Safe Return to Learn Plan 2023-2024

# Plan for In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

## Important Dates

### June 15, 2021

* CSI Board of Directors passed a resolution concerning in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 School Year.
* CSI schools submitted
  + Board-Approved Calendars and Bell Schedules, specifying student contact time in brick-and- mortar settings as well as any selected remote learning options.
  + Remote Learning Assurances verifying that at a minimum 20% of remote learning would be conducted through synchronous instructional methods.
  + Board-Approved Policy/Resolution that addressed the implementation of learning in response to the COVID-19 pandemic including a definition of “educational process”, a description of instructional delivery outlining synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction that may be offered, and the methodology for documenting attendance for asynchronous instruction.

### July 26 – September 7, 2021

* First Day of School (varied by school)

### August 16, 2021

* CSI schools submitted updated Learning Plans to CSI for review

### November 16, 2021

* CSI Safe Return to Learn Plan reviewed by CSI Board of Directors, public comment is collected

### January 31, 2022

* CSI schools provide any updates to their Safe Return to Learn Plans for review by CSI staff

### March 31, 2022

* CSI Safe Return to Learn Plan reviewed by CSI Board of Directors, any updates are posted to CSI’s website

### November 2022

* CSI staff review plan and had no updates.

### December 2023

* CSI staff review plan and had no updates.

## Addressing Academic Needs

100% of CSI brick-and-mortar schools began the 2023-2024 school year with full-time, in-person instruction with layered prevention strategies in place as needed based on community spread. In accordance with Colorado Department of Education’s Remote Learning Flexibilities in the 2022-2023 school year, each CSI school has designated alternate modes of instruction that may be used to respond to increased rates of COVID-19 in the school community or their county.

“Temporary remote learning” flexibility means that there may be local needs for brick- and-mortar schools to temporarily suspend in-person learning due to COVID. This may include the need to temporarily move a classroom, a grade level, or the school to remote learning. It may also result from workforce shortages due to a COVID outbreak. A school may need to temporarily move to remote learning in these instances for a short period of time (i.e. the rest of the week/two weeks). When a school suspends in-person learning in this way, it will follow policies and procedures that it developed during the 2021-2022 school year to ensure a smooth transition.

## 100% Remote Learning Option due to COVID-19 Health Concerns

In accordance with Colorado Department of Education’s Remote Learning Flexibilities in the 2022- 2023 school year, CSI schools will no longer offer families a 100% remote learning option.

## Expanding Mental Health Supports

The pandemic increased the prevalence of mental health needs of teachers and students, on top of the already heightened mental health issues within our state. CSI’s Mental Health Programs Coordinator will continue to work directly with schools on programing to support this area that is critical to the success of students.

CSI schools have planned to leverage their American Rescue Plan Funds to increase mental health staffing, adopt social emotional learning curricula and contract with local agencies to provide increased mental health supports for students and the school community.

## Providing Access During Shifts to Remote Learning

CSI schools have surveyed their families and are aware of technology and internet access needs among their community. They are prepared to distribute devices and internet hot spots as needed in the event of a shift to remote learning due to COVID-19. Distribution procedures initially utilized in 2021-2022 have been evaluated and improved as needed in the subsequent years.

CSI schools have outlined plans for continuity of instruction that ensure a minimum of 20% synchronous instructional time during instances of remote learning. Service provision for students with special needs will continue to be implemented during remote learning.

# Layered Prevention Strategies

### CSI schools implement layered prevention strategies to keep COVID out of their buildings and maintain continuity of in-person learning to the greatest extent possible.

[Promoting Vaccination](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-childcare-guidance.html)

CDC recommends that all teachers, staff and eligible students be vaccinated as soon as possible. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment’s (CDPHE) Vaccine Support Teams and mobile buses offer CSI schools the opportunity to host regularly occurring vaccine clinics for the school community. CSI schools may promote vaccination and/or choose to host vaccine clinics at their schools.

### [Consistent and Correct Mask Use](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/masks.html)

Mask requirements are determined by Colorado LPHAs. CSI schools adhere to the local mask requirements in their respective counties. In the absence of mask requirements from the LPHA, CSI schools may recommend or require staff, students and/or visitors to wear masks at school.

### [Physical Distancing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/index.html)

CSI schools maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible while indoors. If CSI schools are experiencing moderate-to-high transmission levels, CSI schools may shift to 6 feet of physical distancing and/or cohort procedures.

### [Screening Testing](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html)

CSI schools may choose to participate in this program and will require parental consent for any student prior to participating.

### [Ventilation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/ventilation.html)

Improving ventilation is an important COVID-19 prevention strategy that can reduce the number of virus particles in the air. This can be done by opening multiple doors and windows, using child-safe fans to increase the effectiveness of open windows, and making changes to the HVAC or air filtration systems. CSI schools may keep classroom windows and doors open to increase ventilation. Additionally, a number of schools have upgraded HVAC systems and created outdoor learning spaces.

### [Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html)

CSI schools provide frequently reminders and opportunities for handwashing and may provide hand sanitizer for staff and student use.

