

# Hybrid Mitigation Strategies Evaluation

September 22, 2020



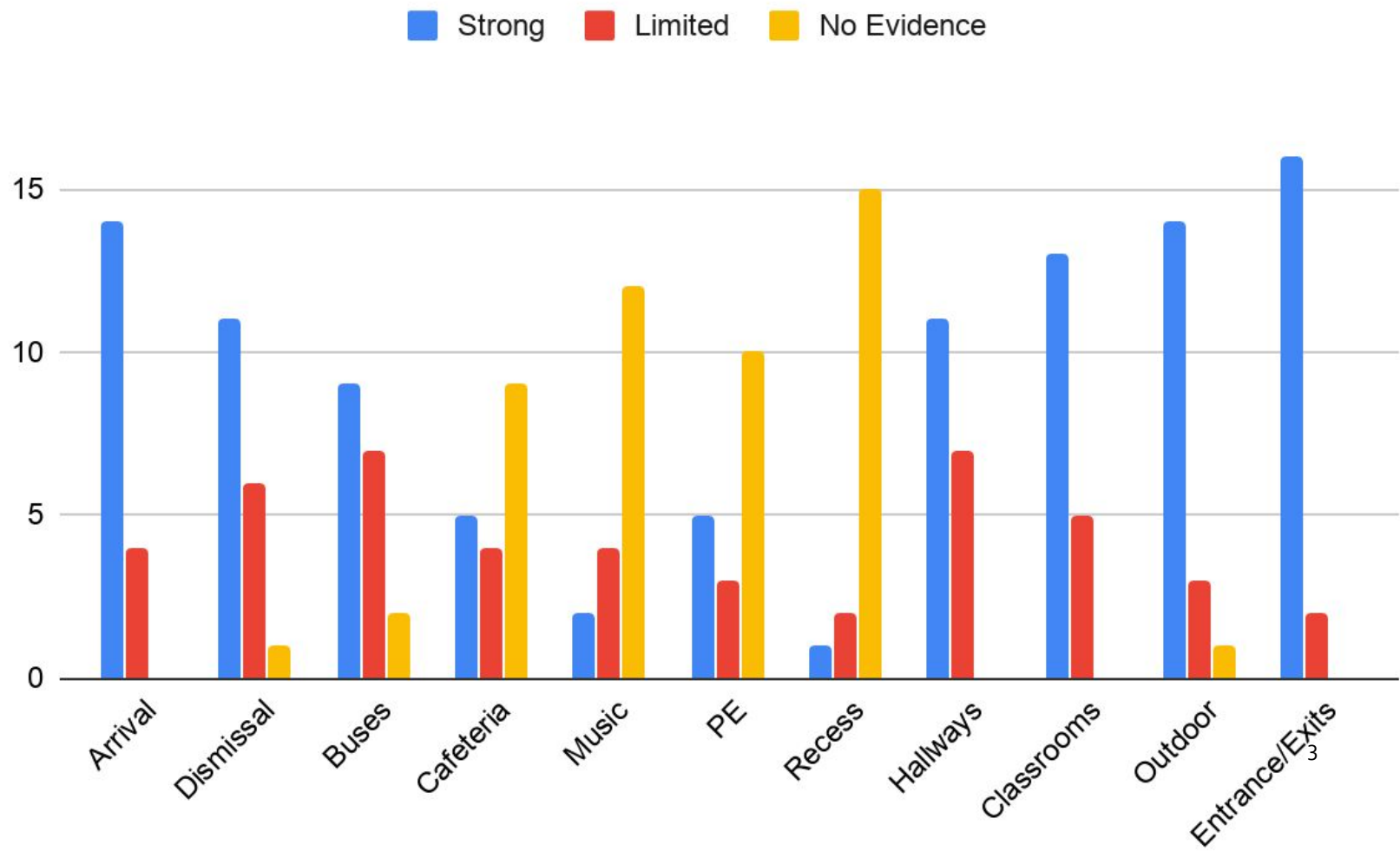
**FAIRFIELD**  
**PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

