

Dear East Windsor Public School Families

I had previously shared that superintendents were awaiting guidance from Governor Lamont and Commissioner of Education, Miguel Cardona. We received an overview of the principles of reopening and then last Monday, received a much more detailed document about the requirements and guidelines for reopening. That plan is titled "Adapt, Advance and Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together." There is a link to the 50-page document on the East Windsor Public Schools' website at [www.eastwindsork12.org](http://www.eastwindsork12.org).

Overall, the expectation is that districts plan to bring all students back into school for the fall. Students and staff are required to wear masks or other face coverings that cover both the mouth and nose. We are asking families to secure masks for their children now and begin or continue to have your children wear them. We are creating resources that may help if your child is struggling with wearing a mask and will provide them on our website when available. However, please reach out to the building administrator if you would like assistance in the meantime.

There is a priority on enhanced cleaning and sanitizing protocols in all buildings. We have ordered touchless faucets and paper towel dispensers for staff and student restrooms and will limit the need for students to touch doors or other surfaces as much as possible. We are also providing disinfecting products appropriate for use in classrooms and hand sanitizer for many locations in all of our buildings.

Districts are required to create three plans for our schools:

- A model in which all students attend in person
- A hybrid model with fewer students in the building on a daily basis
- A distance learning model, in case that is required in the future

These need to implement each of these plans would be based on community or school-based rates of illness and any decisions would be made with direction from the Health District.

The administrative team is working to create the East Windsor- specific plan following both the guidelines and in conjunction with health officials, regarding, but not limited to the following areas:

- Supporting our students and school community with the social emotional and trauma based issues connected to the pandemic and loss with the abrupt closure of schools in March
- Cleaning and disinfecting process throughout the day
- Access to and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and students
- Scheduling students in cohorts as we are able, to minimize exposure to illness
- Providing breakfast and lunch
- Formatting our physical space to provide as much social distancing as feasible
- Coordinating with Smyth Bus regarding transportation and bus cleaning protocols
- Establishing process regarding how to interact with families and the community while following the guidance to minimize visitors to our buildings

As a first step in this process, I am including a survey link for parents regarding your plans for the new school year. It would be of great help if you could take 5 minutes to provide the information requested.

This information will help us determine what types of supports are required for students who are not planning to return to in-person classes in the fall.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EastWindsorCovid2>

I will continue to provide regular updates to families during the summer as our plans evolve. I appreciate that our families have been patient and understand there are many details to work out as we look to have our staff and students back in our buildings. We are excited at the thought of being together once again but realize the importance of careful planning.

Take care,

Christine DeBarge, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools