

KENT SCHOOL

COVID-19 Reopening Action Plan



Message from the Head of School

Dear Kent Families,

In my brief time at Kent School I can confidently make an observation that will seem obvious to longer-standing members of the community: this is an extraordinary community. Its strength has been revealed to me during this crisis. The commitment faculty and staff have to students is extraordinary, and, I believe, unique. This has been no more apparent to me than in witnessing and helping the community prepare for the return of our students this fall. I am particularly grateful for the work of the COVID-19 Task Force.

The COVID-19 Task Force includes: Jeff Cataldo, CFO; Suzanne Lefebvre, MD, School Physician; Cathe Mazza, Director of Campus Wellness and Planning; Dale Reinhardt, Dean of Students; and Brian Sullivan, Associate Head of School. The Task Force has been constructing policy in accordance with Connecticut State guidelines ([Connecticut State Guidelines](#)) and in partnership with the Connecticut Governor's Council, the National Association of Independent Schools, the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools, and public health officials from the Torrington Area Health District and the Town of Kent. Also, the Task Force has been engaged in conversations with many other boarding schools about the crisis and strategies for reopening.

The Task Force and School have benefited immensely from the expertise of Sten Vermund, MD, Dean of the Yale School of Public Health, who has visited the campus and provided specific advice on ventilation, cleaning and disinfection, and de-densification to make the School as safe as possible.

Our goal is simple: to mitigate as much risk as possible while providing an excellent in-person educational experience.

Our plan is conservative and predicated on the idea that **students and adults in the community will return to Kent COVID-19-free and in good health**. No plan is perfect. The success of our plan depends on the entire community's commitment to it. Thank you in advance for your personal commitment to it.

Our health and happiness as a school community will also depend on our collective good will, patience, flexibility, and the many acts of personal sacrifice we will, no doubt, have to make for each other and the common good. While currently amplified, this is life in community and it provides a context for important learning for life beyond Kent.

Finally, the plan that follows is a framework. We will provide weekly updates as details are ironed out. We will also hold a "town meeting" with members of the Task Force on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to answer any initial questions you might have.

Again, thank you for your help in supporting this extraordinary community during this extraordinary time. I look forward to someday meeting you in person!

Sincerely,



Michael G. Hirschfeld

Covid-19 Task Force

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Kent School's COVID-19 Task Force, in coordination and in consultation with various medical experts and authorities, has developed the following plan for the reopening of our campus for the 2020/2021 academic school year. The safety and well-being of our students and community are at the forefront of all our policies. We cannot guarantee a COVID-19 free campus, but we are confident we will be able to mitigate the risk associated with delivering an in-person learning experience. While there may be adjustments and changes made during this academic year, our hope is to minimize disruption as much as possible to the academic, social, and overall Kent experience for our families.

Guidance and Consulting Partnerships

Yale

Dr. Sten Vermund, MD, Epidemiologist and Dean of the Yale School of Public Health



Connecticut Governor's Council



Connecticut Association of Independent Schools



National Association of Independent Schools



Torrington Area Health District



Town of Kent

Reopening Initiative

PREPARATION FOR ARRIVAL TO CAMPUS AND STUDENT ARRIVAL

- All students will be asked to self-quarantine 14 days prior to their arrival to school. In order for our reentry to be successful, all students and their families need to be thoughtful about managing COVID-19 risk for the 14 days prior to their arrival at Kent. Students should avoid high risk activities like sleepovers, social gatherings without a mask on, camps and contact sports.
- All students will be required to have a negative COVID-19 PCR or nucleic acid amplification test within 3 days of arrival. Example: if your arrival date is August 20, testing must occur on August 16 or 17 and the test result provided to you prior to your arrival on August 20. No student will be allowed on campus without a negative test. Any student who tests positive for COVID-19 should seek medical care through their primary care physician and contact Dr. Suzanne Lefebvre at lefebvres@kent-school.edu. Dr. Lefebvre and the Health Center will work with you and your home physician to determine when you may arrive on campus.
- Students will arrive according to a staggered schedule, located in the Academic Program section of this document. Upon arrival, all students will be tested for COVID-19 at registration. Students with a positive test will be required to isolate off campus pending verification of results with a parent or guardian.

To see a current list of states requiring a 14-day quarantine (arrival on August 20), please use this link, [CT State Guidelines](#).

- All students, new and returning, will participate in an orientation program to introduce services on campus, educate on new policies and preventative measures, and delineate expectations for a successful school year.

