

**Manchester Clinical Day School
Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan**

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LEA Name:	Manchester Clinical Day School (APSEP)
Reopening Plan Point of Contact:	Patricia Sobraske Director of Education
Contact Email:	psobraske@echn.org
Contact Phone:	(860) 646-1222 ext. 3675
LEA COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison:	Patricia Sobraske Director of Education
Liaison Email:	psobraske@echn.org

I. Health and Safety Strategies

Manchester Clinical Day School remains committed to the health and safety of all students and staff. Last year, we developed plans and procedures about masking, hygiene, cleaning, ventilation, social-distancing, and contact tracing. We outlined these plans in our school's Operations of School During COVID-19 Pandemic (2020).

With the coming of the 2021-2022 school year, we have revised our plans based on current CDC recommendations which were issued on July 9, 2021. These adjusted plans are contained in this document, our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan. Both documents can be viewed at our webpage <https://www.echn.org/services/behavioral-health/clinical-day-school/>

Provided that public health data related to COVID-19 remains favorable, Manchester Clinical Day School (MCDS) plans to continue full-day, in-person instruction beginning Thursday, September 2, 2021. School hours will be 8:15am to 2:15pm Monday through Friday. Remote learning, as an alternative to full-time, in-person instruction will no longer be offered as a program option. However, it may be available in unusual, individual circumstances or if public health data indicate it.

As outlined on the coming pages, our reopening will be supported with intensive mitigation strategies, monitoring, and containment plans. Manchester Clinical Day School's plans are flexible and depend on public health data and CDC recommendations. Plans are in place for full-day instruction but, if necessary, the school can pivot to hybrid instruction or complete distance learning.

The Safe Return plan will also be mailed to each parent or guardian no later than August 6, 2021. Once in-person school commences, the Compliance Liaison will send email notices, as needed, to parents and guardians in order to communicate any changes to policies, practices, or health data. Per MCDS policy and practice, staff welcome and encourage close communication with all stakeholders. Parents and guardians are welcome to contact teachers, school social workers, and school administration at any time via phone, text or email. Responses will generally be the same day. Critical information, such as the need to cancel classes, will be disseminated on the same day. School staff will directly contact parents, guardians, and other stakeholders such as LEAs the same day via telephone.

Manchester Clinical Day School's COVID-19 prevention strategies	
Mitigation Strategies	
<p>Universal and correct wearing of masks</p>	<p>At this time, staff and students will continue to wear masks while in school, including those who are vaccinated. If they do not have their own, students will be given a fresh cloth or disposable mask each day which they must wear appropriately covering both nose and mouth.</p> <p>The only exception will be for those individuals who have a documented medical condition or disability that prevents them from safely wearing a mask. The wearing of masks has proven helpful in mitigating the spread of the virus thus allowing us to provide in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. Masks are not required when out-of-doors.</p> <p>Any student or staff, leaving the boundaries of the school will be required to wear a mask. For example, students going to a different department for work-study will be required to mask, whether they are vaccinated or not.</p>
<p>Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/pods)</p>	<p>Beginning September 2, 2021 and in accordance with updated CDC guidance for schools (July 9, 2021), Manchester Clinical Day School will require all students and staff to keep a physical distance of at least three feet between themselves and others at all times. All classrooms have been modified to meet this requirement including the removal of extraneous furniture and equipment. Students will no longer be grouped into cohorts.</p> <p>Weather permitting, all gym classes will be held out of doors. In the case of inclement weather, classes will be held in the recreation room. In these cases, lesson plans will focus on recreational, stretching, and strength-building activities as opposed to high intensity exercise. All equipment will undergo cleaning before and after usage. In the event that a teacher opts to teach a class</p>

	<p>out of doors on any given day, lightweight chairs are available for students and staff to use.</p> <p>CDC signage about COVID-19 related topics have been placed throughout the school. This includes hand washing signs in restrooms, how to prevent the spread of illness, and how to wear and remove face masks.</p>
<p>Hand washing and respiratory etiquette</p>	<p>Frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will continue to be encouraged in order to mitigate the spread of the virus. Signs are posted near sinks and in restrooms regarding proper hand washing technique. Hand sanitizer remains available in all classrooms and throughout the school. Students are instructed to keep masks on, covering both mouth and nose, when coughing or sneezing. Replacement masks will be given when necessary.</p>
<p>Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities including ventilation</p>	<p>The school’s ventilation system has been thoroughly assessed and complies with <u>DPH Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems</u> during the COVID-19 pandemic. The school is complying with <u>DPH’s Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools</u> during COVID-19. Disinfecting wipes are also available in all classrooms and other school rooms to wipe down surfaces between classes.</p>
<p>Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with State and local health departments</p>	<p>The Manchester Clinical Day School COVID liaison, Infection Control Department, and other school administrators will work directly with local DPH office and follow all recommendations for isolation and quarantine.</p>
<p>Diagnostic screening and testing</p>	<p>Students will continue to have their temperatures taken and be observed for objective signs of illness upon arriving at school. Manchester Clinical Day School frequently reminds staff students and parents to self-monitor for symptoms before coming into the school building. Students and staff who are ill should stay home. Testing continues to be required before returning to the building if any COVID-19 symptoms are present.</p>
<p>Efforts to provide vaccinations to staff, and students, if eligible</p>	<p>Manchester Memorial Hospital offered vaccinations to all staff including school staff. Most of our staff are fully</p>

	<p>vaccinated and those who aren't will be required to wear a mask. The importance of getting vaccinated and procedures for vaccinating students have been communicated to all parents/guardians for the last several months. This includes the most recent directive to call 211 in order to schedule vaccination appointments.</p>
<p>Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies</p>	<p>Children with documented needs will be accommodated appropriately.</p>

II. Continuity of Services

At this time, based on current health and safety guidance, full in-person learning is planned for the 2021-2022 school year beginning on September 2, 2021 for students.

Academic Services

Individual and small group instruction as well as small class sizes (six students to one teacher) are our norm and will continued to be offered on a daily basis. Instruction and student progress will continued to be measure by progress on IEP goals and objectives. Per usual, teachers and support staff will be available during homeroom, breaks, and lunch for students needing extra academic support.

Social and Emotional Support

Manchester Clinical Day School recognizes the importance of supporting the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff. Students will continue to receive one hour of counseling services per week typically divided between group and individual therapy. Social workers can connect students and families with additional community services as needed.

III. Public Comment

Public Comment is a key element in stakeholder engagement. Parents and guardians will be mailed this document by post and email in order to allow for comments and for consideration in revised and/or subsequent plans as guidance evolves.

IV. Periodic Review Process

In accordance with Connecticut State Department of Education requirements, Manchester Clinical Day School will periodically review and revise our Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Each review will seek public comment.

Review/revise dates:

December 23, 2021

June 23, 2022

December 23, 2022

June 23, 2023

V. Understandable and Uniform Format

Federal regulations require that this plan be presented in an understandable and uniform format, to the extent possible and that it is written in a language parents can understand. Upon request, it can be orally translated or provided in an alternate format for individuals with disabilities in order to make it accessible.

Manchester Clinical Day School is committed to ensuring that this document is understandable and accessible to stakeholders.

- The plan will be posted on the school's webpage <https://www.echn.org/services/behavioral-health/clinical-day-school/>
- The Director of Education will distribute paper copies and electronic copies of the plan to all parents and guardians.
- Manchester Clinical Day School will employ any/all needed oral and written translation of the document upon request.