

Foundations Upper Valley

An S^D Associates special education school, 147 Main Street, Windsor, VT 05089
Program Phone: 802-674-4428 Fax: 802-674-4439 Website: www.sdplus.org/where

COVID-19 EXPOSURE CONTROL PLAN

April 19, 2021

General Considerations

This document is intended to replace all previous COVID-19 exposure control plans for Foundations Upper Valley (FUV) and Southern Vermont / Windsor area programs (SVT) at S^D Associates LLC. This plan will be in effect from the current time until end of June 2021, unless formally extended, amended or replaced. Re-evaluation of this plan will occur in mid-June 2021 unless there are state or federal policy/guidance changes that necessitate an additional response between now and then.

The document “A Strong and Healthy Year” published by the Vermont Agency of Education (VT-AOE) on 4/8/2021 <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vdh-guidance-strong-and-healthy-year-school-health-updated-04-08-2021.pdf> is the central pillar of this exposure control plan. Any additional / alternative / supplemental exposure control strategies will be noted in this document. If an exposure control area/strategy is not specifically identified in this document, FUV will follow the VT-AOE guidelines as written.

The following deviations / additions / modifications / specifications to “A Strong and Healthy Year” below, are divided into the four categories that align with “A Strong and Healthy Year”. These are:

1. COVID-19 Coordination, Planning and Training
2. Student and Staff Health Considerations
3. School Day Considerations
4. Operational and Facilities Considerations

1) COVID-19 Coordination, Planning and Training

Overview:

All students have been safely back to in-person instruction in our building since July 1, 2020. All children are back “on track” educationally and making progress toward their individualized goals.

All staff have received training on COVID protocols including cleaning, hygiene, basic public health measures, and the safe/appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff are monitored by the safety team on daily basis and additional training occurs as necessary.

FUV/SVT COVID-19 Response team:

- Jessica Speckert, Head of School (COVID-19 Coordinator)
- Megan Flye, Regional Programs Coordinator (Lead Safety Officer)
- Shannon Harrington / Meaghan Riley, Program Support Instructors (Assistant Safety Officers)
- Leshia Rasco / Ashley Ovitt, S^D Operations and Human Resources Department

2) Student and Staff Health Considerations

Daily Health Screenings:

Although we are no longer required to conduct daily temperature checks upon arrival, out of an abundance of caution and a recognition that not all families have access to thermometers, we will continue to do daily temperature screenings upon arrival for all staff and students. In addition, we will continue to assist parents with pre-screening for symptoms by calling them each morning before the beginning of school.

School staff and contractors / related service providers who have access to our building are not required but strongly encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccination to protect their own health and that of their community.

Stay Home When Sick, Exclusion / Inclusion Policies:

All staff (regardless of vaccination status) will be excluded from in-person school activities if they show symptoms of COVID-19 (See “A Strong and Healthy Year” p. 6), have a fever of greater than 100°F, or are currently in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19. Unvaccinated students and staff will be excluded from in-person activities if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are quarantining. Staff are not required to disclose their vaccination status, however if they want Human Resources (HR) to consider it when making inclusion/exclusion decisions, they may provide that information directly to HR.

All current staff, students and their families have already agreed to abide by Vermont Department of Health (DOH) guidelines for safe travel, social gathering, and other public health measures. In cases when for unforeseen or unforeseeable reasons a person is not able to do so, they will abide by DOH recommendations for screening, testing, quarantine or isolation. It is our expectation and understanding that these agreements remain in effect for the duration of this public health crisis. This is especially important at FUV as all students who attend school here have special health needs of one variety or another and most fall into a high-risk category.

In addition to our own school health policy (See FUV Handbook, October 2020), FUV/SVT will continue to use the COVID-19 In Pediatric Patients (Pre-K - Grade 12) Triage, Evaluation,

Testing, and Return to School algorithm / flow chart

http://contentmanager.med.uvm.edu/docs/uvch_covidpediatric_flowchart_03_01_21/vchip-documents/uvch_covidpediatric_flowchart_03_01_21.pdf?sfvrsn=a616eafe_2

to make decisions about when to exclude children from in-person attendance at school.

Where discrepancies may arise between these documents, the more conservative standard will apply.

3) School Day Considerations

Buses and Transportation:

Transportation to and from FUV is provided by sending districts or parents/caregivers. FUV expects that all transportation companies / sending districts / parents will adhere to public health guidelines when transporting students to and from the building.

Transportation that may occur during the program day will occur in private staff vehicles, based on consent by individual families and in compliance with S^D's client transportation procedures and requirements. No more than two students from the same pod (with masks) will travel in the same vehicle during program hours. In certain cases where students are unable to mask, no more than one will travel in the same vehicle. Students from different pods may not travel in the same vehicle or with staff from a different pod except in the event of an emergency. Drivers will (weather and student behavior permitting) crack windows to provide additional ventilation. When driving clients, staff will remain masked at all times.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Staff Vehicles when Transporting

Staff will wipe down any surfaces in the car that a student may come in contact with, prior to and following the transportation of a student passenger. Both staff and student will sanitize hands, prior to and following the transportation of a student passenger.

