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Vermont Agency of Education



Dear Superintendents and Independent School Heads:

The AOE has received several questions about the CDC's updated [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care and Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#), particularly the section on Considerations for Prioritizing Strategies. In collaboration with the Vermont Department of Health, we are providing the following clarification for Vermont schools:

- Decisions about what (if any) mitigations must be implemented to ensure the health and safety of an individual student who is medically vulnerable are rightly made jointly by the school administration, school nurse, child's parents and child's healthcare provider.
- This process predates COVID-19, and has been part of guaranteeing a free and appropriate public education under Section 504 (of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and a student's individualized education program (IEP) if applicable, and would have been undertaken as necessary for flu and other diseases.
- Schools may need to implement masking or other mitigation measures as a reasonable accommodation for students who are medically vulnerable.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. French, Ed.D.

Secretary of Education

This message was sent by the Vermont Agency of Education to Vermont Superintendents and Independent School Heads. If you have questions about this email or other communications from the AOE, please contact kate.connizzo@vermont.gov.



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