# Hybrid Mitigation Strategies

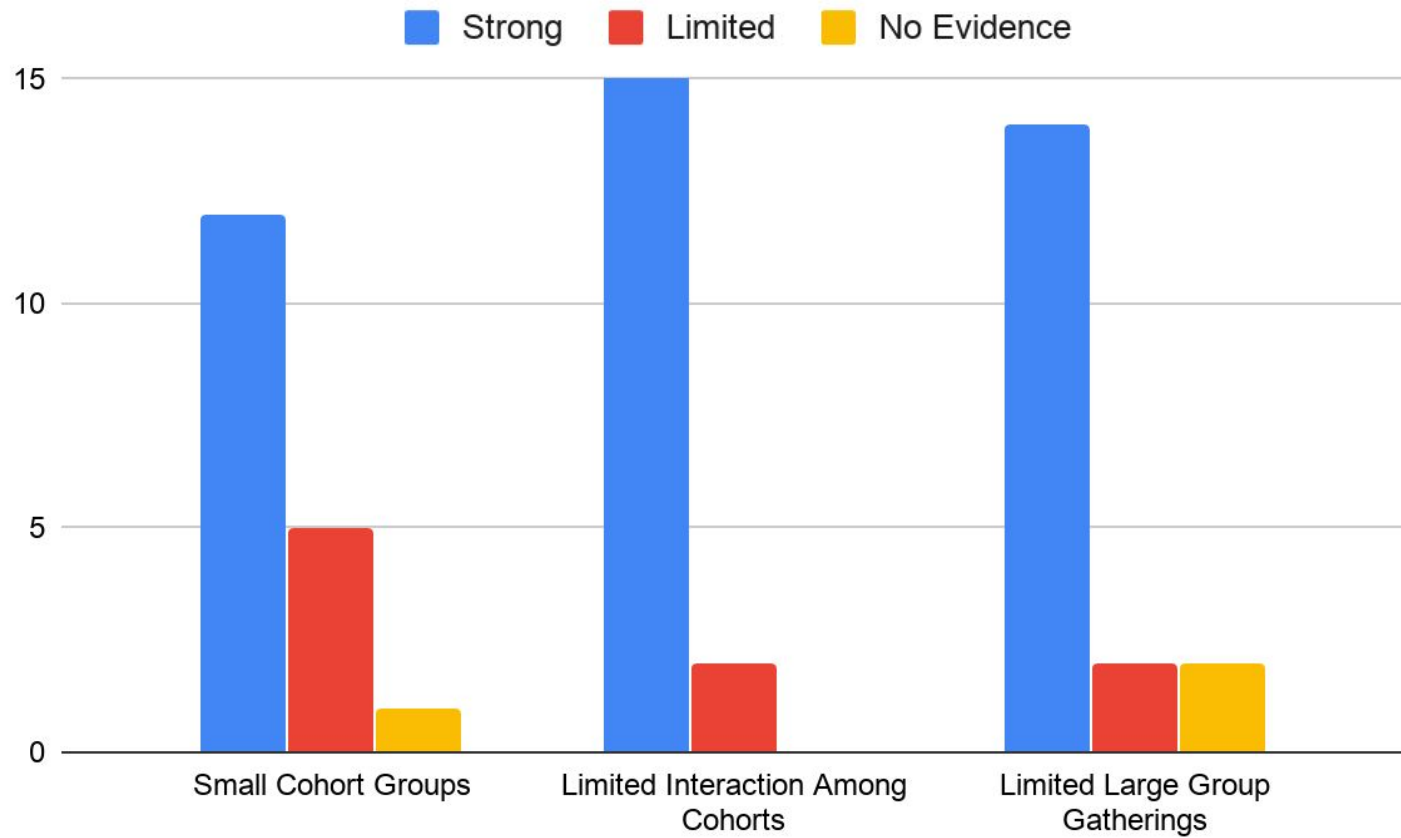
- All 18 school buildings surveyed.
- Responses based on current hybrid model at 50% capacity.
- Expected variance in response by building level / hybrid plan.
- Changes to current hybrid model would dramatically impact ability to adhere to mitigation strategies across all buildings.

# Physical spaces allow social distancing

- At current Hybrid capacity (50%)
- High “No evidence” reflects Elementary buildings (no lunch/specials)

