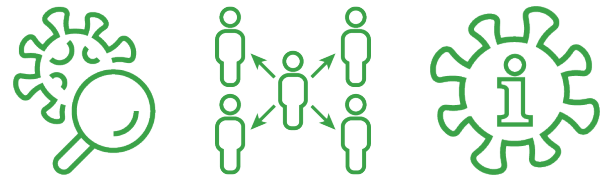


6 WAYS the CSDE is Working to Keep Schools Open Safely



CONNECTICUT STATE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



- 1 Priority Access to COVID Testing** — The State has contracted with testing partners to provide priority access testing for all staff in schools and childcare settings. Priority access is intended for staff who need to get tested quickly, in order to ensure their work day is not interrupted. Among the state-contracted partners who support this effort are CHC, Inc., Sema4, and CIC Health. More info can be found at ct.gov/priorityworkforcetest.
- 2 BinaxNOW™ COVID Testing** — BinaxNOW™ COVID tests are available to all school districts throughout the state to be used for their symptomatic students and staff. For more information on BinaxNOW™ tests, email: christopher.lyddy@ct.gov.
- 3 Vaccines** — **Effective March 1, 2021, the education sector, including all Connecticut school staff members whose work requires them to be in school buildings engaging with students, has access to vaccine appointments.** The CSDE has been working with DPH and the Governor's Office planning for the continued roll out of Phase 1b of the State vaccination plan, which now includes access for all of our school staff members, regardless of their job title, if they are working in school buildings and/or interact with students. The CSDE and DPH will continue to provide timely communication and clarification to school leaders and local health partners to provide opportunities and ensure equitable access to the COVID-19 vaccine for school staff members.
- 4 Contact Tracing Support** — The CSDE has partnered with the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) to match districts with contracted support staff who will increase capacity to assist with contact tracing efforts. School districts interested in getting matched with this support can email Glenn Lungarini at glungarini@casciac.org.
- 5 CSDE/DPH COVID-19 Health and Safety Tuesdays** — This is a weekly opportunity for superintendents, health officials, policymakers and other educational partners to engage in dialogue with CT's Department of Public Health (DPH) and the CSDE for guidance and strategies for a successful, healthy and safe school year. To date there are over 900 regularly registered participants.
- 6 Up-To-Date Guidance and Assistance** — The CSDE, in close collaboration with the DPH and other partners in public health and education, continue to issue relevant guidance and provide sc0hool districts with technical assistance. This includes, but is not limited to, FAQs, Reopening Plan Addenda, Webinar Training Series, and Data Visualization Tools.