reopening that specifically address inclusion, equity, and access for all learners with strategies and clearly defined action steps.

The Commissioner of Education required each school system to create a Reopening Committee to coordinate activities and submit a REOPEN Plan by July 24, 2020. In a short time span our Voluntown Reopen Committee has already met on July 2, 7, 14, and 21, 2020 to work to complete a comprehensive process to meet state requirements to describe our plans.

Members of the Voluntown REOPEN Committee in the Time of Covid-19 Include:

Adam S. Burrows -----	Superintendent of Schools, Chair and Point of Contact
Amy L. Suffoletto -----	Principal and LEA COVID-19 Health and Safety Liaison
Lloyd A. Johnson -----	Director of Student Services
Holly Santiago -----	School Nurse
Brian Kallio -----	Director of Maintenance and Facilities
Terry Chenette -----	Transportation Coordinator
Thomas O'Connor -----	Director of Food Services
Rachel Ricard -----	Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Parent
Andrea Kelly -----	SRBI Teacher and VEA
Angela Gardella -----	Paraprofessional and CSEA
Kate Beauparlant -----	Board of Education Chair and Parent
Jim Ward -----	Technology Consultant
Kathy Groth -----	Counselor/Social Worker
Tracey Hanson -----	First Selectwoman and Parent
Patrick McCormack -----	UNCAS Health Director
Amanda Page -----	Parent
Toula Wyland -----	Preschool Teacher

The Voluntown Board of Education reviewed an initial draft of our Reopen Plan on July 11, 2020 and has scheduled a Special Meeting on July 23, 2020 for a final review prior to submitting the plan to the state.

We are making every effort to welcome our students back to school. VES might look different at first, but we know that at the heart of the school, our staff and classrooms are still there. The following Reopen Plan has a wealth of information about a wide range of changes during this time of COVID-19. It is our intention as a community to keep all of our students safe and healthy while maintaining an excellent education program.

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(ASB-RLR-ALS on 7-18-20)

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Reopening VES – Fall of 2020

In planning for the reopening of the Voluntown Elementary, it has been essential to envision the safest environment and the highest quality instruction for the school community. Based on guidelines provided to school districts from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the State of Connecticut, the **Voluntown Elementary is currently planning for a hybrid reopening of our schools in the fall of 2020. At this time a HYBRID reopening will be reevaluated in approximately four weeks, dependent upon the support of local health transmission data and guidance from the State Department of Education as well as Uncas Health District.**

A “full” reopening refers to the desire to have all students and all staff return in the fall for a full-length traditional day of school with necessary modifications given the pandemic. Please note that our current class sizes and classrooms allow for appropriate social distancing to maintain safety.

A “safe” reopening refers to adherence to expectations and guidelines from the State of Connecticut, the CDC, the local health officials (Uncas Health District), and other sources that will be in place to ensure that the schools’ environments support learning during this time of COVID 19.

An “appropriate” reopening refers to high standards of academic achievement along with social and emotional support that are expected to be in place for all schools and all students.

As the schools reopen in the fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner.





In order to reopen, the Superintendent of Schools and the Voluntown Board of Education have tasked the **Voluntown Public School Reopening Committee** to review all reopening guidelines from the State of Connecticut and developing expectations for Voluntown Elementary in their efforts to plan for the fall of 2020.

This document “Reopening VES” is available to the entire Town of Voluntown including staff, parents, and community members. Staff, parents and community members are invited to give regular feedback and suggestions concerning the plans to reopen and the phase in all aspects of school life.

VES Priorities

The Voluntown Reopening Committee has identified priority areas that must be in place to reopen, which include:

- (1) the safety of the students and staff;
- (2) the development of appropriate educational opportunities;
- (3) the awareness of social and emotional well-being of students, families, and staff;
- (4) the expectation that all children will achieve at the expected grade level by June 2021.

	<p>Safety of Students and Staff</p> <p>Our schools will be prepared to reinforce healthy practices among our staff and students, take preventative actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses, and prepare for any potential cases or increased transmission of COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities</p> <p>Our schools will reopen with instructional schedules and model options that are flexible and based on current transmission levels, understanding that we may start the school year with one model, and as new information becomes available about health and safety, may transition to different models. Additionally, scheduling increased educational opportunities will enhance student achievement.</p>
	<p>Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being</p> <p>Our schools will reopen knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our staff, students, and families. The pandemic has shown the importance of social/emotional well-being for all. In addition, there is a growing body of research proving that social/emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success. We will prioritize student social and emotional well-being through systematic instructional offerings to support their well-being.</p>
	<p>Achievement at Expected Grade Level by June</p> <p>VES will consider and solidify a systematic cycle of assessments, including initial screenings and formative and summative assessments in order to inform instruction and gauge student learning throughout this year. We will work to analyze individual student data to identify shifts and changes in instruction to meet students' needs and implement intervention strategies. Additionally, we will create schedules that are cohesive and structured to allow for the greatest access to achievement possible.</p>

Voluntown Public Schools is expected to follow the guidelines of the State Department of Education - ***Adapt, Advance Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together***, published on June 29, 2020. The publication from the state is admittedly a document with guidelines that may change prior to school reopening in the fall.

The document from the state is “intended to be a fluid document that will evolve based on the public health data trends as well as the understanding of the best way to mitigate spread. As we proceed toward the fall, we will continue to receive input from our educational partners, students, and families and will continue to work toward providing the best opportunities for our greatest resource—the students in the State of Connecticut.”

State of Connecticut Guidelines & Expectations

from ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together





Due to positive containment efforts in Connecticut, reopening VES for in person learning can be successfully achieved based upon current data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the operating model (schedule), but be prepared to modify plans as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time after the current period of disruption is critical and necessary. However, given the uncertainty planning for reopening months from now, we must be prepared to modify their reopening model to support a partial reopening if the public health data changes.

Schools should plan to have all students, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for full-time instruction at the beginning of 2020-2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model. This model will be supported with more intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment and class cancellation plans.

As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in six guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing **all** students the opportunity to return into the classrooms **full time** starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional well-being of our students when they are not in school

Main Operational Considerations

	<p>Cohorting: Emphasize grouping students by the same class/group of students and teacher (into a cohort) so each team functions independently as much as possible. Consider this methodology by grade levels. Placing students in cohorts is strongly encouraged for grades K-8.</p>		<p>Transportation: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should plan for buses to operate close to capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and operators wear face coverings. Plans must be developed to activate increased social distancing protocols based upon community spread.</p>
	<p>Social Distancing and Facilities: Review building space and reconfigure available classroom space, such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, to maximize social distancing, consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time.</p>		<p>Face Coverings: All staff and students will be expected to wear a protective face covering or face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, except for certain exceptions including when teachers are providing instruction from a safe distance.</p>

Keeping VES Open

Voluntown Public Schools will rely on the cooperation of families, students, and staff members to reopen and *stay open* for in-person learning.




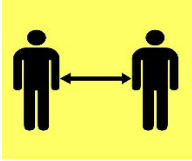

The hope for the fall of 2020 is to safely bring back students to an in-person school setting and to maximize learning and address our students' social and emotional needs. This document plans for a fall return that does outline multiple possibilities, with a focus first and foremost on getting our students back into our school building.

There is a clear consensus from both education and medical groups that we must keep in mind not only the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs, but also the known challenges and consequences of keeping students out of school. While distance learning has provided the best possible alternative during school closures, there is no substitute for in-person instruction when it comes to the quality of students' academic learning. In-person school plays an equally important role in our ability to support students' social-emotional needs, including their mental and physical health, and in mitigating the impacts of trauma. We also recognize how disruptive the school closures have been to families trying to maintain regular work schedules and manage household needs, including childcare, while also facilitating remote learning.




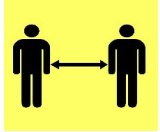

Families play a critical role in supporting the new culture of health and safety that VES will establish. Most importantly, families can help mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 by checking their children daily for any COVID-19 symptoms and keeping them home from school if they are sick or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Families can also contribute by supporting the use of face coverings or masks in school and on the bus, arranging alternate transportation whenever possible, communicating concerns with teachers and school leaders, and continuing to follow state guidance on health and safety outside of school.

With adherence to the State of Connecticut’s comprehensive set of critical health and safety requirements along with Voluntown Elementary School’s commitment to a safe and appropriate education, we can bring our students, staff, and families safely back to school.....*and remain in school!*

VES Student Expectations

	<p>Stay home if you feel ill. PK-12th grade students must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Morning health check by parents required. In order to prevent transmission among the school population, parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.</p>
	<p>Face coverings or masks required. Students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. “Mask Breaks” will be provided during the day. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p>
	<p>Social distancing required. Students must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school. Sharing of school supplies and materials will not be allowed. Materials used between students will be cleaned according to CDC guidance.</p>
	<p>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected. Students must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, before and after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>
	<p>Students may not change buses. Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day. Face coverings or masks should be in place prior to entering the bus. Students will be placed with siblings or in single seats, starting in the back of the bus to the front.</p> <p><i>If parents choose to drive their student, and then decide to opt for bus transportation, the school office must be notified in writing two days in advance of the change. We are making an effort to make a consistent bus schedule for students and maintain the same student to seat ratios and assignments on the bus.</i></p>

VES Adult Expectations

	<p>Stay home if you feel ill.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and essential visitors must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. Teachers and staff members are to notify the school nurse and building administrator.</p>
	<p>Morning self-screening required.</p> <p>In order to prevent transmission among the school population, teachers, staff, and essential visitors are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID-19 outlined by public health officials.</p>
	<p>Face coverings or masks required.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and essential visitors must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. “Mask Breaks” will be provided during the day. Teachers will be allowed to remove masks during direct instruction with permission and greater social distancing. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for teachers, staff, and others who will enter the building.</p>
	<p>Social distancing required.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and essential visitors must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible.</p>
	<p>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected.</p> <p>Teachers, staff, and essential visitors must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>

Continuum for Learning

Voluntown Elementary is committed to in-person learning, with a full reopening, following all guidelines and expectations of the State and maintaining health standards in accordance with the Uncas Health district.