TESTING

- All faculty, staff, and students will have COVID-19 screening testing prior to the start of the school year. All PCR tests performed by Kent School will be billed to the individual's health care insurer by the laboratory processing the test.
- Intermittent, randomized screening testing will be performed by Kent School weekly in coordination with Tempus, a national biotech firm. The School has also purchased a machine for rapid on-site antigen testing. This test will be utilized as a supplement to our testing methods
- The School has partnered with local health care organizations and health care systems in the event of a need for increased testing.
- The re-entry testing protocol will be in place after all school breaks.

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- All persons will be expected to wear a mask on campus.
- Students will not be required to wear a mask in their own dorm room; however, any visitor to the room will be required to wear a mask and the residents of the room should also put a mask on.
- Social distancing measures will be practiced in all areas of campus.
- All members of the community are expected to practice excellent hand hygiene which includes frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer stations placed throughout the campus.
- Cleaning and sanitizing will be done with increased frequency throughout campus.
- Students will be expected to keep their rooms clean to minimize contamination. Daily room checks will be conducted.
- As we begin the school year, students will be restricted to campus. No student will have town or weekend permission. We will continue to assess this policy.
- We are working on a plan to allow parents to visit their child on campus.



ONGOING SCREENING

- Any person living on campus who is not feeling well is expected to report to the Health Center immediately and should not attend class.
- Daily temperature checks of everyone in the community may be taken.
- All students, faculty, and staff will have a daily check-in process. Day students will check-in as they enter campus daily.

- Any faculty member, staff member, or day student not feeling well should not come to campus.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

- The School has purchased a sanitizing system that will be used throughout campus.
- Hand washing is the preferred method of hand cleaning but hand sanitizer stations will be located throughout campus.



HEALTH CENTER

- The Health Center has been retrofitted to create a “well” entrance with treatment facilities and a “sick” entrance with treatment facilities.
- There is a new Counseling Center separate from the Health Center facilities.
- Any student who is ill will be asked to go home or to a guardian’s home to recover. **ALL STUDENTS living more than 400 miles from campus will need an emergency contact or guardian, someone who is willing to retrieve a sick student from campus and care for them until they are recovered and deemed able to return to school. If you need assistance with this please contact Dale Reinhardt, Dean of Students at reinhardtd@kent-school.edu.**
- Students who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and meet the criteria of “close contact” will be required to quarantine for 14 days. This quarantine should be served at home or at the home of a guardian.
- An off-campus quarantine site has been established on our property. Any student who may have been exposed to COVID-19 will be moved to this short-term location until they are picked up by a parent or guardian. Technology has been added to all classrooms allowing students to participate in real time even if they are unable to be present in person.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

- The School is obtaining the necessary PPE to safely protect our Health Center staff and other personnel who may be responsible for the care and treatment of ill students.
- All students will receive two (2) reusable washable masks upon arrival to campus. It is strongly recommended that each student bring seven (7) washable, reusable at least 2-ply masks to school. Additional masks will be available for purchase in our school store.
- If needed, Kent School has an inventory of reserve disposable masks.

CONTACT TRACING

- The School will have a group of Johns Hopkins trained Contact Tracers to assist in identifying students who may be at risk for COVID-19 in the event there is an identified case in the Kent School Community. Those individuals will be members of the Health Center, faculty, and staff.

Academic Program

August 20

International families and any domestic students coming from states identified by the State of Connecticut requiring a 14-day quarantine

August 31

Senior Council and KPOP students*

September 5

All returning boarding and returning day students*

September 3

All new boarding and new day students*

September 9

Classes begin

**Except any student required to return on August 20*

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

- Classes will begin on September 9.
- Students will leave campus at the conclusion of the Fall Term on November 23 and will return to campus on or around January 5.
- For the two week period between Thanksgiving and the start of Winter Break, December 1, 2020 through December 16, 2020, classes will be held remotely on-line.
- The School will publish the Winter and Spring term calendar by November 20, 2020.

HYBRID LEARNING

- Any student who is legally prohibited from traveling to Kent for the start of the year will

have access to our remote on-line platform.

This platform will include full class sessions, meetings with your advisor, dean, college counselor, and all coaches or program leaders.

- Once travel restrictions are lifted, re-entry to campus will only occur at the start of the next term.

