

East Granby Public Schools

Safe Return to In-Person Learning and Continuity of Services Plan

2021-2022

CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education) <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE>
DPH (Connecticut Department of Public Health) <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH>
FVHD (Farmington Valley Health District) <https://fvhd.org/covid-19-information/>
CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus>

HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGIES

COVID Protocols Through the Day: Hallways, Stairs & Classrooms

The district will follow guidelines from our local health authority and the state of Connecticut, in regards to masks and other COVID-19 precautions, and amend mask requirements as guidelines change. At this point in time:

- Subject to Executive Order 12A, all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, must continue to wear a face-covering mask at all times when inside prek-12 public or private school buildings. Students will have mask breaks.
- If social distancing is required, the middle and high school hallways will be monitored for adherence.
- Please note that all water fountains are turned off, but new water bottle filling stations are being requested through ARP ESSER funds and will be installed in all buildings.
- In addition to restroom sinks, handwashing stations and hand sanitizer is distributed throughout all buildings in the district.

Classrooms: Room sizes and the attendance of students in each room vary. We have maximized student distancing by removing tables, extra seating, and bookshelves.

At the current time, it appears as if cohorts for the 2021-2022 school year will be less rigid. If required by CSDE or DPH, the district will cluster students to the best of our abilities. Also current guidance is that families of multiples at the elementary level will not need to have their children in the same homerooms.

Air Systems and Cleaning:

EGPS Facilities' Management follows all air quality and circulation guidelines set forth by the CDC and DPH. We reprogrammed the air systems in all of our schools to follow the state's guidelines. Duct cleaning was conducted in all schools in August, 2020 and air filters are changed twice a year. ESSER funding is earmarked for additional cleaning staff, as needed.

Contact Tracing:

We collaborate with the Farmington Valley Health District (FVHD) in regards to contract tracing. Seating charts for all buses and classrooms assist with tracing. Our superintendent, principals, and school nurses will continue to remain in contact with FVHD to ensure proper protocols are followed at all times. At this point, there is no change to the requirements for quarantining as a close contact or for those individuals who need to isolate due to testing COVID-19 positive. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated will not need to quarantine if determined to be a close contact.

Diagnostic Screening and Testing:

Testing sites are shared with the school community via email communications, and posted to our district COVID-19 Resources website. <https://www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us/parents/covid-19/>

Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:

EGPS, as part of the Farmington Valley Health District, participated in and hosted vaccine clinics for all eligible staff and students. EGPS will continue to support the FV with future clinic needs.

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety:

Prior to reopening for the 20-21 school year, Student Support Service teams collaborated with parents/guardians and created programs to support the successful implementation and teaching of mitigation strategies. Students with IEPs were provided the opportunity to access in-person instruction with appropriate accommodations. We will maintain communication with families and will respond to any future needs relating to health and safety.

CONTINUITY OF SERVICES

Academics

District teachers utilize Google Classroom where materials, resources and assignments are posted. East Granby Public Schools will welcome all of our students back for five day a week in-person learning for the '21-'22 school year. "There is no current requirement under Connecticut or federal law that after the period of emergency this school year, school districts are mandated to provide all students voluntary daily access to remote learning at the unilateral request of the student/family. At this time, DPH and CSDE do not anticipate the need to mandate, due to public health necessity, that all school districts provide an option for students and their families to opt-in to a voluntary remote option after this school year." (CSDE April 27, 2021) <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Digest/2020-21/April-2021-CSDE-Initial-Guidance-re-Remote-Instruction-2021-2022.pdf> The district is working toward a strategy to provide after-school check-in and academic support with a certified educator in the event of a student's COVID-19 quarantine or COVID illness.

Academically, we will continue to focus on mastery, which provides students multiple opportunities to learn, relearn, and show mastery through a variety of means. As part of master-based learning, teachers have created unique, engaging project-based lessons using the inquiry method, which helps students invest in their own learning and increases active participation. These new units are across grade levels and disciplines. The district has also purchased new resources to help students learn, from online platforms to new books.

ESSER funds are earmarked to support special education and academic intervention. The faculty has worked, and will continue into the future, to include rich, hands-on learning in our classrooms. With many disciplines working on curriculum development during the Summer of 2021, we will have interesting and vigorous teaching and learning opportunities in the 2021-2022 school year.

Attendance Expectations & "Bell" Schedules

Attendance:

Daily attendance in class is required. There will be no remote options for absentee students. Students will follow previously established protocol for absences (ie: view Google Classroom for posted assignments or for an extended absence due to illness, a work pick-up can be arranged). Kindergarten and students new to the district, please see registration handouts and/or student handbooks.