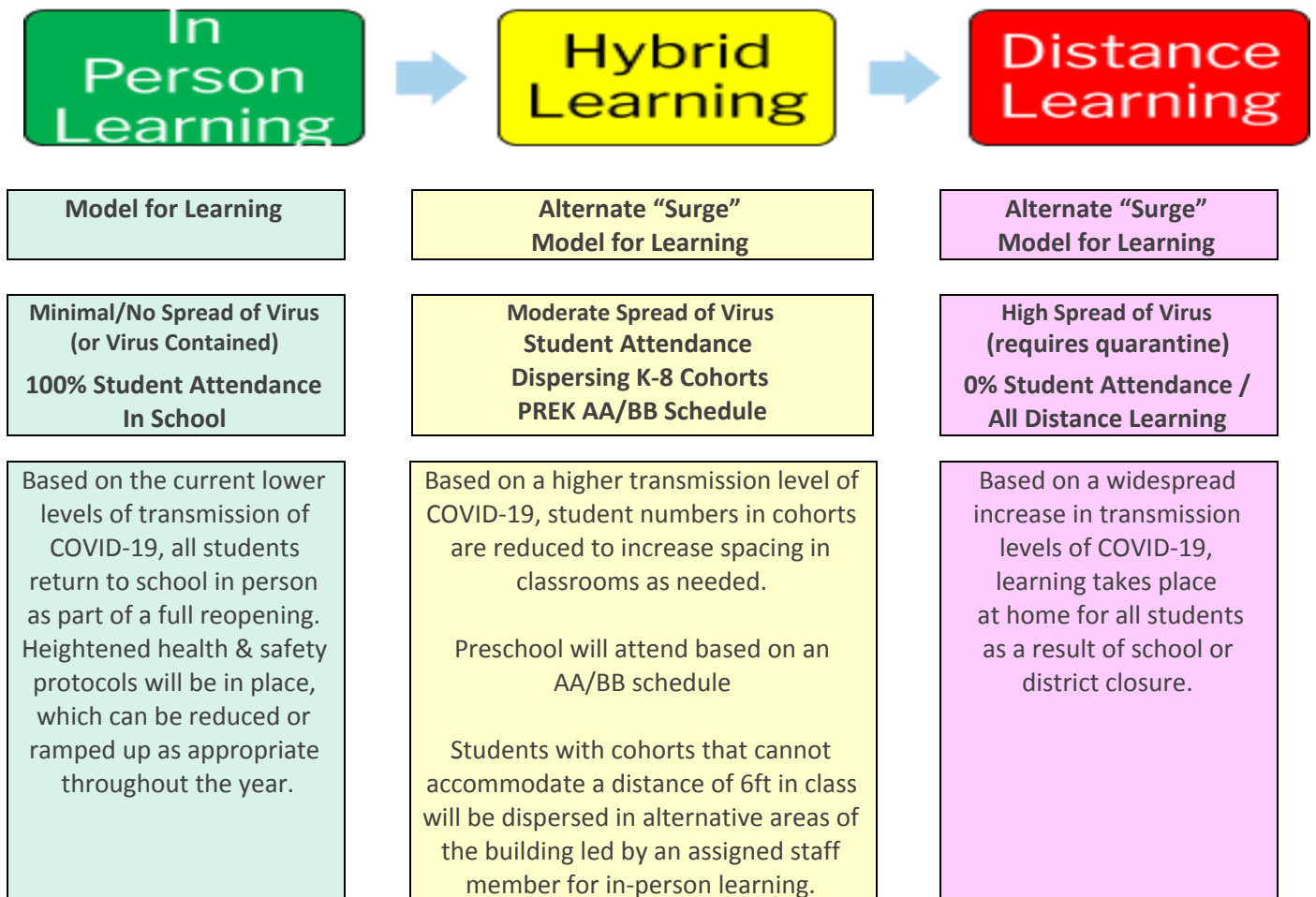
However, if there is a surge of COVID-19, an increase of local cases, or the occurrence of in-school cases, the learning models may need to be adjusted as a result. Learning models that include Hybrid Learning and/or Distance Learning will only be utilized by the Voluntown Elementary School if required by the State of Connecticut, the Uncas Health District or determined regionally.

From the beginning of the school year, in school or at home, students in K-2 will utilize the Seesaw and Grades 3-8 will use Google Classroom. Faculty will be designing lessons and activities that utilize these platforms on a regular basis during the school week.

Projected Enrollment Cohorts: (These numbers are based upon current enrollment and do not reflect numbers of remote learners. It is anticipated that 20% of our student body will remote learn.)

Preschool (4 cohorts)	44	Kindergarten (2 Cohorts)	22	First Grade (2 Cohorts)	24	Second Grade (1 Cohort)	8	Third Grade (2 Cohorts)	21
Fourth Grade (2 Cohorts)	21	Fifth Grade (2 Cohorts)	26	Sixth Grade (2 Cohorts)	29	Seventh Grade (2 Cohorts)	26	Eighth Grade (2 Cohorts)	29

Voluntown Elementary School Learning Continuum:



When students return to school with our In-Person Learning Model, **Voluntown Elementary School** will do everything possible to make the school experience similar to what it has been in the past. While some aspects of school will fundamentally look different when students and staff first return this fall, our goal will be to achieve a sense of normalcy over the course of the school year as the situation allows and safety concerns are alleviated.

Throughout the year, Voluntown Elementary School will be prepared to adjust plans based on health indicators and guidance from state and local health officials (see chart below).

<p>Minimal/No Spread of Virus (or Virus Contained)</p> <p>100% Student Attendance In School</p>	<p>Moderate Spread of Virus (requires adjusted schedule)</p> <p>100% Student Attendance due to enrollment projections of class size and availability of distancing.</p>	<p>High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine)</p> <p>0% Student Attendance / All Distance Learning</p>
<p>VES operating up to 100% capacity, students/staff with underlying medical conditions may consider remote learning</p> <p>Buses up to full capacity with face coverings/masks in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders, assigned seating with siblings, same household or single seats. Adjusted bus runs as needed.</p> <p>Face coverings/masks for students and staff while inside school buildings</p> <p>Identification/isolation of sick students/staff</p> <p>Cohorting of students used, in Grades PK-8, restrictions on group activities</p> <p>Maximize spacing of seating, as feasible</p> <p>Increased cleaning and sanitization protocols</p> <p>Extracurricular activities suspended or approved when appropriate.</p>	<p>VES operating with reliance on separating cohorts into alternative areas as needed. Preschool will attend on an AA/BB Schedule.</p> <p>Buses at reduced capacity, face coverings/masks in place during transit, controlled loading/unloading of riders, spaced seating for riders. Staggered bus runs.</p> <p>Face coverings/masks for students and staff while inside school buildings</p> <p>Identification/isolation of sick students/staff</p> <p>Cohorting of students used, restrictions on congregating, staggered start/stop times</p> <p>Maximize spacing of seating up to six feet or more when feasible with reduced class sizes</p> <p>Specific and increased cleaning and sanitization protocols</p> <p>Extracurricular activities suspended</p>	<p>School closed, 100% distance learning</p> <p>Bus transportation suspended</p> <p>All extracurricular activities, including sports suspended</p>

See accompanying charts on *Monitoring COVID-19 and Pandemic Planning* in this guide.

The State of Connecticut is expecting all schools to have **all students**, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for full-time instruction at the beginning of the 2020–2021 school year. At the same time, school districts must be

prepared to modify planning to support a partial reopening or to allow for scaling back even further to a full closure at a future date if the public health data changes.

Priorities and requirements identified in ***Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*** serve as the basis for - "Reopening VES" planning guide.

Fall 2020 VES Model for Learning



The in-person model of learning that will be in place for the reopening of school is described below:

IN PERSON LEARNING

Traditional Schedule with Health & Safety Expectations – All students/staff attend every day.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Students and staff attend every day with all State guidelines and expectations in place.</p> <p>Classroom learning and instructional activities are adjusted to provide the safest environment.</p>				

REMOTE LEARNING TRACK

Some students will learn at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons with support from the school.

Students with health concerns, illness, or quarantine order will participate in a **Remote Learning Track** in which the student learns at home **with parent/guardian support in place**. This track aids in a return to school at the appropriate point after illness, quarantine, or when families decide to re-enter. In order to smoothly re-enter school after an extended time out and begin participating in the traditional schedule, it is strongly encouraged for students and parents/guardians to engage in Remote Learning provided by Voluntown Elementary School. A weekly learning plan will be provided per grade level. In addition to the remote learning provided by Voluntown Elementary School, families can also access the State of Connecticut Remote Learning Hub (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub>) to utilize to support remote learning.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Students and parents/guardians engage in the Remote Learning Track with materials and support from the school.</p> <p>Classroom learning and instructional activities are shared through VES and the State of CT Learning Hub.</p>				

HOMESCHOOLING

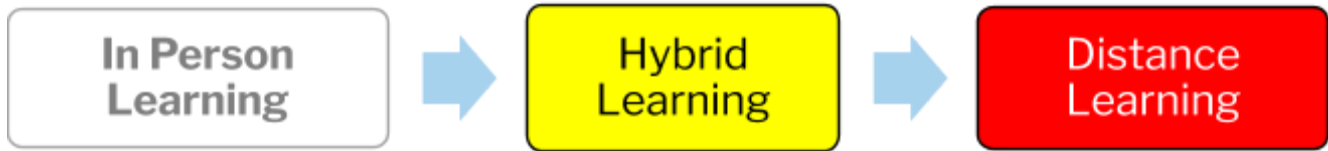
Some students will learn at home due to medical concern or other reasons *with no support from the school.*

Students with extended medical concerns or other reasons may participate in **Homeschooling**, in which the parent chooses all instructional materials and is solely responsible for student learning. This model is appropriate for families who do not wish to continue with computer-based learning at home or those who do not feel the Remote Learning Track provided by Voluntown Elementary School to be an appropriate model for their child. This model does not necessarily prepare students for a return to school without possible gaps in learning. Parents who wish to keep their students out of school for an extended portion of the year or the entire year may consider this model. The State of Connecticut has designed a Remote Learning Hub (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub>) for parents to utilize for learning.

A letter of homeschool intent/notification must be filed with the superintendent's office to withdraw from public school education if a parent chooses to homeschool their child.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and parents engage in learning with no materials or support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are developed by the parent.				

Alternate “Surge” Models for Learning



In recognition of uncertainty, Voluntown Elementary School is prepared for an alternative scenario:

HYBRID LEARNING

REDUCED SCHOOL POPULATIONS/COHORTS ALTERED/BUSSING REDUCED – As a result of surge in COVID-19 or upon recommendation, cohorts will be dispersed with 6ft distance in rooms or placed in alternate settings for instruction with alternative staff (paras). Reduction in transportation and doubled bus runs may occur.

