

Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template

CSDE ARP ESSER



May 27, 2021

I. Health and Safety Strategies

Montville Public Schools closely follows all state Executive Orders, DPH and CSDE regulations and guidance regarding the health and safety of the school community. The superintendent attends weekly updates with the DPH to ensure the district responds appropriately to any changes in this guidance. The following table provides an explanation of the ways in which current guidance is being implemented. Mitigating strategies will be re-evaluated based on changing case rates. This plan will be revised as strategies are reevaluated and parents/staff will be apprised of changes to the plan. The most up-to-date plan will be posted on the website.

	Mitigating Strategies	LEA response
	Universal and correct wearing of masks	Mask-wearing is not currently required at Montville Public Schools. Students and staff members who test positive for COVID and return to school after day 5 are asked to wear masks through day 10. Close contacts and people with mild cold symptoms, but not fever or known close contact, can continue to attend school/work but should wear a mask.
	Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding)	Physical distancing is not currently in place. Classroom furniture and carpets been returned and students may sit at tables or rugs to encourage social interactions and academic discourse. Students are not assigned to cohorts and are able to choose their seats at meals.
	Handwashing and respiratory etiquette	District-created videos, CDC videos and posters, and classroom instruction are used to educate students in health protocols. Frequent hand washing and respiratory and cough etiquette are taught. Hand sanitizing stations are in every classroom, offices, the cafeteria and common spaces.
	Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation	Classroom air is exchanged with filtered, fresh outside air at an average of 450 cubic feet per minute and exhausted air is vented at this same rate. This means that the air in a classroom is fully replaced about every 12.5 minutes. All air vent and air conditioner filters have been replaced. Touch-free paper towel dispensers have been installed in every bathroom. Cleaning supplies are on the Environmental Protection Agency's List N. Daily Cleaning:

	<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments</p>	<p>The district no longer conducts contact tracing. Close contacts of positive cases who are asymptomatic are able to come to school/work regardless of vaccination status per recommendation of DPH and our local health district. Close contacts who are symptomatic must isolate. The current isolation period is 5 days with masks worn through day 10. We follow the <i>Test, Mask, Go</i> guidelines specified in the “Launching into Healthy Learning Operational Strategies, Fall, 2022” issued by the CT DPH and CSDE.</p>
	<p>Diagnostic screening and testing</p>	<p>COVID-19 Rapid Self-Tests have been distributed to staff and families. They are used to determine if mildly symptomatic, fever-free individuals who are not close contacts can attend school. Individuals who test positive notify the district and their numbers are reported to DPH and on the district website.</p>
	<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible</p>	<p>Working with DPH, the district has provided multiple clinics on site for students and community members to be vaccinated. The next clinic will be in October, 2022. All parents have been informed of each clinic and urged to consider vaccinating their students. The vaccination status of positive cases is reported to DPH.</p>
	<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</p>	<p>All students with disabilities who need accommodations with respect to health and safety policies are offered those accommodations. Staff work with families to ensure health and safety protocols are followed to the greatest extent possible to ensure the safety of these students and the school community. Montville Public Schools remain committed to providing high quality programs and services to our students who receive special education and related services. We will: Comply with all federal and state mandates and statutes; Ensure case managers, certified and non-certified staff work together to determine if individual students need alternative supports based on present level of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input; and Adjust plans as is necessary to accommodate appropriately.</p>

LEA must implement, to the greatest extent practicable, each element of the most up-to-date guidance listed in the table

II. Continuity of Services

Continuity of Services - Students' Academic Needs

Teams of teachers continue to work to review and revise course curriculum to ensure our instructional program meets students' learning needs. Expert trainers in mathematics instruction, Readers Workshop, technology integration, and setting priority standards are being used to support teachers' work. We will use purchased benchmark assessments in Early Literacy (DIBELS), reading fluency and comprehension (Fountas and Pinnell), grades 6-12 math and 6-8 science (IXL), along with district-created common assessments and the state's Smarter Balanced and NGSS Interim Assessment Blocks to provide feedback about students' current levels. Results of this Spring's state's summative assessments (Smarter Balanced, NGSS, and SAT) have been analyzed to provide information about students' learning needs. Teachers will be supported as they provide just-in-time remediation throughout the school year. We have used ESSER II funds to ensure small class sizes in grades 1-3, develop an elementary math intervention program, set up tutoring centers at Tyl and MHS, and create a credit recovery program at MHS and Palmer to ensure students who are off-track in their classes are provided with timely support. We have built a more robust summer program for general education students providing high school credit recovery and elective offerings. MHS students' independence is fostered through participation in a Personal Interest Project (PIP) in which students can earn credit through a guided independent study program. A pilot group of MHS and Tyl teachers are incorporating "Thriving Community" principles into course units so that students can see the connection between what they are learning not only to their personal growth but also to meeting community needs.

Continuity of Services - Students' and Staff Social, Emotional, Mental Health

The district has added an additional social worker to our staff using ARP ESSER funding. Each school except Palmer has a dedicated school psychologist and the district will have 5 social workers. Our school psychologists and social workers are led by assistant superintendent, Dianne Vumback, and have created social and emotional learning materials and supports for teachers. We have established district and school SEL Leadership Teams. We use the RULER program to teach the five areas of emotional intelligence: Recognizing, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating emotions. Tyl Middle School has a weekly advisory period which uses the Second Step program in addition to RULER principles and MHS has implemented a revised advisory program based on Thriving curriculum principles which meets every two weeks. Over the year, MHS and Tyl students will work collaboratively through advisory to define and represent our grades 6-12 community.

The district continues to provide an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for staff who would like to seek professional assessment, counseling, and referral services. This service is extended to all members of the teacher's immediate family. We are committed to meeting staff social, emotional, and mental health needs and principals work collaboratively with their staff to provide experiences to promote self-care and a united community.

Continuity of Services - Student Health and Food Services

Each of our schools has a registered nurse on site. District nurses are led by a head nurse and the Director of Special Services. Unique health needs related to the transmission of infection are met based upon consultation with Uncas Health District and CT DPH. Our Health Manual (policy 5142) is regularly updated and reviewed by our medical advisor.

Free meals for all students will be funded by the state for part of the year, and we are actively seeking Free and Reduced Price Meal Applications to ensure students who need assistance can get meals

when the state program funds have been expended. Our schools all follow healthy meal guidelines as specified in the District Wellness Policy #6142.

III. Public Comment

Students, staff and community members were surveyed to engage stakeholders in the process of re-imagining Montville Public Schools over the next three years. Stakeholders were asked to identify the most important attributes of a Montville Public Schools graduate, to define deep learning, to identify problems with our old "normal," to describe current programs or practices they believe are "sacred," and to identify areas they believe should be targeted for ARP ESSER funding. Analysis of those survey results was completed by our School Community Voice Team, our MEA Labor Management Committees, and our Re-Opening Schools Task Force.

Zoom meetings and a public forum Board of Education meetings were also used to gather stakeholder feedback.

Community members can provide comment at any time by contacting their school principals or emailing the superintendent or assistant superintendent.

IV. Periodic Review Process

Review/revisit Dates:

- December 23, 2022
- June 23, 2023

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

This plan will be provided to parents in on the school website and through a district-wide email link. It will be made available in other languages or other formats upon request.