

Guidance on In-Person Meetings and Gatherings in Vermont Schools

Rev. Nov. 20, 2020

Background and Purpose

[Addendum 8 to the Governor's Amended and Restated Executive Order 01-20](#) contains the following provision:

Telework. All businesses, not-for-profit entities and municipal government entities in the State shall reinstitute, to the maximum extent possible, or reemphasize to the extent necessary, telecommuting or work from home procedures. In person meetings are strongly discouraged and all meetings should be held by telephone or electronically to avoid in person meetings whenever possible.

UPDATED Applicability to School Districts

School districts and Vermont independent schools must comply with this order. Accordingly, all meetings and group professional development activities should be conducted remotely through at least December 15, 2020. School districts and independent schools are encouraged to continue this practice throughout this emergency, regardless of the expiration of the executive order addendum referenced above.

The addendum also states that "...it is possible to limit standards of operation and social gatherings, while keeping Vermonters working and our children in school." Therefore, the directive to telework should not be interpreted as a directive to reduce or pivot away in-person instruction. **Staff and contractor functions that are required to support in-person learning, such as transportation, food service, custodial and maintenance service, and administrative and central office functions, may also continue to operate in-person based on a determination by the superintendent or independent school head.**

Additionally, school districts and independent schools should remind staff of the additional requirements related to personal gatherings under [Addendum 8](#) of the Governor's executive order, and should encourage staff to refrain from personal gatherings and multi-family events until further notice.

Meetings of School Boards, Committees, or other Bodies Subject to Open Meeting Requirements

School boards, committees and other bodies subject to Vermont's open meeting requirements should not meet in person to prevent in-person gatherings among members of the public from different households. Boards and other public bodies should consider meeting virtually until the emergency has ended.

Contact Information:

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