An alternative hybrid school schedule will be used if the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials place limits on student access to schools/busses due to the surge of COVID-19. When students are not in school, they are working at home with materials provided from the teacher and school.

ie. **Reduced Student Body (No Preschool/Cohorts Altered/Bussing Reduced or Double Runs)**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
K-8 Attends School PK AA/BB Schedule Reduced Bus Capacity, double runs as needed Alternative locations for cohorts to distance and prepare for at home learning	K-8 Attends School PK AA/BB Schedule Reduced Bus Capacity, double runs as needed Alternative locations for cohorts to distance and prepare for at home learning	ALL STUDENTS DISTANCE LEARNING Building Deep Cleaning	K-8 Attends School PK AA/BB Schedule Reduced Bus Capacity, double runs as needed Alternative locations for cohorts to distance and prepare for at home learning	K-8 Attends School PK AA/BB Schedule Reduced Bus Capacity, double runs as needed Alternative locations for cohorts to distance and prepare for at home learning

DISTANCE LEARNING




Short Term Closure (2-5 days, 2 weeks, etc.) or Long Term Closure

Students and parents engage in Distance Learning with materials and support from VES. Students in Grades PK-2 will use Seesaw; Grades 3-8 will use Google Classroom for learning and instructional activities shared through the classroom Teacher. The distance learning model will use a blend of synchronous (real time) and asynchronous (online supports) learning. As we utilize an improved model for learning, our goal is to make the transition, in-person to distance learning and back to in-person as seamless as possible. Teachers will use Seesaw and Google Classroom regularly in-person, provide support to students and transition to at distance learning through these platforms.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Distance Learning 100% of Students	Distance Learning 100% of Students	Distance Learning 100% of Students	Distance Learning 100% of Students	Half Day Distance Learning (Teacher Prep)

Monitoring COVID-19

Voluntown Public Schools will follow a traditional schedule of school while monitoring the level of transmission of COVID-19 with the assistance of the Uncas Health District. Ideally, the town of Voluntown will remain in the “green” level with little or no community transmission. School schedules and/or protocols may be adjusted if the community enters a “yellow” level with minimal or moderate community transmission. This metric is provided by the State of CT and can be found in [Addendum 4 Table 1](#). If there is a substantial surge in local cases, based on guidance from the State of Connecticut and/or the Uncas Health District, the school will likely revert to a Distance Learning Model.

		
LITTLE or NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Minimal/No spread of Virus (or Virus Contained)	MINIMAL OR MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Moderate Spread of Virus (requires possible adjusted schedule and adjusted transportation)	SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine)
Instruction is 100% in-person	K-8 In-Person 4 days per week PreSchool 2days in-person/3 Days Distance Learning	Instruction is 100% Distance Learning
Daily attendance rates monitored	Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials	Attendance for Distance Learning is monitored based on participation from home
Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene	Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene	Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices
Prevention measures in place	Heightened prevention measures in place	Strict prevention measures in place for essential personnel
Social distancing in place	Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events	Quarantine measures in place
Group gatherings/events limited or postponed all events require Admin approval	Group gatherings/events postponed	All group gatherings/events canceled
Remain prepared for Distance Learning while learning is in-person at school	Active Preparation for Distance Learning and/or short-term school dismissals resulting in possible Distance learning for two-week periods	Continued engagement in Distance Learning during extended school dismissals and/or closures for long periods
Cleaning and disinfecting in place	Intensified cleaning and sanitizing in place multiple times per day in high activity areas Wednesdays deep cleaning occurs	Classroom and buildings sanitized and shut down
Regular communication with local health officials	Coordination of closure with local health officials	Order of closure from local health officials and/or Executive Order for closure from Governor’s Office

Note: All plans are subject to change/adjustments as appropriate.

COVID-19 Cases in School



IN SCHOOL
TRANSMISSION

If a student, staff member, or visitor has been present in school has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials (Uncas Health District) immediately.

The Uncas Health District will assess risk of further transmission in the school.

Decisions are made concerning:

- CONTACT TRACING
- CLOSURE
- CLEANING
- CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL
- SEE ADDENDUM A: Student, Faculty Staff Symptoms Consistent with COVID- 19 in School

The decision to suspend or close school (or the entire school district) will be made by the Superintendent or designee based on information and recommendation from local health officials (Uncas Health District). Board of Education members and town officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.

VES will likely implement a short-term closure (2-5 days) or longer regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. The CDC recommends dismissal of students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

All communications to the school community including staff and families are made through the Principal's Office and Superintendent's Office. (ie. Facebook, Schoolmessenger, Website).

During school closures, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.

A confirmed case in the school building:

Assess risk with local health officials.

Plan for short (2-5 days) or longer (10 days) closure

to clean, disinfect, and contract trace in consultation with the Uncas Health District.

Reopening Committee Focus

The purpose of this section of the document, “**Reopening VES**” is to articulate a [checklist for reopening](#) in each of the above focus areas for at least the first 12-weeks of school (or longer/shorter as conditions warrant). The checklist is meant to be shared with staff, families, and community members. The length of time for the various protocols will be adjusted based on expectations from the State of Connecticut and local health officials (Uncas Health District).

All of the focus areas above will be addressed by the **Voluntown REOPEN Committee**.

Compliance Liaison: The Superintendent of Schools has appointed Amy Suffoletto , Principal of Voluntown Elementary School to serve as COVID-19 Health & Safety Compliance Liaison and COVID-19 Response Leader.

- 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 set out in this document and address questions about compliance.
- The Liaison, along with the Superintendent of Schools, will support the implementation of these requirements, as well as the implementation of other school health & safety measures relating to COVID-19 and any additional guidance provided by the State of Connecticut and the Uncas Health District.



Voluntown REOPEN Committee



<p>Educational Programming</p> <p>Amy Suffoletto Principal/Compliance Liaison</p> <p>Dr. Lloyd Johnson Director of Student Services</p>	<p>Health & Wellness</p> <p>Holly Santiago School Nurse</p> <p>Patrick McCormack Uncas Health Director</p>	<p>Facilities & Operations</p> <p>Brian Kallio Director of Maintenance</p> <p>Tom O’Connor Director of Food Service</p>
<p>Technology</p> <p>Jim Ward Technology Consultant</p>	<p>Transportation</p> <p>Terry Chenette Director Of Transportation</p>	<p>Social Emotional Well-Being</p> <p>Kathleen Groth Counselor/Social Worker</p>
<p>Adam S. Burrows Superintendent of Schools</p> <p>Rachel Ricard Executive Assistant to the Superintendent/Parent</p>	<p>Andrea Kelly Voluntown Education Association</p> <p>Toula Wyland Preschool Teacher</p> <p>Angela Gardella Connecticut State Employees Association</p>	<p>Kate Beuparlant BOE Chairperson/Parent</p> <p>Tracey Hanson First Selectwoma/Parent</p> <p>Amanda Page Parent</p>

Checklist - Health & Wellness

The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority in planning for the Voluntown Public Schools reopening. Voluntown Elementary will work in collaboration with local health officials (Uncas Health District), the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor in planning for health and wellness procedures, as well as making decisions regarding the status of school.

 Checklist item is **required** by the State of Connecticut.

Health expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	Conditions for reopening have been confirmed by the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials (Uncas Health District).
	The State of Connecticut has lifted, adjusted, or removed any school closure or Executive Order allowing schools to physically reopen.
	The local health officials (Uncas Health District) have determined that local conditions safely allow for schools to physically reopen.
2	Planning guidelines for reopening have been issued by the State of Connecticut and VES plans have been developed and approved at the local level under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.
	The State of Connecticut and State Department of Education have issued guidelines on which school reopening plans are to be based.
	The Voluntown Elementary School reopening plan, "Reopening Voluntown Elementary School" has been developed in consultation with the Uncas Health District.
	The Voluntown Elementary School reopening plan has been approved by the reopening committee in accordance with guidance by the CT SDE and the Voluntown Board of Education.
3	The Central Office has confirmed that there is adequate protective equipment in place for reopening.
	There is protective equipment (including masks) for students in the classrooms and throughout the facilities.
	There is protective equipment (including masks and PPE) for staff appropriate for each classification or duty.
	There is a plan for an ongoing supply of protective equipment.
	There is a sufficient number of no-touch thermal scan thermometers for symptom screenings.
	There is sufficient PPE for the staff of various populations of students with disabilities (i.e., for those requiring medical procedures, toileting, lifting and mobility assistance).
	There is a sufficient supply of school-appropriate cleaning supplies to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with State of Connecticut & DPH guidance.
	There are sufficient supplies that include hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and paper towels.
4	The Superintendent of Schools has established a procedure should there be COVID-19 cases in the school or in the community that could possibly impact the school.
	The Superintendent and Principal have updated the Voluntown Pandemic Response Plan that includes procedures for a case or cases of COVID-19. This procedure includes communication to the local health officials (Uncas Health District) when a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has possibly exposed others at the school.







	The Principals and Director of Maintenance have procedures for isolating an area of the school for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases in the school and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the Uncas Health District.
	The Superintendent of Schools has a procedure for the closure of schools for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the local health officials.
	The Board of Education has granted the Superintendent the authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from the State of Connecticut and/or the Uncas Health District.
	The Board of Education has granted the Superintendent the authority to limit access to public school grounds and school buildings during school closures or elevated levels of transmission in the area.
	Under the supervision of the School Principal, the school is able to provide for a continuity of instruction/distance learning, if necessary.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Student Services, the schools will be prepared for any special or unique needs for students with disabilities related to planned district or school wide procedures.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Food Services and the Superintendent of Schools, the school is able to provide for continuity of meal service, if necessary.
5	The Board of Education has authorized limited access and/or restricted access to the schools by the public.
	The Board of Education has approved restricting access to the school buildings during the school day by nonessential visitors and minimal use of school buildings outside of school hours.
	Students, parents, caregivers, essential visitors, and staff are excluded from school facilities if showing symptoms of COVID-19 or if a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19.
6	The School Nurse and Principal have organized a screening procedure for students at home and to the extent possible, at school.
	Passive Screening: Parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. A list of CDC Symptoms (see addendum C) will be provided for parents to monitor their child's health daily before leaving for school. Parents are asked to keep students at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: The school will screen students as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Students will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Students may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. NOTE: Screening procedures for all children are not required at the point of entry to the school. However, school staff will observe and temperature check students upon entry and as needed throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the school nurse.
	In screening students who appear ill, only the School Nurse shall use a thermometer requiring a touch method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc). Caution will be taken by the nurse including wearing gloves, eye protection, and a mask.




➔	Students with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted into the school. Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
➔	The School Nurse will monitor screening information/data of students while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
➔	The School Nurse will monitor symptoms in students and staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principal will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands as they board buses and upon entering schools.
	The Principal will oversee that upon entry to school large gatherings are avoided. Students will proceed directly to homerooms or small group designated areas.
7	The School Nurse and Principal have organized a screening of staff at home and to the extent possible, at school.
➔	Passive Screening: Staff and regular approved visitors are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. A list of CDC Symptoms (see addendum C) will be provided for staff to monitor their health to use daily before leaving for work. Staff and essential visitors are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
➔	Active Screening: The school will screen staff and regular approved visitors as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Staff and essential visitors will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Staff may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
➔	Staff and regular approved visitors with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted into the school. Staff and regular approved visitors will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
➔	The School Nurse will monitor screening information/data of staff and essential visitors while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
➔	The School Nurse will monitor symptoms in staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principal will oversee procedures for all staff and regular approved visitors to sanitize hands upon entering schools.
8	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for symptomatic students.
	Students who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be separated from others immediately by the School Nurse. Contacted areas will be disinfected promptly.
➔	Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to continue to wear a mask and wait in a supervised, designated isolated area through which others do not enter until the student can be transported home.
	If more than one student is in the isolation area, physical distancing will be maintained.
	The School Nurse will have a plan for triaging students in the health office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related.