### [Staying Home when Sick/Getting Tested](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/index.html)

CSI schools encourage staff and students to stay at home when they are experiencing symptoms of illness using CDPHE’s [How Sick is Too Sick](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1RcdCmU4SYXwmVhJrA3Pyk0gP0MTDClkF/view) guidance. CSI schools may also require at-home symptom screening.

If a student becomes sick at school, CSI schools refer to CDPHE’s [Addressing Symptoms at](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-qAUd4g8tYDZ4KKIlbCc_yG0wkEHjiXV/view) [School](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-qAUd4g8tYDZ4KKIlbCc_yG0wkEHjiXV/view). All CSI schools have procedures for isolating students with COVID-19 symptoms until they can be picked up from school.

### [Contact Tracing](https://cdphe.colorado.gov/covid-19)

CSI schools collaborate with their LPHA, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19. This allows identifying which students, teachers, and staff with positive COVID-19 test results should isolate, and which close contacts should quarantine.

### [Cleaning and Disinfection](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html)

CSI schools have implemented procedures to increase regular cleaning and disinfecting of the building. In addition, schools may limit shared use of materials and/or have additional procedures for cleaning and disinfecting commonly used materials.

## Levels of Community Risk and Phased Prevention

CSI’s Public Health Liaison regularly attends state and local public health information sessions that address virus spread, mitigation strategies, and public health requirements in order to communicate timely and relevant public health updates to CSI schools. School leaders receive regular updates as needed and can also access information and resources on [CSI’s COVID-19 Updates](https://resources.csi.state.co.us/coronavirus/) [webpage](https://resources.csi.state.co.us/coronavirus/).

CSI schools fall under the jurisdiction of the various local public health agencies (LPHA). CSI school leaders collaborate with partners at their LPHA to stay informed of local public health orders, procedures for reporting positive cases, and determination of risk of transmission. Schools report positive cases, quarantines and shifts to remote or hybrid learning to CSI. Decisions regarding length of quarantine periods and shifts to remote or hybrid learning are made in consultation with LPHA based on levels of community transmission.

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| **LHPA** | **CSI School** |
| [Adams County Health Department](https://adamscountyhealthdepartment.org/covid-19) | Ascent Classical Academy - Northern Denver |
| Community Leadership Academy & Victory Prep Academy |
| Crown Pointe Academy |
| Global Village Academy - North |
| High Point Academy |
| New America School - Aurora |
| New Legacy Charter School |
| Pinnacle Charter School |
| Ricardo Flores Magon Academy |
| The Academy of Charter Schools |
| [Arapahoe County Public Health](https://www.arapahoeco.gov/your_county/county_departments/public_health_department/health_protection___response/communicable_disease_surveillance_control/covid-19/index.php) | Colorado Early Colleges - Aurora |
| Montessori del Mundo |
| Wildflower Montessori Aurora - Mountain Juniper |
| [Chaffee County Public Health](https://www.chaffeecounty.org/Public-Health) | Salida Montessori Charter School |
| [Douglas County Health Department](https://www.douglas.co.us/health-department/covid) | Ascent Classical Academy - Douglas County |
| Colorado Early Colleges - Castle Rock |
| Colorado Early Colleges - Inverness |
| Colorado Early Colleges - Parker |
| [Eagle County Public Health](https://www.eaglecounty.us/departments___services/public_health/disease___immunizations/respiratory_illnesses__covid,_rsv.php) | Stone Creek Charter School |
| [El Paso County Public Health](https://www.elpasocountyhealth.org/infectious-diseases-public-health-response/infectious-diseases/covid-19/) | Colorado Early Colleges - Colorado Springs |
| Colorado International Language Academy |
| Colorado Military Academy |
| Colorado Springs Charter Academy |
| Coperni 3 |
| Mountain Song Community School |
| Thomas MacLaren School |
| [Garfield County Public Health](https://www.garfield-county.com/public-health/novel-coronavirus/) | Ross Montessori School |
| [Jefferson County Public Health](https://www.jeffco.us/3999/Coronavirus-Disease-%202019-COVID-19) | Early College of Arvada |
| Golden View Classical Academy |
| Prospect Academy |
| [La Plata County Public Health Department](https://www.co.laplata.co.us/departments/public_health_2/programs/covid19/index.php) | Animas High School |
| Mountain Middle School |
| [Larimer County Public Health](https://www.larimer.gov/health/communicable-disease/coronavirus-covid-19) | Academy of Arts and Knowledge |
| Ascent Classical Academy - Northern Colorado |
| AXIS International Academy |
| Colorado Early Colleges - Fort Collins |
| Colorado Early Colleges - Windsor |
| [Mesa County Public Health](https://www.mesacounty.us/departments-and-services/public-health/local-disease-illness/covid-19-resources) | Ascent Classical Academy - Grand Junction |
| Caprock Academy |
| Monument View Montessori |
| [Ute Mountain Ute Health Services](https://www.utemountainutetribe.com/health%20services%20departments.html)  [Montezuma Public Health](https://montezumacounty.org/public-health/covid-%2019-information-and-%20resources/) | Kwiyagat Community Academy |
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| [Routt County Public Health](https://covid19routtcounty.com/) | Steamboat Montessori School |