TUITION

- The tuition charged to a boarding student for our remote on-line program will be \$46,400 for the full year, or \$15,467 per term. The discount provided, which equates to \$6,500 per term will be prorated for financial aid awarded. All fees will be assessed as disclosed in your enrollment agreement.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- A modified, rotating block-hybrid schedule has been adopted at the recommendation of the Scheduling Committee (comprised of Department Heads, faculty, the Associate Head of School and the Head of School).
- All meals will be scheduled in coordination with class schedules and afternoon activities.
- A sample of the new daily schedule is shown below:

DRAFT AS OF 7/2/2020													
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday			
8:30	Chapel	8:30	Chapel	8:30-9:15	A Block Rotating (Purple)	8:30	Chapel	8:30	Chapel	8:30-9:15	Clubs/Music		
9:05-9:55	Fac./Dept. Mtg.	9:05-9:55	D Block (Yellow)	9:25-10:10	B Block Rotating (Blue)	9:05-9:55	Conference	9:05-9:55	G Block (Navy)	9:25-10:10	E Block Rotating (Green)		
10:05-11:35	A Block (Purple)	10:05-11:35	E Block (Green)	10:20-11:05	C Block Rotating (Orange)	10:05-11:35	B Block (Blue)	10:05-11:35	D Block (Yellow)	10:20-11:05	F Block Rotating (Red)		
Lunch 1 11:00-11:30 for all not in A block		Lunch 1 11:00-11:30 for all not in A block		11:15-12:00 Lunch 1 11:15-11:45	D Block Rotating (Yellow) Lunch if not in D block	Lunch 1 11:00-11:30 for all not in A block		Lunch 1 11:00-11:30 for all not in A block		11:15-12:00 Lunch 1 11:15-11:45	G Block Rotating (Navy) Lunch if not in G block		
11:45-12:35	B Block 1 (Blue)	11:45-12:35	F Block 1 (Red)	Lunch 2 12:00-12:30		11:45-12:35	C Block 1 (Orange)	11:45-12:35	E Block 1 (Green)	Lunch 2 12:00-12:30			
	Lunch 2 11:45-12:15		Lunch 2 11:45-12:15				Lunch 2 11:45-12:15		Lunch 2 11:45-12:15				
12:25-1:15	B Block 2 (Blue)	12:25-1:15	F Block 2 (Red)	Lunch 3 1:00-1:30		12:25-1:15	C Block 2 (Orange)	12:25-1:15	E Block 2 (Green)	Lunch 3 1:00-1:30			
	Lunch 3 12:45-1:15		Lunch 3 12:45-1:15				Lunch 3 12:45-1:15		Lunch 3 12:45-1:15				
1:25-2:55	C Block (Orange)	1:25-2:55	G Block (Navy)			1:25-1:55	Advisory	1:25-2:55	F Block (Red)				
						2:05-2:55	A Block (Purple)						
3:30	PM Activities	3:30	PM Activities			3:30	PM Activities	3:30	PM Activities				
5:00	Dinner	5:00	Dinner	5:00	Dinner	5:00	Dinner	5:00	Dinner	5:00 Dinner to be scheduled in three shifts by the Dining Hall			
6:30-8	Music	6:30-8	Music	6:30-8	Music	6:30-8	Music	6:30-8	Events				
8-10	Study Hall	8-10	Study Hall	8-10	Study Hall	8-10	Study Hall	8-10	Study Hall				

**Schedule with normal travel for interscholastic athletics

Athletics



FALL ATHLETICS

- In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and after many discussions prioritizing community health, safety and well-being, the Founders League has unanimously, and with great regret, decided to cancel all Founders League interscholastic competition for the 2020 Fall season.
- Students will not be allowed to participate in off campus activities and sports that are not sponsored by Kent School.
- The Athletic Department will focus on creating a fall program that focuses on skill

development, and is working on establishing recruiting opportunities through video and other measures.

- The School will be implementing an intramural program, creating opportunities for expanded activities, school spirit, and fun.
- The School, in accordance with Founders League rules, will establish a schedule allowing off-season coaches to work with their teams in the fall.



As we enter the 2020/2021 school year, it will take the full cooperation of the entire community to keep our campus, students, and community healthy. Proper hand washing, the use of masks, appropriate social distancing, and adherence to COVID-19 policies and procedures will be vital to our success in mitigating COVID-19 risk. Any person unable to follow the procedures and expectations may be asked to leave campus.

The 2020/2021 Student Handbook will be published on August 1, 2020. The handbook will include addendums disclosing operating procedures to be followed during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please take the time to read the handbook with your child before arriving on campus.



KENT SCHOOL

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