Facial Coverings and PPE

As noted previously in this document, many students at FUV are in the high-risk category for severe disease. For this reason, all staff will wear well-fitted surgical masks at all times in the presence of students (provided by the company). In cases where a mask does not fit the staff person well, staff may elect to double mask (surgical mask beneath a cloth mask) or to use an external "mask fitter", or to use a "knot and tuck" system to ensure that the sides of the mask fit snugly against the wearer's face. These options will be made available at no cost to staff. If the double masking option is selected, staff will use cloth facial coverings (provided by the company) OVER a standard surgical mask (that is provided by the company) and is thoroughly laundered at least once per day and between each use/user. Both cloth and surgical masks should be replaced when visibly dirty or wet.

Students are expected to use either cloth facial coverings or disposable surgical masks, except during specified activities (sleeping, eating, etc.). Some students are not able to tolerate masking all day, but all students are expected to be working toward that goal. All students will be given safe opportunities to take "mask breaks" throughout the day as needed. Adults doing pick up and drop off must wear facial coverings. Related services providers who visit the

building are expected to follow the same guidelines as staff. No other visitors are allowed in the building at this time.

Staff that work with students unable to control their secretions should wear additional eye protection (goggles or facial shield) for added protection (provided by the company).

4) Operational and Facilities Considerations

Physical Distancing and Use of Cohorts

Because of the unique nature of the learners at FUV, some modification of the protocols for physical distancing will be required.

- Teachers and staff will remain a distance of 6 feet from other adults as much as possible.
- Teachers and staff at FUV are not generally able to maintain a distance of 6 feet from students due to the intensive nature of their supervision needs, however when safely possible to do so, teachers/staff will maintain social distance from students.
- Students will remain at a distance of 6 feet from one another as much as possible, regardless of age/grade.
- Students will not move about the building in lines or groups.
- Due to the fact that teachers/staff are not able to socially distance from students, the “pod” structure (no more than 5 students per pod) will remain in place until at least mid-June (see introduction).
- Staff are assigned to specific pods and will not generally move between them with the following exceptions:
 - Teachers, behavior analysts, and related service providers may move between pods / assignments on the same day, making sure to wash hands and change soiled clothing or PPE as necessary between both students and pods
 - Staff will not be assigned to work in more than one pod (or external / out of house assignment) per day
 - If, in the event of an emergency, a staff member must cross pods in the course of the same day, they will make sure to wash hands and change soiled clothing or PPE between assignments
- Staff will continue to report all close contacts (closer than 6 feet for 15 cumulative minutes or longer over a 24-hour period) to a safety officer at the end of each shift.

Communal Spaces, Large Group Activities and Special Programming

The multipurpose (“A.P.E.”) room will continue to be used by only one pod at a time. Although we do not have a playground, students will be transported or walk to outdoor parks and local

playgrounds / outdoor recreational areas for recess and PE as often as possible, weather permitting. More than one pod may access an outdoor space at the same time as long as social distancing can be maintained. Students will be expected to continue to mask out of doors to the degree that they are able, consistent with their own ability to maintain safe and appropriate mask use. As always, staff will wear masks in the presence of students, whether indoors or out.

Staff will take breaks in designated areas where room capacities allow for social distancing during meals and breaks. Students are not allowed to enter staff break spaces. Staff breaks will be staggered so that break room capacities are not exceeded. Staff have additional outdoor break-space.

Entrances for Pods 1 and 2 will remain in the front of the building, and Entrance for Pod 3 will remain in the back of the building.

Field Trips / Community Access

No indoor field trips or community access on an individual basis will be planned for the duration of this exposure control plan. Outdoor field trips may occur if the program can maintain all the health guidance in this document and “A Strong and Healthy Year”.

Indoor community access and indoor community based vocational/employment training remain prohibited for the duration of the implementation of this exposure control plan. This restriction will be revisited again in June 2021.

Visitors

FUV is not allowing visitors to the building (except related service providers) for the duration of the implementation of this exposure control plan. Meetings with sending districts, parents and other agencies will occur virtually.

5) Home-based Services & School-based Services (outside of FUV)

S^D Associates, in addition to providing an approved, independent special education school (FUV), contracts with outside school districts to provide educational and behavioral services in local schools, as well as insurance-funded ABA services to individual clients and families.

School-based Services

S^D staff serving children in public school settings will comply with all rules, procedures and guidelines within that building/district.

In addition, staff will follow S^D guidelines for the use of PPE (or the district’s guidelines, whichever is higher), daily health screening, and all protective public health measures as outlined by VT DOH and other VT agencies and entities that have responsibility for these measures, including but not limited to travel guidelines, social distancing guidelines, gathering/group size guidelines, and the like.

Home/Community Based Services

- S^D staff providing home-based services for an individual client will be assigned from within a single pod.
- S^D staff will follow all state and federal guidelines in place for “home health visitors” (CDC and VT DOH), including the use of PPE, pre-screening of household members, etc.
- Clients/families will be notified of all relevant requirements and restrictions regarding home visits prior to the onset of services