

Guidance for Schools Related to Limits on Multi-Household Social Gatherings

Rev. Nov. 23, 2020

Background

On November 20, 2020, Governor Scott issued <u>Addendum 8</u> to his Executive Order which suspended multi-household social gatherings. Specifically, among other changes, the Order prohibits multiple households from participating in the same social gatherings, including group trips; gatherings related ceremonies, holiday events, parties and celebrations; and sharing accommodations with anyone outside your household.

Implementation for Schools

Schools should consider these limits on multi-household social gatherings an extension of the state's travel guidance. Accordingly, school districts may include the participation in multi-household social gatherings as a condition in the required daily Health Screenings for students and staff as specified in the <u>A Strong and Healthy Start</u> guidance.

While these limits are in place, students or staff participating in multi-household social gatherings may be excluded from attending in-person instruction, and they may be required to complete either a 14-day quarantine or a 7-day quarantine followed by a negative test.

Please note that, for the purpose of clarity, gathering in pre-established "pods" related to education and/or childcare remains allowable. Pods related to social activity or informal play groups are prohibited at this time. New pods of any kind are discouraged.

Also for the purpose of clarity, incidental contact of less than 15 minutes, occurring with masks and physical distance (such as to check on a neighbor, friend or family member not in your household) is not considered a social gathering.

Coming in contact with members of other households in settings that continue to operate – such as schools, workplaces, retail stores, close contact businesses, etc. – is not in violation of the Order, provided all required health protocols are followed.

Contact Information:

If you have questions about this document or would like additional information please contact Kate Connizzo at kate.connizzo@vermont.gov