	The School Nurse will advise parents of sick students that students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html . Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of students at school. Local testing site information will be shared with families. The School Nurse will monitor testing results of students once made available by parents, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
➔	If a student has been present in school and has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials (Uncas Health District) immediately. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
➔	The Crisis Intervention Team will maintain designated responsibilities including monitoring of attendance, symptoms, and screening; communications to families; overseeing cleaning procedures; and responding to suspected confirmed cases.
9	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for symptomatic staff and volunteers.
	Adults who are symptomatic while entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be sent home and advised to seek medical care.
	The School Nurse will advise adults not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html . Staff and essential visitors will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of staff and visitors at school. Local testing site information will be shared with staff. The School Nurse will monitor testing results of staff and essential visitors, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
➔	If a staff member or essential visitor has been present in school and has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials (Uncas Health District) immediately. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a staff member or a visitor is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with privacy expectations and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
10	Outside visitors and groups will have very limited or no access to schools during the school day.
	Access to the buildings by visitors/parents will be extremely limited and only for specific educational purposes only as deemed necessary by a student's IEP plan or deemed necessary by administration.
	The school will post "No Visitors" that includes the following wording, "Visitors will not be permitted into school facilities unless scheduled to enter, or required by law, or otherwise required by a student's individualized educational plan.
	Passive Screening: Visitors/parents with prior approval to enter the building are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent COVID-19. Visitors/parents are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: The school will screen visitors/parents with prior approval to enter the building as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Visitors/parents will be observed for

	illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Visitors/parents may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
	The school's Main Office will maintain a log for those visitors allowed into the building. The log will include name, contact phone number, and arrival/departure time of each individual.
	The Principal and office staff will organize parent pick-up/drop-off of students, which will be modified as needed. The use of a face mask will be required of all parents who are picking up or dropping-off students during the school day and required to enter the school office in the process. Pick-up in the afternoon will be modified to ensure that parents have limited or no access to the interior of the school building. All pick-ups will be in our car rider line.
➔	The Superintendent of Schools will review all requests for use of the school – before and after school. There will be limited access to outside organizations' use of school and the school's resources after school hours.
➔	The Central Office and Superintendent of Schools will ensure that external community organizations that are allowed use of the facilities also follow the school's health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of local health officials (Uncas Health District).
	There are procedures at the school site developed by the Principal and the custodial staff for accepting deliveries in a safe manner.

Wellness expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The School Nurse will oversee high standards of hygiene (handwashing / sanitizing) and training for all in each school.
	The School Nurse will ensure, in accordance with CDC guidance, that handwashing/sanitizing includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing/sanitizing frequency guidance. ● Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations. ● The availability of hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol). ● Children under age nine use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
➔	The School Nurse will identify the training needs of staff related to health and safety protocols and work with the Principal who will oversee such training prior to the first day of classes.
➔	The Principal will plan in-person or online training that includes: social distancing; cleaning protocols; and hygiene practices. The Principal will ensure access for all students and staff, as well as for family members who are interested.
➔	Training will be provided to substitutes or others who may enter the school outside of the first day or typical calendar start.
➔	The Principal will designate additional individuals to assist with training.
	The Principal and teachers will review guidance/training and post signage on proper handwashing techniques with students, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible. ● Staff and students should dry hands thoroughly. ● Wash/sanitize hands when: arriving and leaving home; arriving at and leaving school; after playing outside; after having close contact with others; after using shared surfaces or tools; before and after using restroom; after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing; and before and after eating and preparing foods.
➔	The Principal and teachers will ensure that students receive ongoing education in the expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. Students will be educated about how coronavirus is spread, and how preventative actions help avoid the spread (for example, that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keeps the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes).

	<p>The Principal and teachers will assess the best approach to communicating wellness information for each age group, and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as scheduling frequent reminders, to review the new policies and protocols. These practices include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● social distancing, ● use of face coverings/masks that completely cover the nose and mouth, ● respiratory and cough etiquette, and ● enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.
<p style="text-align: center;">2</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All school employees will assist in the expectation from the State of Connecticut that face coverings/masks are in place during the school day by all.</p>
	<p>The following communication will appear in school email, website, and social media: “For the safety of all students and all staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to schools requires that all students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus.”</p>
	<p>The only exceptions for face coverings or masks are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● For anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, face coverings and masks should not be required, per CDC guidance. ● For anyone who has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering, masks should not be required.
	<p>For students, face coverings/masks may be removed while eating, drinking, during PE, or when students are outside, and effectively practicing social distancing. Exceptions may also be necessary for certain special education students or other special populations.</p>
	<p>For students who have trouble breathing or for other medical reasons, reasonable accommodations will include a face shield with a cloth drape attached across the bottom and tucked into the shirt. <i>NOTE:</i> Face shields alone are not a sufficient alternative to the wearing of face masks, but rather both should be worn for additional protection.</p>
	<p>Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks.</p>
	<p>Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p>
	<p>Principal and teachers will establish times for “Mask Breaks” that will be provided during the school day. Breaks will occur when students can practice social distancing and/or when they are outside.</p>
	<p>Staff members and essential visitors will wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth inside the schools and will be assigned all necessary PPE as required for their role.</p>
	<p>For teachers and staff, face coverings/masks may be removed while teaching if the following conditions are in place: Enhanced social distancing; remaining static behind a physical barrier of some sort; while eating, drinking, or when outside and effectively practicing social distancing.</p>
	<p>Face shields worn with face masks may also be used by staff who support students with special healthcare needs (who are not able to wear masks and who may need assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, eating).</p>
	<p>Staff working with students who are not wearing face coverings due to one of the exceptions and also cannot maintain social distancing will be provided increased protective equipment, including but not limited to medical-grade masks and disposable gowns.</p>
	<p>The school will have backup disposable masks available for staff members who forget them.</p>
	<p>Staff members will receive guidance/training on proper use of PPE required for their role: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html.</p>
	<p>The School Nurse and any staff member engaged in symptom screening will be provided surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves during screenings</p>
	<p>Front office and food service employees will be provided face coverings or masks and disposable gloves as needed for times when contact with others increases.</p>

	Custodial staff will be provided equipment and PPE for cleaning and disinfecting: (1) For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting will be provided. (2) Custodial staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting will be equipped with proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.
	Essential visitors and those making deliveries to the school must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth.
	Information will be given to staff, students and, parents on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html
3	All school employees will assist in the expectation that Physical Distancing/Social distancing is maintained as much as possible.
	The school administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines at that time.
	The Principal will be prepared to communicate and adjust the approach to social distancing if guidance from the CDC or DPH changes due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, including transmission.
	The Principal will plan for the number of people that can be in all school spaces (library, cafeteria, gymnasium) based on maintaining reasonable social distancing prior to use by a classroom or group.
	Even with social distancing expectations in the classroom, school spaces, hallways, students and staff members will wear face coverings/masks in school and on the bus.
	To the extent possible the schools will create student/teacher classroom cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Consistent teams/cohorts will minimize cross-contamination of student groups.
	VES will have plans to minimize movement of students and staff as much as possible and reduce the amount of students and staff that move at the same time.
	Traffic patterns in hallways will be designed to promote social distancing. Strategies will include staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways.
	Classroom seating shall be assigned to students at all times during the day. Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed.
	The school will restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals. These materials include such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. No two individuals should use the same materials in a given school day without appropriate cleaning/disinfecting in between uses.
	All backpacks and personal belongings will be stored at student desks, unless an alternative location is available.
4	The Superintendent of Schools will oversee school activities/athletics, which will be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis.
	The school district will follow all CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) guidelines for junior high sports after approval of such activities by the Superintendent of Schools. Athletic guidance and expectations will be provided in a separate document by the CIAC.
	After school clubs, activities, and events will be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. Approval will be based on the ability to meet the safety expectations of students and staff members involved.

	Recess time and use of playgrounds/will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing. Recess time will be adjusted for specific classroom and/or cohorts.
	The Principal will work with the Physical Education Teacher in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> . In general, activities will be limited to those that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
	The Principal will work with the Art and Music Teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> .
	Courses and activities that may involve any potential risk to students and staff will be approved in advance by the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
5	The School Nurse will oversee and monitor changes and updates to the State of Connecticut Requirements for Immunizations and Health Assessments.
	Immunizations: Guidance from the Department of Public Health was issued dated June 17, 2020 emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
	Health Assessments: Guidance from the CSDE was issued dated June 26, 2020 outlining the requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.
*	If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID-19:
	The school will determine the student and staff capacity of classrooms and school spaces based on state of local guidelines limiting existing class groups/sizes in every classroom.
	The classroom will be arranged in a manner that minimizes face-to-face contact and increases the space between desks and/or providing barriers between children at tables. Desks/tables will be separated and turned to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other).
	Other spaces in the building may be used for instructional activities to allow for appropriate distancing including gyms, cafeterias, libraries, larger rooms, outdoors.
	The school may need to limit the number of students present in classrooms and/or limit the number of students physically reporting to school each day based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut.
	The school schedule may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing (in classrooms) based on adjusted guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If a hybrid model is needed, an alternative schedule will be provided as noted on pg. 14. ● Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Distance Learning by all students as noted on pg. 14.

The following items are considered essential to reopening.

**Voluntown Schools
DISPOSABLE MASKS**

We have secured PPE through various vendors and the UNCAS Health District. PPE inventory is monitored daily through the Principal, Nurse and Director of Maintenance in a live document.

* This chart indicates the projected number of potential masks that may be needed for the first 12 weeks of school. This estimate is meant to identify our district needs and will fluctuate dependent upon needs and utilization.

Group	District Quantity	12-week Supply at 100% Attendance	12-week Supply at 50% Attendance	Assumptions
Students	250 per week	3,000	1500	1 disposable mask per week per student to supplement the cloth masks provided by parent/guardian
Teachers and other staff	100 per week	1,200	1200	1 disposable masks per week per teacher to supplement cloth mask
School nurses and health providers	10 per week	120	120	10 disposable masks per week for the nurse's office.
HS Students (BUS)	10 per week	10 per week	10 per week	10 disposable masks per week for BUS
Total	370 per week	4,330	2,810	

**VoluntownPublic Schools
MATERIALS FOR STAFF MEMBERS WHO MAY BE IN HIGH-INTENSITY CONTACT WITH STUDENTS OR
HANDLING WASTE MATERIALS**


*Initial recommended quantities calculated per 1 staff
(e.g. nurses, custodians, and some special education teachers and other staff)*


This chart indicates the projected number of potential PPE supplies that may be needed for the first 12 weeks of school. This estimate is meant to identify our district needs and will fluctuate dependent upon needs and utilization.



