

## Orange East Supervisory Union

### COVID19 Mitigation

#### Administrative Procedure

10/27/21 version

Orange East Supervisory Union (OESU) and its member Districts recognize our responsibility and authority to ensure our school community's health and well-being. 16 V.S.A. § 834(a) provides that “[e]ach school district and its employees owe its students a duty of ordinary care to prevent the students from being exposed to unreasonable risk, from which it is foreseeable that injury is likely to occur.” In order to satisfy this requirement, the District Board partially delegates planning for the District’s COVID-19 mitigation measures, including masking requirements, to the Superintendent, pursuant to 16 V.S.A. § 242.

The Superintendent is directed to adopt appropriate practices and procedures to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 among the school communities, based on applicable mandates, recommendations, or directives of the State of Vermont Agency of Human Services and Agency of Education, as well as applicable federal guidance or mandates.

This procedure sets out the following standards in OESU schools:

- Universal masking for all students and staff when indoors until at least January 18, 2022;
- Masks, when required, may be removed when needed for instructional or operational purposes;
- Masks are currently required for all passengers on buses per federal regulation, regardless of age or vaccination status;
- Masks will not be required outdoors, if physical distancing can be achieved at a minimum of three feet. If this is not possible, masks shall be worn.
- Students will have assigned seating in classrooms and physical distancing will be in place. These protocols will help us in the event contact tracing is necessary.
- Remote Learning - Per guidelines from the Vermont Agency of Education, we will not have a remote or hybrid learning option and the expectation is that all students will be present in school for classes. Given the uncertainty of COVID-19, should a school (either in its entirety or specific grades/classes) have to move to remote learning, information will be provided regarding remote learning, class schedules, etc.
- Stay Home When Sick. It is critical that students and staff stay home when experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- All schools will have a COVID isolation room. Any student experiencing COVID-19 symptoms will be placed in the isolation room until he/she can be picked up by a parent/guardian.
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19, or has direct contact with someone who does, it is essential that you communicate this to the school nurse immediately.

- Field Trips must be approved by school and/or OESU administration and increased safety measures will be in place. No international field trips will take place this school year.
- Visitors and volunteers will be based on necessity to begin the school year. This will help to limit exposure and in the event that contact tracing becomes necessary.
- School athletics will proceed under guidance from the VPA and the AOE.
- The Vermont Department of Health is offering no-cost weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing conducted by the school nurse. Students and staff ages 5 and up regardless of vaccination status are eligible.

The Superintendent and administration are entrusted to promulgate practices and procedures consistent with these minimum standards. Exemptions for students who cannot wear a facial mask may be requested and approved in accordance with previous guidance issued by OESU.

These guidelines will be reviewed for changes on January 15th—or as conditions demand.