Transportation

For the 2021-2022 school year, students may be required to wear masks on school buses. The ability to socially distance will be dependent on the number of students riding each bus. The school district and bus company will maintain seating charts.

Student drop off and pick up routines for families and buses will be as follows:

Allgrove School Drop Off - To alleviate congestion in the morning and afternoon drop-offs, families are encouraged to have students return to riding the bus to school. Car riders, please note: As recommended by the State Police, vehicles travelling on Route 20 should use South Main Street (Rt. 187) making a right into Memorial Drive to access our driveway. Vehicles entering Center Street from Route 20 will be required to continue past our driveway and along Memorial Drive and turn right into the Community Center parking lot to make a U-turn and re-approach our driveway. This recommendation stems from consultation with the State Police, preventing vehicles backing up onto Route 20 and blocking access to the Post Office. We appreciate your help in ensuring a safe return for all of our students. Parents or guardians who pick up students will need to wait outside the building for school staff to release their children to them.

Seymour School Drop Off/ Pick Up- To alleviate congestion in the morning and afternoon, families are encouraged to have students ride the bus to and from school. Drop off begins at 8:15, and will continue in the faculty parking lot. Please form two car lines (see map). A faculty member will signal families when students can exit the car to the sidewalk. Once students are safely on the sidewalk, another faculty member will signal cars to move forward, merging to form one exit line. [See map here](#). Pick up in the afternoon will continue from the playscape area. Families should park their car and make their way through the green gate to the playscape area. Once parents/guardians sign their child out on the appropriate form, a staff member will call your child to be dismissed. Pick up begins at 2:50.

Elementary students who take the bus to/from school: Students riding the bus to and from school will be assigned a seat. This allows for contact tracing in the event of a COVID exposure.

EGMS/EGHS: For families who will be dropping off students: We will continue as we've done in the past with students being dropped off at the front of the building. Drivers are being asked to follow the one way arrows up the driveway and around the front circle. There will be two lanes for drop off around the circle. All drivers will pull up as far as they can go, and all EGMS/EGHS students are required to wait in their vehicles until they are told to exit. Students must wear a facemask as they exit their vehicle and enter the school building. Please respectfully wait for your student's turn as we will do our best to quickly and safely have students exit each car. Our building doors will open to students at 7:15am. Students will be directed to go directly to their first period class as they enter the building.

For families who will be picking up students: Students will be dismissed from their last period class. We will dismiss students by area of the building (i.e. Science hallway first, then 10th grade corner, Electives hallway...). Students who are being picked up will follow hallway directional routes and exit from Main front doors or Gym entrance doors. All students from EGMS and EGHS will be picked up in the traffic circle, and we will expect students to be socially distanced as they await pick up. After 2:05, all drivers must turn right and go past the middle school entrance to form a single file line of vehicles that will pick up students in the EGHS traffic circle. We ask for continued patience and safety from drivers, as we do anticipate a high number of students being picked up.

Students taking the bus to/from school: Please note that our buses have been rerouted away from the front of the building and they will continue to drop off and pick up students in the back. Families and students will not be permitted to drive through the back driveway, especially during morning arrival and afternoon dismissal hours.

Arrival - Students who are taking the bus will enter and exit the building through the doors located in the back of the school (formerly known as the Biology doors). Buses will dismiss one by one and students will enter the building socially distanced. Students will be directed to go right to their first period class as they enter the building. **Dismissal** - Students will be dismissed from their last period class. We will dismiss students by area of the building (i.e. Science hallway first, then 10th grade corner, Electives hallway...). Students who are taking the bus will follow hallway directional routes and exit from the downstairs bottom floor doors. We will require students to be socially distanced as they move to their bus. As dismissal becomes more routine for all of us we hope that the process becomes easier and seamless.

Student drivers: Students who drive to school will continue to park in their customary parking spots. Students who drive to school will be asked to enter and exit the building through high school GYM LOBBY doors.

Lockers, Lunch, Bathrooms, Water Fountains & Mask Breaks

Lockers: Middle school and high school lockers may not be assigned to students in 2021-2022, depending on state and local health guidelines. If that is the case, we ask students to use their backpacks to carry belongings through the building. Seymour students will be assigned a locker to use for the 2021-2022 school year. Teachers will maintain social distancing by sending students to their locker in small groups.