Item	District Quantity	Supply	Assumptions
Disposable Nitrile Gloves	4 boxes per week	Secured	Special Ed Staff, Nurse, Custodian, Preschool Staff, Food Service, Limited Staff
Disposable Gowns	40 per week	Secured	Special Ed Staff, Nurse, Custodian, Preschool Staff
Reusable Eye Protection	15 total	On order	Custodian
Reusable Face Shields	75 one per staff member	Secured	All staff will be provided with one
Waste Disposal Medium	1 unit for biohazard waste	Ordered	1 unit for biohazard waste
N-95 Ventilating Masks*	4	Need to order	4 N-95 masks

* Note: N-95 masks are recommended **only** if staff will be in contact with a suspected COVID-19 positive case and/or performing aerosol-generating procedures. *KN-95 Ventilating Masks can be substituted for N-95 masks if they have been tested for filtration effectiveness.*



Checklist - Facilities & Operation





 Policies and protocols related to facilities and operations will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and the School Administration with the understanding that schools may need to react quickly to changing conditions. Given the possibility of changes in public health data, there may be an increase or a relaxation of restrictions throughout the school year to respond effectively to health concerns.


Facility expectations for reopening the Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The Director of Maintenance and School Administrators will ensure that the school meets <u>high cleanliness standards</u> prior to reopening and maintains a high level of cleanliness during the school year.
	The Director of Maintenance will oversee the reopening of the school building that specifically addresses high standards of cleanliness for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.
	The Director of Maintenance, Superintendent, Principal, Board of Education Chair, and available members will do a walkthrough of the school prior to reopening to review cleanliness expectations as well as conducting a review of the reopening plan.
	The Director of Maintenance and School Administrators will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by the State of Connecticut and the CDC to staff and families.
	Building plans for disinfecting high touch surfaces will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Door handles ● Handrails ● Drinking fountains (not in use only for bottle filling) ● Sink handles ● Restroom surfaces ● Instructional materials that cannot be supplied to a specific student ● Playground equipment
	Frequently touched surfaces and other equipment will be cleaned throughout the day (every 2-3 hours on a rotating basis). Desks and classroom equipment should not be shared; however, those that are used by more than one group will be cleaned in between usage.
	Custodial staff will continuously clean: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tables that are used throughout the day ● Chairs that are shared during the day ● Classroom/office items, such as phones, headsets, copy machines, etc. ● Staff members that regularly use these items will be provided disinfectant to aid in continuous cleaning.
	Doors, trash cans, and bathroom fixtures, will be positioned for no-touch usage where possible. Interior doors will be propped open in accordance with fire and safety codes, and remove trash lids.
	 Maximize use of disposable towels in lieu of hand dryers, due to ventilation considerations. Hand dyers will not be used.
	The Principal will work with teachers to assess ways to minimize exposure from playground and fitness equipment use, including but not limited to ensuring only the team cohort uses it at the same time, hand washing before and after use or use of hand sanitizer, and disinfecting fitness equipment or other smaller outside equipment after each group of students' use .

	Bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized at least twice a day.
	The Director of Maintenance will use products that are approved for the State of Connecticut that are labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
	Cleaning logs will be used to track cleaning frequency of areas including bathrooms.
	The Director of Maintenance will ensure the school complies with DPH guidelines including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools during COVID-19 • Return to Service Guidance for Building Water Systems • Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems
	The ventilation systems have been checked and our approach is to shorten the filter replacement schedule from six months to 3-4 months as recommended by DPH. All but the faculty room and 3 classrooms are now air conditioned.
	Director of Maintenance has participated in a “Comprehensive Path to COVID-19 Recovery” workshop regarding issues for the health and safety and compliance with IAQ/TfS, Safety Standards and for following the use of PPE equipment, especially with the change of any filters.
2	The Director of Maintenance and School Administrators will ensure that VES meets <u>distancing expectations</u> by adjusting the set up in all classrooms.
	The Director of Maintenance will oversee a reopening plan that specifically addresses social distancing for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize social distancing between student workstations, achieving 6 feet if feasible (not required) when determining the classroom layout. Desks should face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or students should sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart. • Where necessary, assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction in the school. • Maximize space between the teacher and students due to the risk of increased droplets from teachers during instruction. If a teacher removes face covering or mask during instruction, spacing should be increased beyond six feet. For teachers who stay seated, a physical barrier may be considered an option. • Floor markings throughout classrooms and the school will be included to illustrate social/physical distancing. • Ceiling fans will be set to draw air up away from students for additional protection. • Reminder: VES has smaller classroom sizes and therefore can effectively meet social distancing requirements within all grade levels and classrooms.
	The Director of Maintenance and Principal will work together to ensure that classroom furniture besides desks is adjusted to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	Classroom bookcases, reading nooks, storage cabinets will be removed/repositioned to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	The Director of Maintenance and Principal will work together to ensure that a dedicated medical isolation room has been identified.
3	School Administrators will ensure that the school restricts the shared use of materials.
	Principal will work to ensure that staff restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals (including such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies). Teachers will ensure that there is a procedure for disinfecting any electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids that must be shared during the same school day.

	Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized (such as shared stuffed animals in classrooms) will not be allowed in classrooms.
	Each student's belongings/school supplies will be separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, locker, or at their desk.
4	The Director of Maintenance will ensure that hand washing and sanitizing stations will be readily available.
	The school will ensure that staff, students, and essential visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
5	The Director of Maintenance and School Administrators will oversee a response plan for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
	The School will have a plan to close off areas used by any sick person and not reopening those areas or using areas before cleaning and disinfection. The Director of Maintenance will oversee the proper cleaning of any such area.






Operations expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The School Nurse will oversee staff training on the physical protection of the school community.
	<p>The school will provide required staff training on the following as part of the reopening prior to the start of school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Physical distancing of staff and students ● Symptom screening, including temperature checks ● Proper use of protective equipment ● The correct use of cloth face coverings/masks ● Cough and sneeze etiquette ● Keeping one's hands away from one's face ● Frequent handwashing and proper technique ● Confidentiality around health recording and reporting ● Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention
2	Staff training on the mental health wellness of students will be available throughout the year.
	<p>The school will provide staff training on the following (in addition to Social/Emotional Learning expectations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Training on trauma-informed practices and mental health awareness. ● Confidentiality around health recording and reporting.
3	Signage will be posted in school that is highly visible as well as being accessible for students with disabilities.
	<p>The Director of Maintenance and Principal will work together to ensure the distribution of information and regular communication about the actions school communities can take to stop the spread. Signs will be posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and provide instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face coverings or masks. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html</p>

Food service expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The Director of Food Services will ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines and any additional guidelines introduced regarding child nutrition.
	The Director of Food Services or designee will assist in promoting and determining eligibility for and make available free and reduced-price meals and snacks and free milk to all eligible students.
	The Director of Food Services will comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations and policies (and any changes occurring) for school meals and milk including the meal pattern requirements.
	The Director of Food Service or designee will ensure that the schools claim meals/milk provided to eligible students using accurate counting and claiming methods. Additionally, the number of free and reduced-price meals served and claimed for reimbursement must have adequate documentation on file to support the claim.
	The Director of Food Services will proactively plan, with School Administrators, and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited meal access during including a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Director of Food Services and the Director of Maintenance will oversee PPE for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc.
2	Food service in school will be designed to promote social distancing.
	The Director of Food Services, Director of Maintenance and working with the Principal will determine the appropriate meal distribution method (Cafeteria Service Model, Cafeteria Pick-up Model, Classroom Delivery Model) of meal service based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
	VES will communicate age-appropriate and school-appropriate strategies to families about school meal service and options. Meals service communications will communicate social distancing requirements and include any additional school options as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● additional lunch waves to separate classroom cohorts; ● staggering cafeteria use throughout the late morning/early afternoon; ● increasing the number of meal service access points; ● serving meals in cafeteria and then returning to classrooms or alternate locations; ● serving meals in classrooms and alternate locations;
	School cafeteria and meal service plans will be adjusted based on level of concern of transmission.
	There will be no "share tables" or self-service buffets for food and condiments.
	Physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, at point of sale and other areas will be installed where maintaining physical distance of 6 feet is difficult.
	If meals are provided in classrooms or alternate locations, sufficient trash removal and cleaning will be in place.

Communications expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The Superintendent of Schools will oversee communications regarding planning and reopening.
	Families, staff, and the community will receive weekly updates via email, website, and social media during the school year directly from the Superintendent of Schools or his designee regarding the most up to date policies and protocols related to all considerations and aspects of this plan and future COVID-19 planning.
	Changes to planning, changes in the status of the school's schedule, and any school closures will be communicated directly from the Superintendent's Office or his designee to the school community.

Checklist - Instruction

The **Classroom Cohort Model** will be used predominantly in Grades K-8. A Cohort is a stable group of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that students & individuals within the cohorts maintain as much physical distance as possible. The classroom cohort will spend as much of the day together as a group as possible with a single teacher or with teachers of different subject areas meeting the cohort in the cohort's assigned classroom(s).

Instructional expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	The instructional day and building schedules may be modified to meet the current health situation.
	Administration will communicate to staff and families any class cancelation (or adjustment in schedule) and subsequent reopening in the event that the State cancels in-school classes for all or restricts attendance requiring employing the school's plan for a Hybrid Model.
	Administration will base closure using the most up-to-date information on specific cases in the community or in the school with the consultation of local health officials and the district medical supervisor.
	Administration will notify the State Department of Education should a local decision be made to close under the guidance of local health officials and/or the district medical supervisor.
	The Principal will review current instructional schedules in the school and make any modifications necessary to reopen and best meet the needs of students and staff members for a full return to school.
	The Principal will be prepared to amend schedules as necessary due to increased transmission in the school and/or the community. Alternate "Surge" Models may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 82% Hybrid Models for a moderate increase in transmission including A-B Student Cohorts of alternating days or alternating weeks, or increase separation of cohorts or ● Distance Learning for a large increase in transmission
	The Principal and teachers will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for an expedited shift to Distance Learning instruction during a required short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Principal and Technology Consultant will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited technology access/support for a required period of Distance Learning including a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Principal and teachers will consult and share resources for teaching in a Distance Learning environment that is both synchronous and asynchronous which can be found in the Plan to Reimagine CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning and the CT Remote Learning Hub .
	The schools will evaluate and adapt any revised models of instruction throughout the year with all educational partners and staff.
	Administration will develop a substitute plan to support the needs of the students and staff.
2	The Principal will group students in Classroom Cohorts in Grades K-8, as much as possible.
	Classroom cohorts will be established and use the same classroom every day and for the most part utilize the same hallways, bathrooms, and other areas of the school as much as possible. Cohorts will be assigned specific teachers and support personnel.