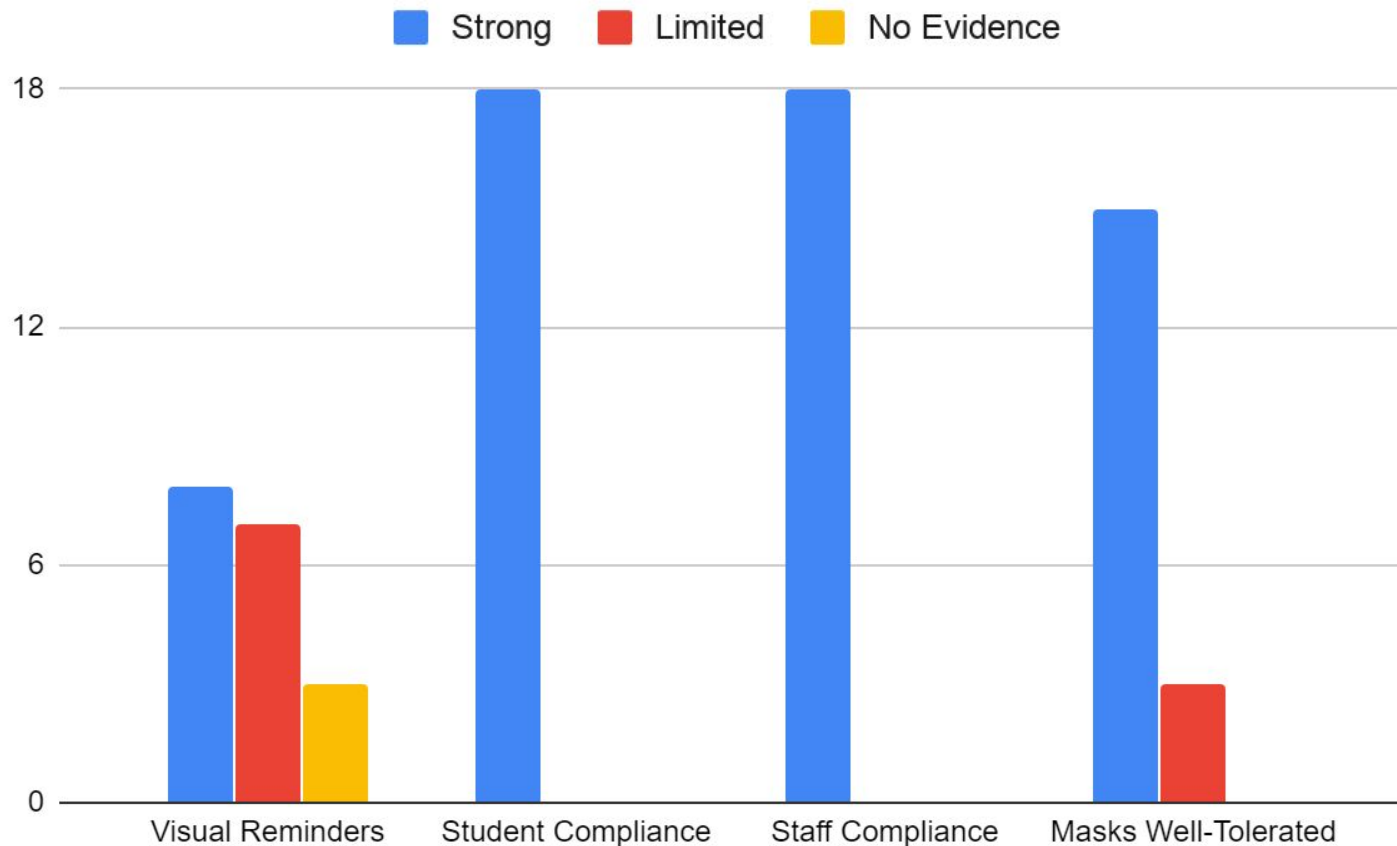


# Cohorting

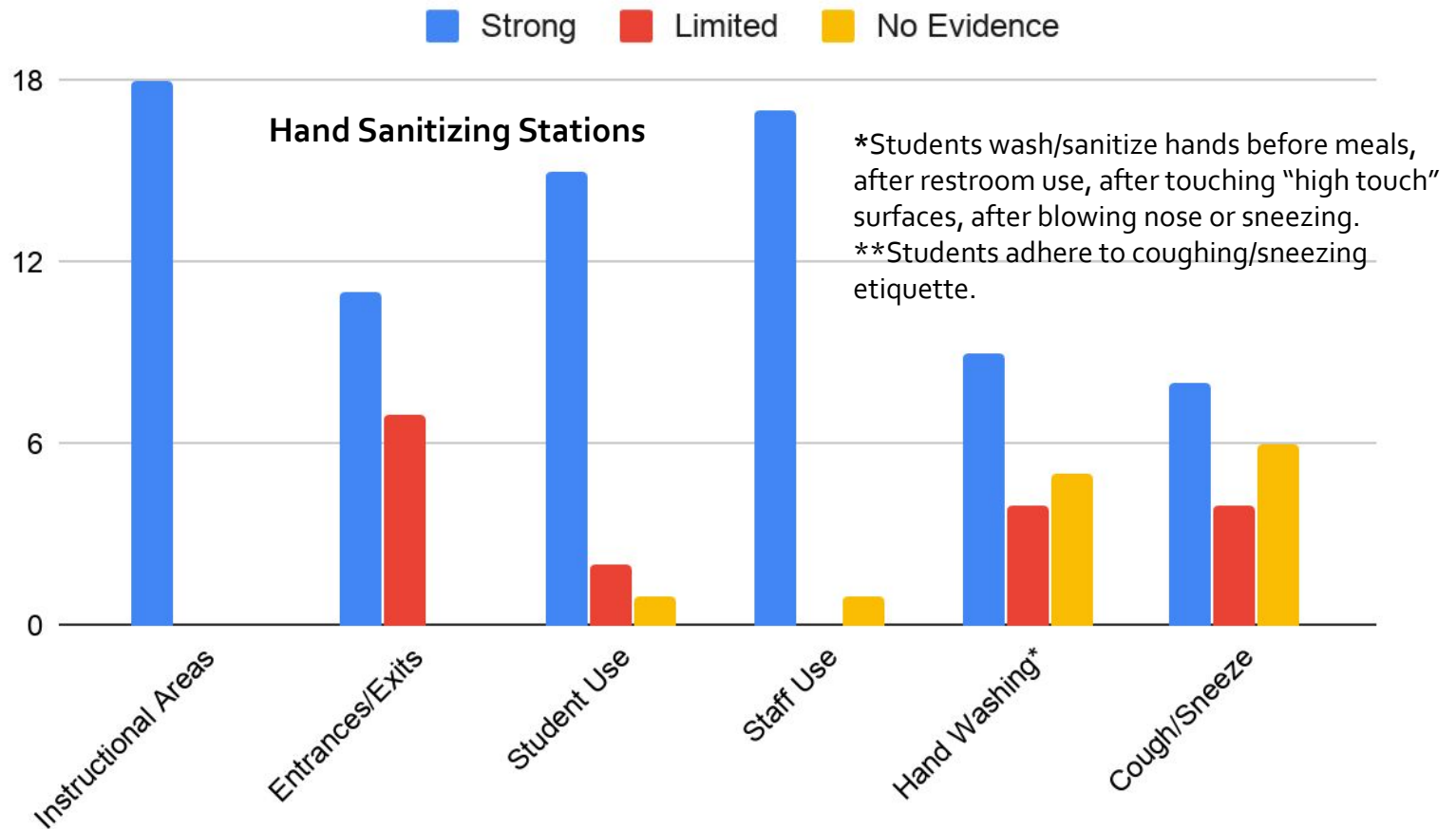


# Face Coverings

- More mask breaks needed
- Elementary tolerance limited to current half-day

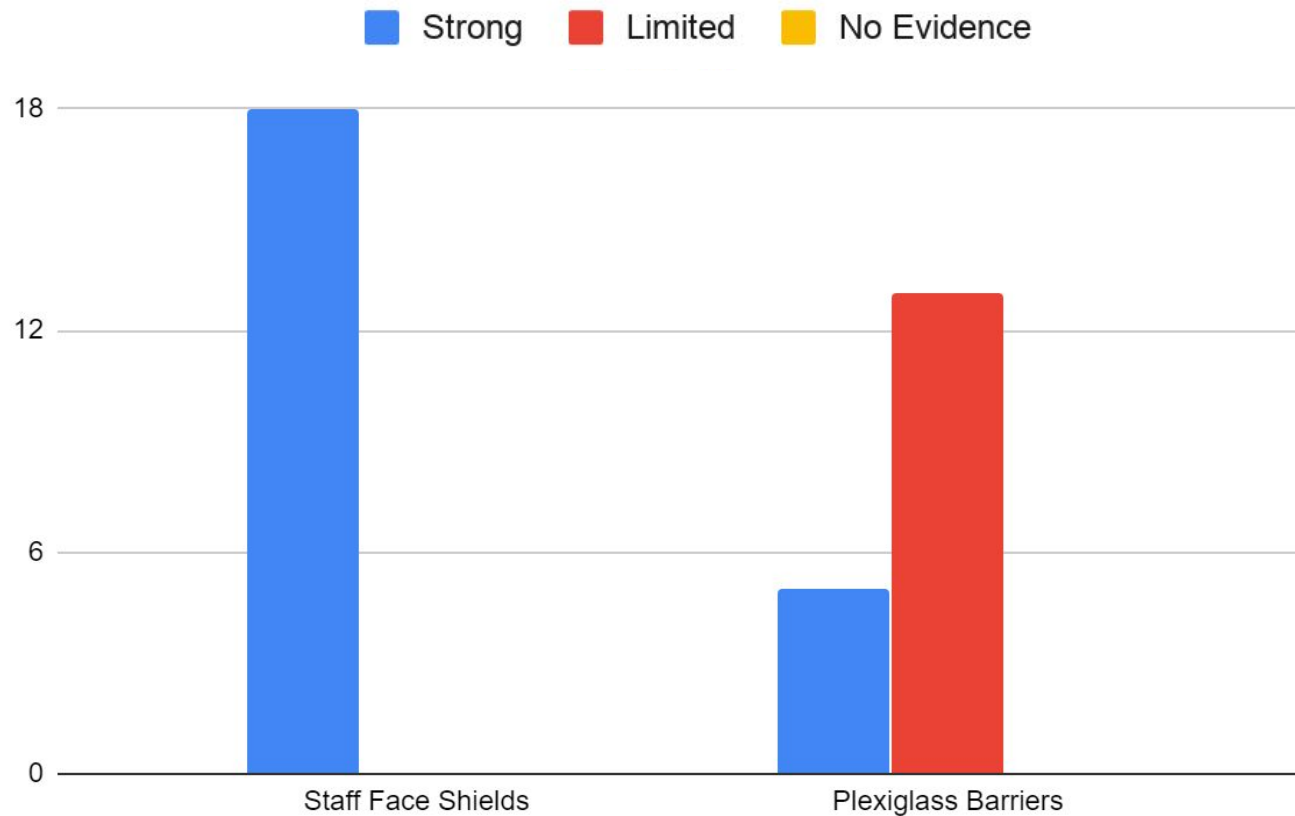


# Hand Sanitizing Stations / Hand Washing

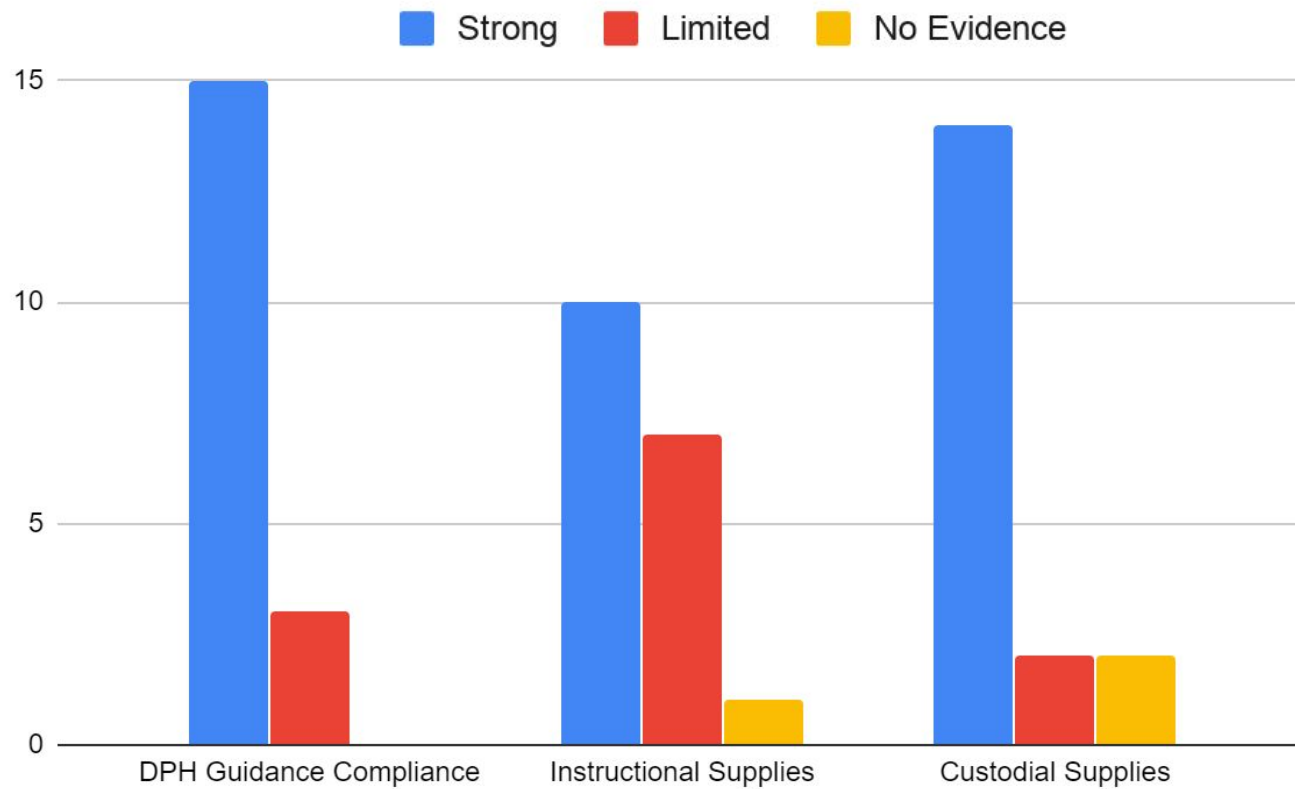