The federal government has extended the free lunch program through the 2021-2022 school year. East Granby is in the process of finalizing plans with Granby Public Schools to continue the offering for East Granby students. As was the case this year, parents and guardians will pre-order lunches. Directions will be available at the beginning of the school year and will be on our website on how to pre-order lunches for each week, with a deadline of the preceding Wednesday. All lunches need to be pre-ordered and East Granby will not receive extra lunches to provide to students who forget theirs. To facilitate the weekly breakfast pickup, it is expected that breakfast pickup will be moved to a school in Granby.

EGHS transitioned from two lunch waves to three. The three lunch waves will still occur during the 5th period of the day. Students will sit at individual tables in the Commons and in the auxiliary (old) gym. One student per table and students will be asked to wear their face masks upon entering, moving through and exiting the Commons. Students may remove masks while eating. We will continue to allow students to eat outside as we have in the past. Students who choose to eat outside are expected to maintain 6 feet of distance. Staff will monitor students inside and outside of the Commons and the gym to ensure that social distancing guidelines are adhered to. Students will be dismissed from lunch in a staggered process to allow for distancing.

Allgrove/Seymour School Lunch- In order to allow appropriate social distancing while eating lunch, teachers will divide their class into two groups. One half of the class will travel to the cafeteria to eat while the remaining students will eat in the classroom. This will enable students to remove masks safely to eat their lunch.

Bathrooms: Bathrooms will be open to students. Specific areas of the building will be assigned a designated bathroom. Bathrooms, when possible, will be monitored by staff to ensure that they are not crowded and that students are using their designated or assigned bathrooms. Classrooms will only allow one student out at a time and students will have to sign out of class when they visit the bathroom. In the high school, all classrooms downstairs will continue to use the downstairs bathrooms. The main hallway classrooms will be divided in half and students will be required to either use the main hallway bathroom or the main lobby bathroom. As per State guidelines all bathrooms will be thoroughly cleaned at least twice daily, our custodians will pay close attention to knobs, handles, toilet seats and other "high touch" areas as designated by state guidelines.

Water Fountains: Water fountains will be turned off in the building, however, through ESSER funding, water

bottle stations have been earmarked in all the school buildings.

Mask Breaks: Mask breaks will continue in each of the school buildings. Students will have the ability to step out of their classrooms as needed, within reason, throughout the day. Mask break protocols will be shared by staff with students on the first days of school.

PUBLIC COMMENT / COMMUNICATION

Our district has and will continue to use multiple ways to communicate and to allow for public comment, including Board of Education meetings, email blasts, website postings, and polls. In addition, we have a COVID email address so parents/guardians and community members can contact the district directly and receive an answer from the superintendent or administrator: coronavirus@eastgranby.k12.ct.us Our district has a COVID-response person who tracks COVID cases and then reports to the state.

Our listserv emails through PowerSchool and other notices to families, are posted on our website for easy reference. In addition, in *Let's Talk Turkey*, the town's newsletter, the district has articles on topics ranging from mitigation strategies, SEL initiatives, to academic happenings. Our district also employs a robo-call system for quick mass communication.

Over the past year and a half, our small community has been particularly supportive of the district, faculty, and staff. We received messages from the townspeople who were appreciative of our efforts and proud of how quickly we responded to the crisis. Further, families were especially pleased with the care and continued education that was afforded to their children. Although no decision was met with 100% agreement, we sincerely hope that our families felt listened to. Suggestions were heard and we weighed all options carefully, always mindful of the health and safety of the children and staff in our buildings.

In order to have the reopening plan publicly posted online by June 24, 2021, this "new plan" for Reopening 2021 will be shared at the East Granby Board of Education Meeting on June 14, 2021 and subsequently posted on our website. <https://www.eastgranby.k12.ct.us/parents/covid-19/>

All of our documents are shared through our district's PowerSchool account, which has language options for families. Recipients can choose to receive the document in their home language. In our high school, for example we have eight different home languages being utilized in family communications, aside from English.

To be in compliance with the expectations of the CSDE ARP ESSER, we will review and revise this plan, as appropriate, but at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Public Comment will be part of the review process. As stated by the CSDE, Review / Revisit Dates will occur on or around:

• June 23, 2021 • December 23, 2021 • June 23, 2022 • December 23, 2022 • June 23, 2023

Links

[Connecticut Department of Education COVID-19 Resources](#) for Families and Educators
Department of Public Health: [CT COVID-19 Response](#)
[Farmington Valley Health Department](#) COVID-19 Information
East Granby Public Schools COVID-19 [Information and Resources](#)