	The Principal 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.
	The Principal and teachers will restrict the mixing of cohorts for the start of the school year as much as possible.
	Teachers will push into the cohort classroom as much as possible for academic courses and special courses including Art, Music, Library, & Social Learning resulting in teachers of specific content areas rotating through the building, instead of student groups. Physical Education classes will take place primarily outside, to the greatest extent possible, unless weather doesn't permit then in the classroom or gymnasium.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned seating in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned materials in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
	The Principal will create schedules, as much as possible, that stagger passing in the hall by adjusting schedules to ensure students change rooms, if necessary, at different times.
3	All learning experiences will be reviewed in order to ensure safe and appropriate instructional practices.
	The Principal and Director of Student Services will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications in order to provide safe environments for students and teachers.
	The Principal and Director of Student Services will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications in order to provide an appropriate, high standard of learning for students and teachers.
	Courses and activities that may involve risk to students and staff (singing, playing instruments, food production and consumption, etc.) will be approved in advance by the the Principal and Superintendent of Schools.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited and require approval of the the Principal and Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited and require approval of the Principal and Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
4	The Principal and faculty will work to identify learning gaps, learning barriers, and find innovative ways to meet the needs of children.
	Diagnostic assessments will be used to identify specific areas where instruction or intervention may be needed to improve student learning.
	Formative assessments and progress monitoring will take place during lessons and provide actionable information about students' learning status relative to the desired lesson goal.
	Teachers will use data from formative assessments immediately to adjust their instruction and ensure students' progress towards learning goals.
	School teams will develop common diagnostic, formative, and summative assessment tools across the school for comparative analysis to identify specific targeted student learning needs.
	The Principal will refine the school's multi-tiered system of support and include guidance for implementing Tier 1 strategies before offering Tier 2 interventions and when and how to offer Tier 2 and Tier 3 supports.
	The Special Education Team will oversee appropriate accommodations for students and share innovative ways to meet unique student needs with teachers. The team will collaborate consistently with grade level teachers.

5	Utilize data to ensure that all children are performing at grade level by the end of the 2020-21 school year.
	Each grade level will identify learning goals that are clearly established and shared.
6	The State of Connecticut will develop a Remote Learning Model for learning at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons.
	The Principal will conduct a survey to find out which students will participate in In-Person Learning, Remote Learning Track with school support, or Homeschooling without school support.
	The Principal will oversee school support for students in the Remote Learning Track. Students who are remote learning will utilize Google Classroom Grades 3-8 or Seesaw PK-2. The CT Remote Learning Hub (https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub) will provide high quality, high impact resources from experts in the field for academic content, social, emotional health and well-being.
7	The schools will base assessment practices for 20-21 on the Connecticut Department of Education model found in: <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together.</i>

Sensible Assessment Practices in 2020–21 and Beyond

1. Summer 2020

★ **Review Available Information**
In lieu of a separate assessment, what can we already know about our students from existing data/information?*

Vertical Teams for Teachers, Interventionists, Instructional Specialists, and Related Service Providers

- What standards were taught in-person pre-COVID and during distance learning?
- How does the previous teacher describe the student's strengths and weaknesses?
- How well did the student engage in distance learning?

Longitudinal Data (Non-Assessment)

- Early Indication Tool support level (Low-Medium-High), attendance, discipline, mobility, course failures, etc.

Longitudinal Data (Assessment)

- K-Inventory, Smarter Balanced, NGSS, Alt. Assessments, LAS Links, IAB, F-IAB, Fall/Winter Benchmark, IEP Progress Reports

★ **Plan the First Unit and Support Professional Learning**
The first unit should not only engage students but also ensure that students will have a high probability of success. Teachers will need professional learning on topics such as assessment/data literacy, formative assessment practices, differentiated instruction, learning progressions, blended learning approaches/tools.

*Students new to CT public schools will likely need a screening and/or overall assessment such as the ICA or a local benchmark assessment.

2. Start of the School Year

★ **Build Community with New Class While Delivering the First Unit**
Acknowledge and address social-emotional learning needs and family/health/trauma issues due to pandemic. Start with a unit that is engaging and has high probability of success. Review key prior grade content if necessary.

- **Deliver differentiated instruction** by starting with engaging on-grade unit with high probability of success; review if necessary.
- **Use formative assessment practices** to gauge impact and adjust instruction.
- **Embed Tier 2 supports** in the classroom based on review of available information in the summer.

3. Rest of the School Year

★ **Shift Fully to On-Grade Instruction with Scaffolds and Supports**
If the first unit incorporates review, then the shift fully to on-grade instruction should occur within 2–3 weeks. Districts should identify prerequisite content for each instructional unit and the corresponding diagnostic assessment.





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graph TD
    A((Use diagnostic assessments to identify strengths/weaknesses, especially in the prerequisite skills for on-grade content)) --> B((Deliver differentiated instruction covering grade-level content and personalized to needs and interests of students))
    B --> C((Use formative assessment practices to gauge impact and adjust instruction))
    C --> D((Offer Tier 2 supports based on formative assessment info. that are either embedded in the classroom or provided separately))
    D --> E((Optional: Administer aligned, on-grade IAB or district-determined assessment to evaluate mastery of learning))
    E --> A
  
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4. End

★ **Administer End-of-Year Summative Assessment**
Administer an on-grade summative assessment (which may be the state assessment for students in Grades 3–8 and 11) to evaluate overall achievement on state standards

8	The Director of Student Services, Special Education Teachers, and Counselor/Social Worker will oversee programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs.
	The school will oversee programming for the fall with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education


	(FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). During the spring of 2020 closure, the schools may not have been able to provide all services in the same manner that they are typically provided. Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.
	The school will treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students, including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under the IDEA and accommodation plans for eligible students under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input. Consider remote learning schedules if needed.
	Programming decisions will not be based on a student's disability category. However, the nature and/or severity of a student's disability may require unique considerations. Protocols should consider the student's developmental level and skills.
	Special Education Teachers, School Nurse and Counselor/Social Worker will communicate with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist special population and special education students in their return to the school building.
9	The Principal will oversee the safe implementation of Physical Education, Art, and Music, Courses and extracurricular activities.
	All educational programming in PE, Art, and Music will be expected to adhere to all CDC, state, and local guidelines related to social distancing and disinfecting areas & equipment.
	The Principal will work with teachers to plan for physical education, fine arts, and music curricula that consider the needs of all students, including focusing on activities, adaptations, and modifications of all education activities to ensure the full inclusion by all students.
	PE at all levels will focus as much as possible on activities, fitness, exercises, and sports that are teacher led but performed individually and focus on lifetime fitness, utilizing alternative environments, land-based activities, and individual sports/activities.
	PE activities will assist as much as possible in the support of social-emotional learning.
	<p>Music and Art courses will strive to maintain current program of studies and course offerings, utilizing the following safety precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During Hybrid Learning instrumental lessons and chorus will be suspended and revisited. Should chorus and band resume, students and parents will be notified to determine if they will participate. Students will be offered instruction via Google Classroom for band/chorus. • If chorus and band return, maintain proper spacing of at least 12 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments by scheduling large ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gyms or other large spaces. Focus on maximizing distancing for instruments that require blowing or for singing, compared with string and percussion instruments. • Schedule large ensembles into smaller groups throughout the day. Shift curriculum focus to solo and small ensemble work and create virtual performance experiences and assessments. • Continue full access to beginning instrumental music. Maintain small homogeneous groupings of instruments for lesson instruction. • Provide individual art supply kits for each student or plan for increased sanitization between all uses. • Use on-line apps or platforms for student artwork (e.g., SeeSaw, Google Classroom) Others are available or necessary.

Checklist - Social/Emotional Growth

While much uncertainty surrounds how and when school will reopen, we know that social and emotional learning (SEL) will be critical to re-engaging students, supporting adults, rebuilding relationships, and creating a foundation for academic learning. This unprecedented shift to a new type of learning experience may have a lasting and profound impact on young people’s academic, social, emotional, and life outcomes. School leaders will need to bring together administrators, teachers, school staff, families, youth, and community partners to co-create supportive learning environments where all students and adults can enhance their social and emotional competencies, feel a sense of belonging, heal, and thrive.

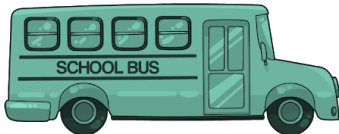
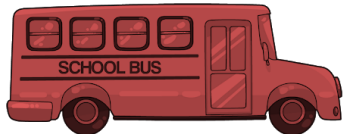
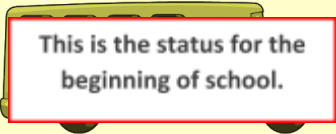
High-quality SEL implementation provides students and adults an opportunity to continue cultivating critical skills - such as empathy and compassion, self-regulation, stress management, communication, collaboration—that they will need not only to manage their experiences during the pandemic, but also to be caring, contributing members of their communities. SEL can also help educators reflect on how this experience has shaped our understanding of what and how we teach in schools, as well as the conditions that fully and equitably support student learning.


From “Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning” (casel.org)



Social/Emotional expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	Counselor/Social Worker will work with faculty and staff to ensure the inclusion of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) to benefit the entire school community.
	Plan for experiences that ensure that the school place adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Strategies will be identified to engage populations and specific students that have been disengaged.
	Support the integrations of SEL into academic content through planning instructional activities with teachers.
2	Coordinate SEL activities.
	Engage directly with staff and families and provide activities to help them feel comfortable back in the school.
	Assess the social and emotional support needed by the students during the initial reopening period as a result of the Distance Learning period. Encourage that all parties reflect on the students’ ability to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the alternative learning contexts during Distance Learning.
	Engage the staff in reflecting on what they’ve learned from the spring of 2020 and how this experience will shape the coming years for them and their students.
	Provide professional development, as available, prior to the start of school, including resources to support student trauma.
3	Integrate SEL activities into the reopening process.
	Consider how staff can coordinate to check in with a small groups of students and families;
	Intentionally build structures that promote supportive adult-student relationships and a sense of belonging.
	Create exercises/lessons on alternative ways to communicate feelings given that wearing masks may alter the understandings of how individuals are feeling.

	Create exercises/lessons on positively communicating the need for physical distancing in the classroom as children naturally hug, touch, etc. when playing.
	Help staff with strategies to handle students' and/or families' varied understandings of physical distancing measures by school personnel.
	Coordinate with all staff the best ways to assist students who need additional support to physically distance or who may not be able to wear a mask due to a manifestation of their disability.
	Coordinate with all staff the best ways to support movement to ensure children are expending adequate energy. As student movement from classroom to classroom or recess activities are restricted, there may not be as many opportunities for physical activity during the school day.
4	Integrate SEL practices into instructional planning.
	The Counselor/Social Worker will support the development of integrated lessons focused on social-emotional well-being.
	The Counselor/Social Worker will implement the Second Step program to enhance instruction and practices surrounding social emotional well-being.