# Physical Barriers

- Teachers requesting plexiglass barriers for small group work

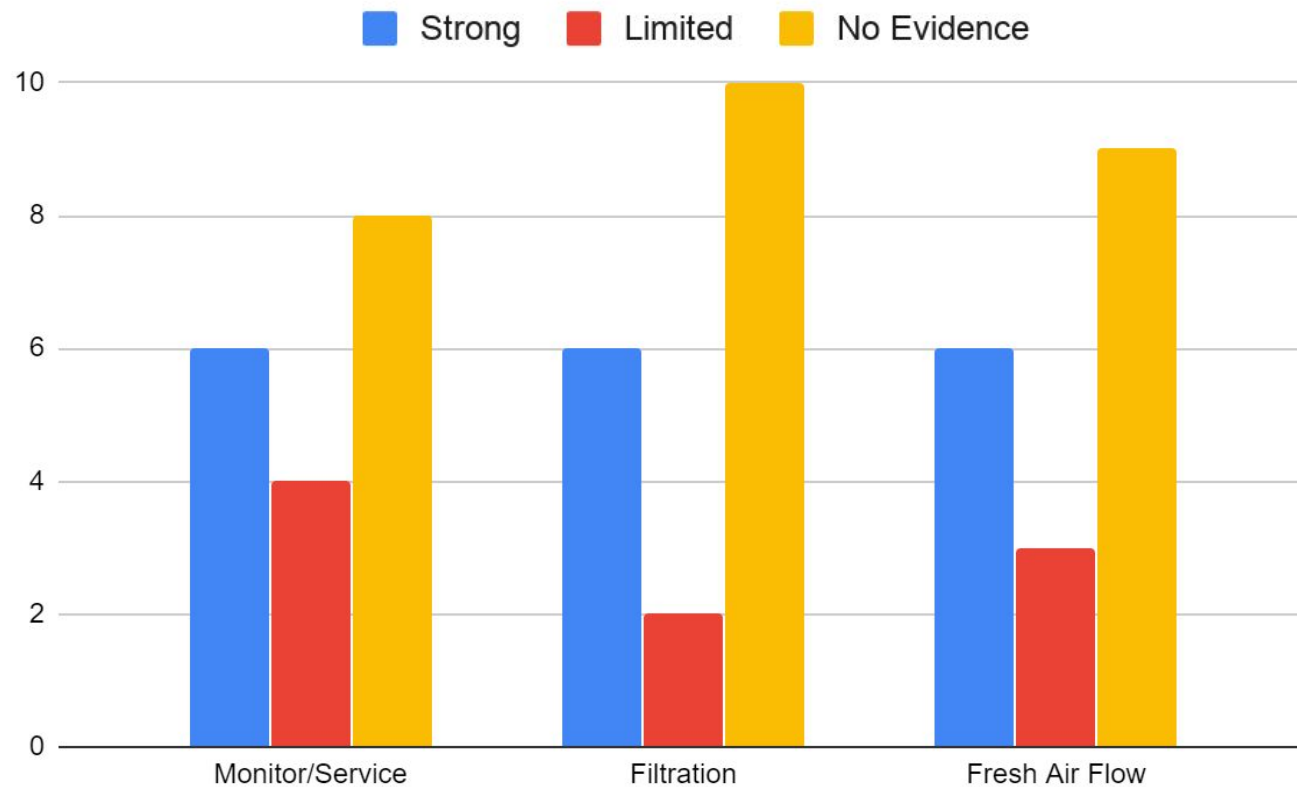


# Cleaning and Disinfecting



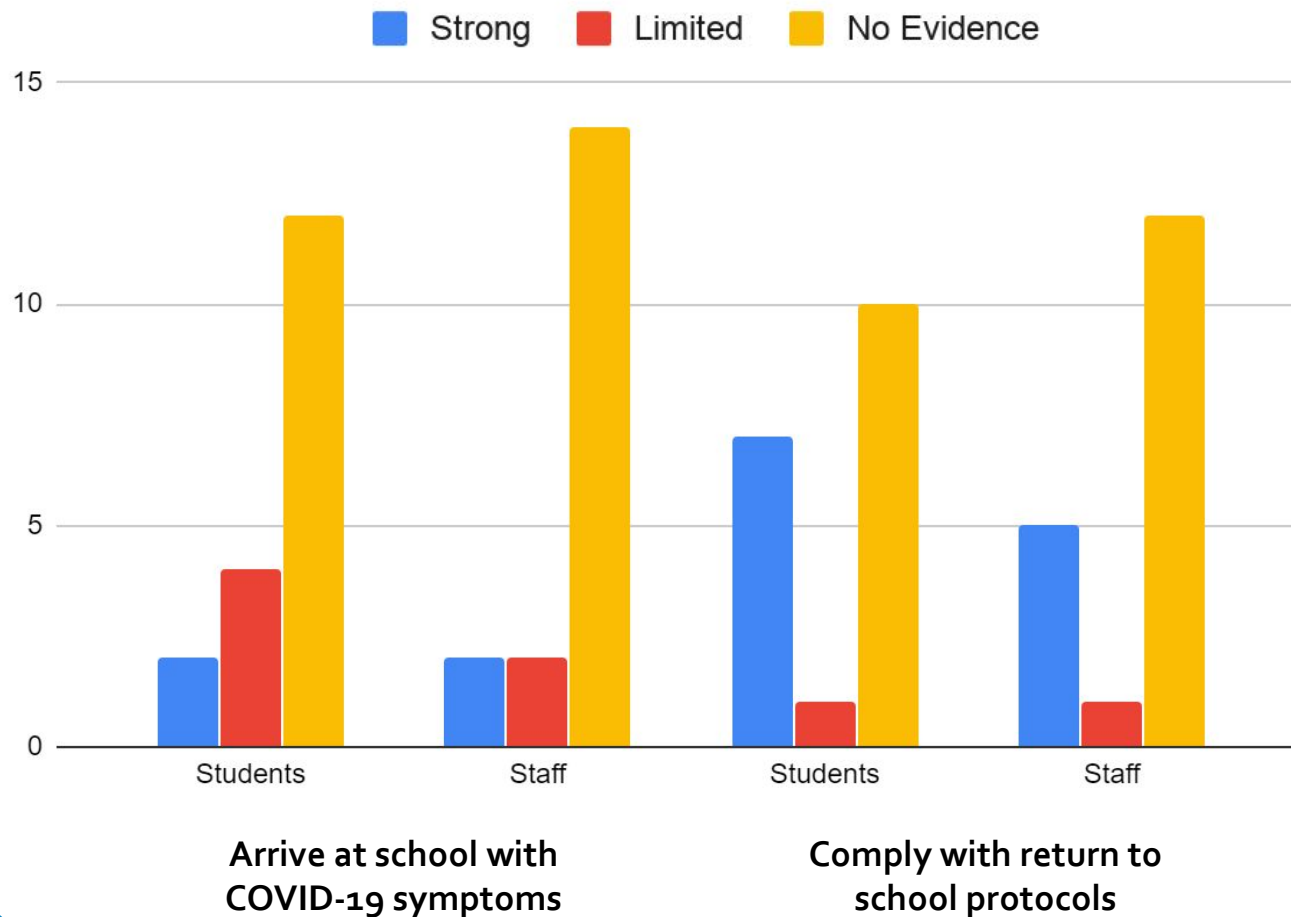


# HVAC Systems Meet DPH Standards



# Self-monitoring

- Daily self-check appears to be working
- Limited number of students in quarantine due to symptoms



# Needed for Full Reopening

- Reduce distancing to 3 feet minimum
- Identify additional lunch room space/barriers
- Additional custodial staff
- Replacement of all air filters, updated reports on air circulation, state guidance on expectations in winter
- Ability to livestream from all classrooms
- Intense, supportive professional learning for all staff

## **Mitigation Strategy Survey Comments**

### **Social distancing/physical space**

#### **PK-5**

We would not be able to maintain SD if we were full capacity.