Checklist -Transportation

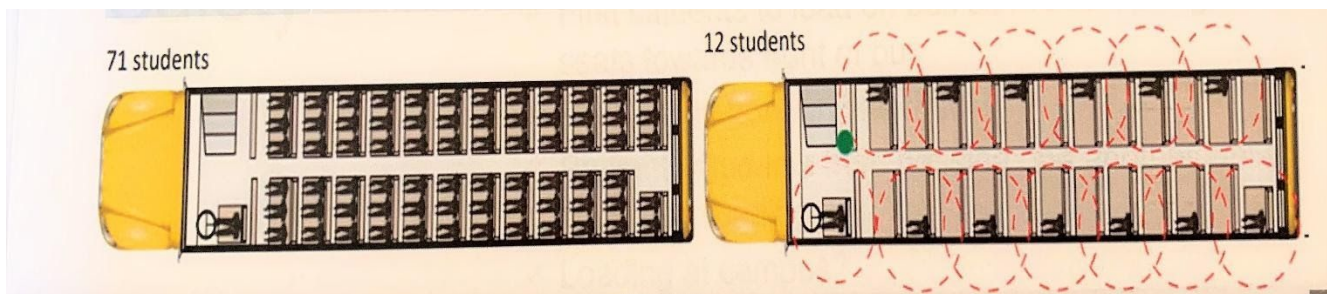
 CONNECTICUT SAFE STATUS Vaccine available or effective treatments for COVID-19	CONNECTICUT LOW STATUS Low transmission risk in the community of COVID-19	 CONNECTICUT MODERATE STATUS Moderate or more severe spread of COVID-19
Full Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions	Up to Full Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate up to full status with face coverings/mask requirements and loading and unloading restrictions  This is the status for the beginning of school.	Limited Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, face coverings/mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions. Reduced Number of Students and seating based on strict social distancing guidelines

Transportation expectations for reopening the Voluntown Public School	
1	Transportation status will be determined by the State of Connecticut and/or DPH.
	In the “ low status ” currently determined to be the status of Connecticut, student passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members in single seats. The passenger’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Passengers should load into the bus from the back

	row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) 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.
	If the state determines that we are in a “ moderate status ” student passenger density will be significantly reduced based on students taking transportation and seating arrangements. The following changes will occur: Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members should be spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating. Passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The rider’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Students should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) 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 pass by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading.
2	Transportation to and from by parents/guardians will be encouraged.
	Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school to avoid possible exposure on the bus.
	The Principal will conduct a survey to find out which students will be driven by parents at the start of the school year.
	The Principal will assess if a staggered arrival and drop off of buses and cars will enhance safety protocols in place.
	The Principal and Director of Maintenance will plan vehicle flow and logistics particularly if there are more family transport vehicles.
	There is a procedure that allows for student drop-off at the start of the day and student pick-up at the end of the day without parents needing to enter the building or exit the vehicle.
3	Proper hygiene habits will be practiced on the bus.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to assist in social distancing at bus stops and during pick-up and drop-off.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to secure masks on students at bus stops prior to students entering the bus.
	Students will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit.
	Hand sanitizer will be used prior loading the bus for students to use upon entry.
	Seating arrangements will be adjusted on buses to prevent students from passing one another while loading/unloading as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● First students to load on bus sit in back, filling seats toward the front of bus ● Students in front unload first ● Loading process at school based on route to promote limited passing in aisles ● Assigned seats will be arranged for students; siblings will sit together; cohort students sit together, as feasible or necessary.
	The Bus Cohort Model will be expected in all grades, K-8. Stable groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Students will only be permitted on the bus to which they have been assigned in order to minimize cross-contamination of student groups. Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day.
4	Bus drivers will follow the expectations for school employees regarding health and screening.
	Passive Screening: Drivers are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms outlined by

	public health officials. Drivers are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Drivers with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted to drive. Drivers will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	All drivers will sanitize hands upon entering buses.
	Bus Drivers must wear face masks. These must always be worn when children are in the bus.
5	Numbers of students on each bus will be confirmed by the State and/or by local health officials.
	Schedules will be adjusted with as little impact as possible to meet transportation requirements. Bus routes will not initially be based on survey results from parents whether they will drive students to school; however, this information will be important if the State indicates that the number of students on buses must be reduced. If extra runs are required to accommodate students and distancing expectations, students will not be penalized for arriving late to school.
*	If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID-19:
	The number of students on each bus may be adjusted.
	VES will limit the number of students on buses based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. Seating options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seat one student or same household to a bench on both sides of the bus. ● Seat one or same household to a bench on both sides of the bus, skipping every other row. ● Seat one student to a bench or same household alternating rows on each side, creating a zigzag pattern on the bus.
	Reduced size bus runs will result in adjusted bus routes resulting in “double runs” or “triple runs” resulting in staggered arrival times and dismissal times for students.
	A bus monitor employed by the school district will ride on the bus at all times and will ensure that students practice social distancing on buses. <i>This requirement may impact the school’s ability to hold in-person schooling if bus monitors are not available.</i>
	The <u>school schedule</u> may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing (on buses) based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Distance Learning by all students.

Adjustments to bus expectations by the State of Connecticut (if needed or imposed) will greatly impact school schedules and/or the ability to hold school in-person.






Above, a model from another state shared with the Association of School Business Officials

Checklist -Technology

Technology expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School	
1	Access to technology will be 1-to-1 for students in Grades 3-8
	Grades 3-8 will have 1:1 technology. Chromebooks have been ordered and as they are delivered they will be dispersed to students in school and at home.
	Teachers are expected to utilize Chromebooks with students on a daily basis with Google Classroom 3-8, as well as, use Seesaw for grades K-2 with available Ipads or Chromebooks.
2	Technology in Grades 3-8 will become mobile.
	VES technology will plan for students to take home technology for a possible closure of short duration or longer duration.
3	Equitable and universal technology access will continue to be ensured.
	The district will provide and/or assist support so that every student has access to digital technology and/or high-speed Wi-Fi.
3	Continued Learning.
	The Technology Consultant and Administration will plan for faculty and staff members to engage in relevant professional learning that supports an ongoing effort to enhance learning, in-person and remotely using each of our platforms Seesaw and Google Classroom.
	The Technology Consultant and Administration will support families by providing technical support as well as, program support through accessing informational guides or training on our website.

Pandemic Response Planning

Pandemic Response planning for reopening Voluntown Public Schools

		
LITTLE OR NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION	MINIMAL or MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION	SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION
Instruction is 100% in-person	K-8 In-Person 4 days per week PreSchool 2 days in-person/ 3 days Distance Learning	Instruction is 100% Distance Learning
Daily attendance rates monitored	Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials	Attendance for Distance Learning is monitored based on participation from home
Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene	Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene	Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices
Prevention measures in place	Heightened prevention measures in place	Quarantine measures in place for essential personnel
Social distancing in place	Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events	Quarantine measures in place
Group gatherings/events limited; all require approval	Group gatherings/events postponed	All group gatherings/events canceled
Remain prepared for Distance Learning while learning is In-Person at school or hybrid learning takes place	Active Preparation for Distance Learning and/or short-term school dismissals resulting in possible Distance learning for two-week periods	Continued engagement in Distance Learning during extended school dismissals for long periods
Cleaning and disinfecting in place	Intensified cleaning and sanitizing in place Wednesdays deep cleaning occurs	Classroom and buildings sanitized and shut down
Regular communication with local health officials	Coordination of closure with local health officials	Order of closure from local health officials and/or Executive Order for closure from Governor's Office

A confirmed case in the school building:
 Assess risk with local health officials.
 Plan for short (2-5 days) or longer (10 days) closure to clean, disinfect, and contract trace



IN SCHOOL TRANSMISSION

COVID-19 Response expectations for reopening Voluntown Elementary School

1 The Voluntown Pandemic Response includes a tiered response for school attendance based on transmission in the community and/or in the school.

		
NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION	MINIMAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION	SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION

Community transmission of COVID-19 will impact the school's planning, operations, and instruction as indicated in the chart above. (Detailed schedules included earlier in this reopening packet).

2 The Voluntown COVID-19 Response includes an immediate response for a confirmed diagnosis in the school.



		
	IN SCHOOL TRANSMISSION	

If a student, staff member, volunteer, or visitor has been present in school has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Superintendent of Schools notifies the local health officials (Uncas Health District) immediately.



The Uncas Health District will assess risk of further transmission in the school.



Decisions are made concerning:

- CONTACT TRACING
- CLOSURE
- CLEANING
- CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL
- SEE ADDENDUM A: Student, Faculty Staff Symptoms Consistent with COVID- 19 in School

The decision to suspend or close a school (or the entire school district) will be made by the Superintendent or designee based on information and recommendation from local health officials (Uncas Health District). Board of Education members and town officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.

The school will likely implement a short-term closure (2-5 days) or longer regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. The CDC recommends dismissal of students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This

	<p>allows the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>All communications to the school community including staff and families are made through the Central Office or designee.</p> <p>During school dismissals, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.</p>
3	The Superintendent of Schools is authorized to make immediate decisions for the safety of the students and staff.
	<p>The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 until a documented negative COVID-19 test result or note from a healthcare provider clearing them to return to schools is provided.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a duration that is appropriate given the situation.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Schools may suspend any activity or program at any time due to health and safety risks.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Schools may suspend in-person classes at any time due to health and safety risks.</p>
4	There will be a coordinated effort among all to ensure that students and staff take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.
	The Superintendent and Principal will develop strong communications encouraging all parties to stay home when sick or feeling sick; appropriately covering coughs and sneezes; practicing social distancing; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.
4	Communication guidelines are established in school according to the appropriate transmission tiers or an in-school case.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of school's reopening efforts and continuing safety efforts. Voluntown Elementary School website, weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and SchooMessenger will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Uncas Health District as materials become available. Information will be made available to parents and community members if the school building is designated or participates as a vaccination site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of school. Voluntown Elementary School website, weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and SchooMessenger will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Uncas Health District as materials become available. As needed, update and share information on Distance Learning plan and procedures for school closure and moving to learning at home. If necessary, update and share information procedures for any adjusted schedule. Students who are absent from school are called to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. Close communication is maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntown Elementary School website, weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and SchooMessenger will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Uncas Health District as materials become available. • As needed, update and share information on length of Distance Learning and procedures for school reopening. • If necessary, share information on possible return to school and outline procedures for moving to a hybrid scheduling (82% of students) and procedures for any adjusted schedule. • Students who are absent from online instruction are called to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. • Close communication is maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. • Provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A confirmed case in the school building</u> results in immediate communication with local health officials (Uncas Health District) resulting in a determination of length of closure. • Communication is immediate to all staff and families, as well as to local and state officials that a school or the school district is shutting down for a time period (to be determined). • Voluntown Elementary School website, weekly newsletter, Facebook page, and SchooMessenger will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Uncas Health District as materials become available. • Procedures for closure and reopening are shared with the staff and parents.

Implications from Medical Literature

This section summarizes some of the emerging themes and implications from the medical literature on childhood susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 as of mid-June 2020. Because COVID-19 is a novel disease, this literature is growing rapidly, and new information is emerging almost every day. Our guidance will continue to evolve as the science develops.

At this time, the evidence suggests schools have not played a significant role in COVID-19 transmission and that children, particularly younger children, are less likely than adults to be infected with COVID-19. Furthermore, if they become infected, it appears children may be less likely to transmit COVID-19 to others.

Based on these initial findings, the health and safety requirements throughout this guidance, as well as considering the key features of school programming at different grade spans, the current evidence supports a safe in-person return to school with implementation details varying for elementary schools (including pre-kindergarten programs), middle schools, and high schools.

Schools do not appear to have played a major role in COVID-19 transmission.

- In a review of COVID clusters, only 4% (8 of 210) involved school transmission.¹
- In a case study from New South Wales Australia, after 18 cases were found in schools (12 in high schools and 6 in primary schools), only 0.3% of student contacts were infected (1 in 695 individuals in 10 high schools and 1 in 168 individuals in primary schools). No teachers or staff were infected.²

In general, rates of COVID-19 infection are lower for children than for adults.

- Based on an analysis of data from six countries, children under 20 are half as susceptible to COVID-19 infection than adults.³
- Although children under the age of 18 make up 22% of the U.S. population, they account for less than 2% of all cases of COVID-19.⁴
- In Massachusetts, children under the age of 19 were about four times less likely than the population at large to be diagnosed with COVID-19.⁵ Children are more likely to be asymptomatic, however, which underscores the importance of health behaviors for everyone (masks/face coverings, distancing, handwashing, surface cleaning).⁶

If exposed, children may be less likely to become infected with COVID-19.

- A meta-analysis of studies from several countries found that children were only 44% as likely as adults to become infected after exposure (note: pre-print study).⁷
- In China, in households with COVID-19 exposure, children under the age of 18 were infected at a rate of 4% compared with 17% for adults.⁸

If infected, it appears children may be less likely to infect others with COVID-19.

- Most transmissions are from adults to children, rather than vice versa; this is different from some other respiratory viruses (note: pre-print study).⁹
- In a U.S. study of 15 households, 73% of transmissions were from adult to child (the remaining were child-to-child or child-to adult).¹⁰

Reopening Voluntown Elementary School: Sources

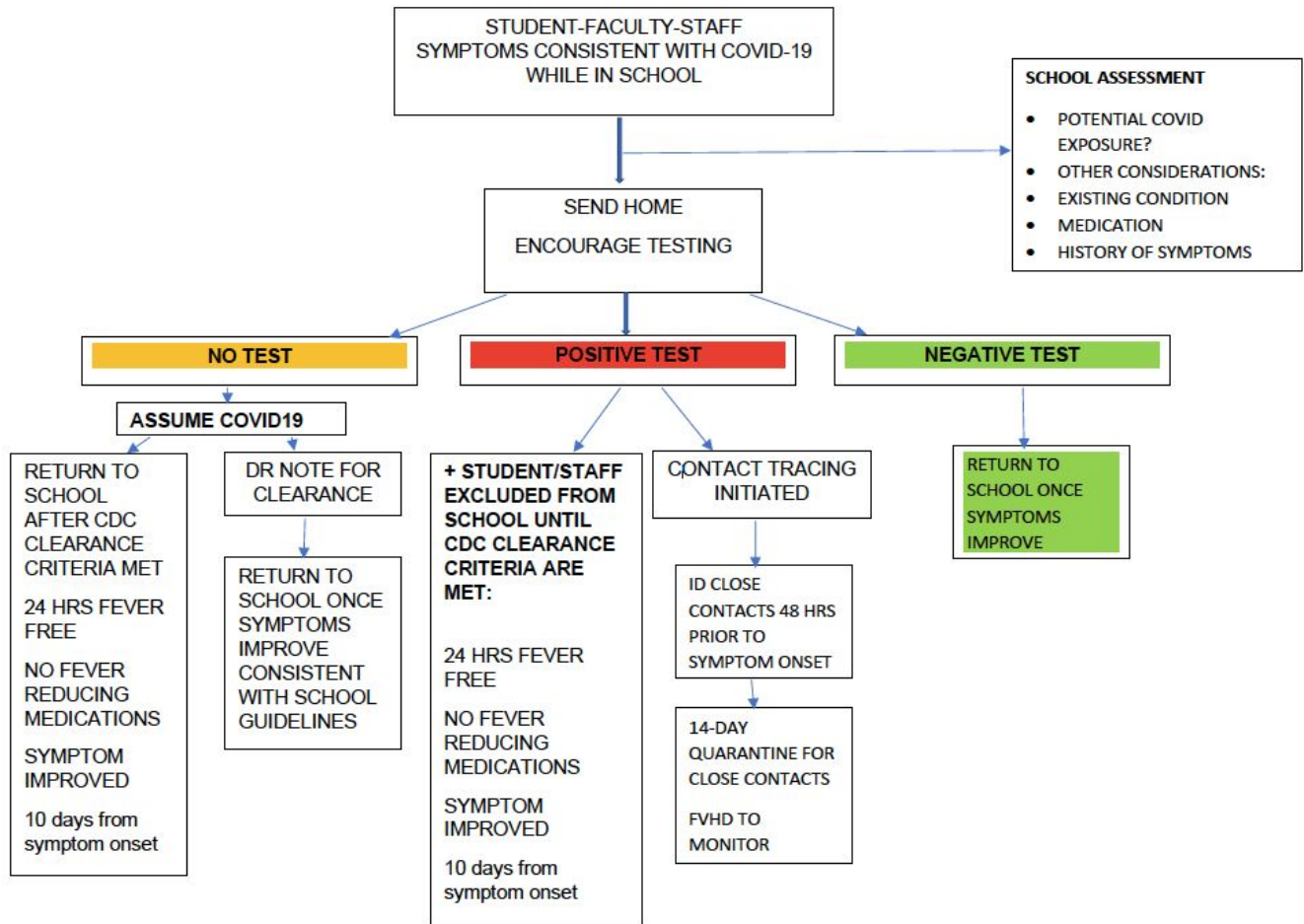
Please note that sections of this document have been taken from or based on the following sources:

- **“Reopening Our Schools”** East Hampton Public Schools Summer 2020 Document
- **“Adapt, Advance, Achieve” Connecticut’s Plan to Learn and Grow Together** - Connecticut State Department of Education
- **“Reopen Connecticut”** - Rules for operating Summer School during COVID 19 - State of Connecticut
- **“Preparing for a Safe Return to Classroom Learning”** - State of Connecticut
- **“Stronger Together”** - A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California’s Public Schools - California Department of Education
- **“Back to School RI”** - Reopening RI: Health and Safety Guidance - State of Rhode Island
- **“Guidance on Required Safety Supplies for Reopening Schools”** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **“Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance”** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- **“Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools”** - State of Pennsylvania Department of Education
- **K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs** - FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents - CDC.gov/coronavirus
- **Recommendations for Protections and Procedures Regrading Education and Connecticut’s Public Schools** – Connecticut Education Association, CEA
- **Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning** - Available at https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CASEL_Leveraging-SEL-as-You-Prepare-to-Reopen-and-Renew.pdf

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- ¹ Leclerc, Q. J., Fuller, N. M., Knight, L. E., Funk, S., Knight, G. M., & CMMID COVID-19 Working Group. (2020). What settings have been linked to SARS-CoV-2 transmission clusters?. *Wellcome Open Research*, 5(83), 83. Available at <https://wellcomeopenresearch.org/articles/5-83/v2>
- ² National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance (NCIRS) (2020). COVID-19 in schools – the experience in NSW. Available at http://ncirs.org.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/NCIRS%20NSW%20Schools%20COVID_Summary_FINAL%20public_26%20April%202020.pdf
- ³ Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. *et al.* Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. *Nat Med* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9>
- ⁴ Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children — United States, February 12–April 2, 2020. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep* 2020;69:422–426. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6914e4>
- ⁵ <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting>
- ⁶ Davies, N.G., Klepac, P., Liu, Y. *et al.* Age-dependent effects in the transmission and control of COVID-19 epidemics. *Nat Med* (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0962-9>
- ⁷ Viner, R. M., Mytton, O. T., Bonell, C., Melendez-Torres, G. J., Ward, J. L., Hudson, L., ... & Panovska-Griffiths, J. (2020). Susceptibility to and transmission of COVID-19 amongst children and adolescents compared with adults: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *medRxiv*. Available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.20.20108126v1>
- ⁸ Wei Li, Bo Zhang, Jianhua Lu, Shihua Liu, Zhiqiang Chang, Cao Peng, Xinghua Liu, Peng Zhang, Yan Ling, Kaixiong Tao, Jianying Chen, Characteristics of Household Transmission of COVID-19, *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, , ciaa450, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa450>
- ⁹ Zhu, Y., Bloxham, C. J., Hulme, K. D., Sinclair, J. E., Tong, Z. W. M., Steele, L. E., ... & Gilks, C. (2020). Children are unlikely to have been the primary source of household SARS-CoV-2 infections. Available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.03.26.20044826v1>
- ¹⁰ Mannheim, J., Gretsche, S., Layden, J. E., & Fricchione, M. J. (2020). Characteristics of Hospitalized Pediatric COVID-19 Cases—Chicago, Illinois, March–April 2020. *Journal of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society*. Available at <https://academic.oup.com/jpids/advance-article/doi/10.1093/jpids/piaa070/5849922>

Addendum A from UNCAS Health District



Addendum B

Preschool/ School Readiness Program at Voluntown Elementary

Voluntown Elementary School will follow all COVID guidance and considerations for preschool located in public schools. Our preschool program is located in Voluntown Elementary School. We will follow the preschool [addendum to Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#). In addition to the preschool recommendations set-forth by the State Department of Education, our preschool program will adhere to the recommendations in our reopening plan.

The Preschool/School Readiness Program at Voluntown Elementary will see the following changes:

Preschool will begin on Monday, September 14th.

Morning Session Only:

Drop Off Window: **9:15am-9:30am**

Pick-Up Window: **12:00pm-12:15pm**

Schedule:

Students will be grouped based upon a **(Monday and Tuesday (Cohort A) / Thursday and Friday (Cohort B)** schedule.

For in-person models and the hybrid models under the existence of this plan, there will be no preschool on Wednesdays. Teachers will provide home learning opportunities for preschool students to engage with their family on days not in session.

Due to transportation restrictions for our K-8th grade students, transportation will **NOT** be provided by Voluntown Elementary School for preschool students at this time.









As a program within Voluntown Elementary School, preschool students will need to wear masks entering the building and through hallways. In their classroom cohort and outside preschool students are not required to wear masks.

Additional information regarding specific preschool program information can be found on our website www.voluntownct.org and will be sent to preschool families.

Addendum C - Before Leaving Home Check for these symptoms:

Fever - Cough- Sore Throat - Shortness of Breath-Fatigue - Diarrhea/Vomiting - Runny Nose - Aches

Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19	Strep Throat	Common Cold	Flu	Asthma	Seasonal Allergies
FEVER 	✓		✓		
COUGH 		✓	✓	✓	✓
SORE THROAT 	✓	✓	✓		✓
SHORTNESS OF BREATH 				✓	
FATIGUE 		✓	✓	✓	✓
DIARRHEA OR VOMITING 	✓		✓		
RUNNY NOSE 		✓	✓		✓
BODY/ MUSCLE ACES 	✓	✓	✓		

✓ Symptom of illness



cdc.gov/coronavirus

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Please note that all plans and items included in this document are subject to change based on requirements and/or advice from the Governor or Connecticut, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Uncas Health District.

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