We are able to appropriately socially distance in classrooms due to the small class sizes. Most are 10 or below for each cohort. The AM/PM schedule has also allowed us to have a very safe arrival and dismissal process where students are able to safely distance. Hallway use is way down as well because students are not going to lunch, recess or specials.

If we are to go back to full time with all students, we will not be able to socially distance in the gym and the cafeteria as well as classrooms. We would not have adequate space to eat in the cafeteria with socially distancing. Hallway travel will be challenging for both arrival and dismissal. If buses go to full capacity, we would not be able to socially distance students in the seats. Outside access is only playground equipment at the time due to construction

In the current hybrid model: Cafeteria is not used; We do not have recess (except for the handful of students staying all day; Specials are remote (Music and PE) so no evidence available; Classes are not moving in the hallways-- hallways are only used by individuals for bathroom and services; With the current number of students traveling by bus it seems there is space; Currently with nice weather mask breaks are taking place outside--once the weather changes mask breaks will be more challenging in the classroom.

If we were to return to full capacity: All of these areas in this survey would fall into the limited category, except outdoor space. For example, when we attempted social distancing in the classroom with all desks, we were able to fit up to 17 students in the room. This would not accommodate the full-size class attendance. We also do not have desks enough to make even the 17 student-capacity possible. In our current use of tables and desks, we are able to fit a maximum of 14 students. If we go to full capacity, lunch becomes a big issue. We would not be able to accommodate in the cafeteria. Lunch in the classroom would be the only option.

Bus has appropriate spaces but adult supervision needs to maintain after they leave the building. Drivers need to have masks on and masks available for students. In hybrid model, our classrooms have worked well. If we had more students, we would NOT be able to properly space. The tent has been a welcomed addition and another would be helpful. We are still working on some unique special education spaces. Arrival and dismissal are successful due to smaller numbers. Not having lunch and recess definitely helps with this aspect of our reopening. Additionally having our specials be virtual also helps. Not many kids are in the hallways and we are using our outside doors

Some buses are more crowded than others are. Using outdoor space can be challenging during high (car) traffic times at ECC Warde and ECC Stratfield. Push in services (due to reducing building movement and ventilation in small offices) increases crowding in buildings. Class sizes

will grow with rolling enrollment and classes will become more crowded. Weather does and will affect use of outdoor space.

We will need a lot more furniture if we have all students back. The classrooms are not big enough to social distance with 20-25 students in a class.

Bathroom is strong. Limited for classroom spaces is because we have 2 classes with 11 students making it more difficult to maintain proper social distancing. Otherwise, we are strong.

Space for arrival and dismissal but parents and kids do not always maintain social distancing. Two busses are overcrowded - 87 and 55. Using cafeteria for only 10 students.

The above responses are based on current hybrid A & B - the following addresses each area above if we were to have both hybrid A & B classes together in the building:

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL: BUSES: Currently have 3 buses with up to 30 students per bus. We have a plan to get them boarded in their assigned seats (that change often when new students opt for the bus) maintaining social distancing to the best of our ability with 8 staff members. If the buses and students double in size - it will be very challenging to manage this with appropriate social distancing and current number of staff. CARS: Currently we have 75-100 cars picking up in both cohorts. We utilize 6 staff members (led by building principal) outside to ensure safe dismissal through a parking lot that was not built for this type of volume. If we were to double this - we would need additional staff, police assistance to control traffic, and additional staff. We also might need different dismissal times. Certified teachers currently assist this until either 11:30 exactly or 3:40 exactly. Could become a union issue if dismissal of double the number takes longer than the current 15-20 minutes. CAFETERIA: Not a concern now with no students eating lunch in this area. Future concern would require a plan that includes safe distancing in this area and staff to monitor this. Lunch might have to start at 10 and end at 2 to do this safely. Would need additional staff and change to all schedules which might impact "shared" specialists and teachers. MUSIC: Only virtual at this time - would need to figure out how many could fit 12 feet apart. Best estimate would be we would need additional classes and FTE of staff in order to keep class sizes smaller than most are now at NSS. Chorus - needs more investigation to determine how it could be done in our APR. PE: Could be managed in our gym if we cancel the before and after school program and train PE teacher on how to do activities keeping distancing and masks in place. RECESS: We would need additional staff or alternate times for each class outside and training for students on how to navigate recess as a larger group. HALLWAYS - no issue anticipated - BATHROOM time for grades 3, 4, 5 with double the students might require additional staff to monitor and take longer for students in terms of waiting to use bathrooms. IN CLASSROOM SPACES: Following current safety guidelines - we can accommodate 10 student desks per most of the classrooms at NSS. If we double that here - we could not maintain current safety protocols for distancing of desks for students and area for teachers. Several rooms only fit 8 desks. OUTDOOR SPACE: Might require more tents for mask breaks.

## **Middle**

Spaces are adequate for the number of students accessing facilities with our hybrid model. Facilities would not be adequate with a return to full in-person learning.

Bathrooms, specific specialty UAs that require special equipment like cooking or wood working tools. After school clubs and sports. Science labs are at capacity. If we had any additional students, we would not be able to accommodate the distance requirements. We are currently at capacity.

Masks are on but social distancing is not happening. Tough to contact trace in that students within cohort are mixing at lunch.

## **High**

In the current hybrid model we are able to socially distance appropriately for the most part. The concerns arises if we have to transition to full time learning module with the current socially distancing expectation. Specially, we do not feel we could follow state guidelines for all person learning due to the spaces available in classrooms, hallways, and common spaces. Especially during inclement weather.

Arrival/Dismissal/Buses/Cafeteria-Strong given we have less than 50% of our population. This would be very difficult if we had 100% of students in the building. CPP drop-off creates an issue. It would be better if their drop off was either earlier or later. PE-Weather has cooperated. It may be an issue at 100%. Music-This will be an issue at 100% student in the school.

Main Hallway not marked for traffic flow. All other hallways are

## **Cohorting**

### **PK-5**

If we were to move to full capacity: Recess would be a challenge for large gatherings; Interactions between cohorts would increase.

These responses reflect the hybrid model. Students need reminders about social distancing.

Although we do not have large gathering for specific purposes, arrival and dismissal has many families that makes it difficult to social distance. If all students come back at the same time, cohorting will become obsolete.

The hybrid model allows us to maintain proper social distancing.

We have no large group gatherings at all. There is also almost no mixing of cohorts except when students may be in line outside for car pick up. This would not be possible if we were not using the hybrid model.

Service providers travel among many cohorts

It would have been easier to create class cohorts without Infinite Campus running its algorithm. Thoughtful cohorting needs to be considered for safety and instructional implications. We are working to limit the number of cohorts staff come in contact with as well and have developed a tracking system in the case we have to Contact Trace. It would have been nice to have a district

system for this purpose. We do not have large groups together currently but if we had to use cafeteria or recess spaces, we would have to think through protocols and challenges

Cohort (class) sizes will change based on rolling enrollment. Right now we are limiting staff scheduling across cohorts, this will become more challenging as more students are placed.

### **Middle**

Cohort groups are as small as is possible given the MS learning model.

The cohorts are larger at the secondary level. Even though they are larger, they do not mix.

Cohorts are imbalanced and lacking social distancing.

### **High**

At the high school level, we only have two cohorts for the entire student body.

Some classes have very high/low cohort numbers. Class size can be an issue. Large group-Strong in school. However, sports and other after school activities is an issue.

### **Face coverings**

#### **PK-5**

Masks are well tolerated by students in limited time as in our current hybrid. Might be challenging for elementary students if full day. Staff report concerns in terms of breathing after wearing masks all day.

Mask compliance is strong for both students and staff, however masks breaks are highly necessary as students are expressing needing these breaks throughout the day. At arrival and dismissal families are often taking off masks while still on school property. Reminders are given as appropriate. If students are to attend full day, wearing a mask will be challenging for students. Eating in the cafeteria will also be difficult due to having to remove masks to eat with limited space to socially distance.

Strong for masks are tolerated happens because we have an abbreviated day.

Students tolerate the masks - they are compliant.

Early indications are that mask wearing is working well. Our weather has been helpful...being able to go outside and temperatures being more moderate. The shortened time from being in school has also been helpful as we do notice some students losing stamina for wearing masks...but then it is time to go home. During inclement weather, breaks will be more of a challenge from an open space lens. We have created sign up calendars for staff to use during those days. Managing larger groups would pose potential issues. When we are deeper into the curriculum teaching with mask might be challenging for various reasons. We have had a few situations where we needed to remind bus drivers to wear masks and students getting on the bus

did not wear or have a mask. We have communicated these to transportation. It is a belief that bus drivers should have masks to hand to kids if needed.

Mask wearing by students, staff and families at arrival and dismissal has not been a problem at all.

Due to shortened day and masks break outside.

At times staff pull masks down

Most Pre-K students are doing really well with masks. A few are struggling to keep masks on properly. We are working on independence with putting on and taking off masks. Disposable masks can break. Masks require frequent changes for some students because they get wet (chewing, drool, runny nose).

### **Middle**

We will be adding additional signage encouraging proper mask usage.

Some concern with students wearing gaiters and masks with vents.

Appropriate breaks are provided.

### **High**

Students and staff are doing a good job adhering to the mask requirement.

Most students wear face masks appropriately all of the time. Some students struggle with mask compliance for behavioral reasons. Others just need reminders and supportive coaching

## **Handwashing**

### **PK-5**

Teachers and students have been given direction to wash hands throughout the day.

Students are practicing proper hand washing. Teachers are on it because of small class size.

We have set up protocols with staff so that safety is the highest priority. Our nurse has worked individually with certain staff with questions. Our building conversations have been positive and we continue to seek guidance from CO as often as needed. Health department has been supportive of questions as well. Managing the smaller amount of students makes this doable from a classroom teacher perspective. Currently not having recess and lunch to manage is important to note. We believe that more challenges would present themselves during these blocks of time.

We are addressing handwashing and safe sneezing and coughing in classrooms and in our virtual town meeting.

Entrance/Exit: We have just one at the main entrance. We were supplied enough sanitizer for one bottle for each classroom, without backup supply. Given the heavy use, this supply will run out soon. We have put in work orders for more.



Currently we do not have evidence if students are appropriately adhering to coughing and sneezing etiquette. We will continue to hand sanitize in moving forward. If class size increases there will be more time needed to accommodate sanitizing. This will result in a loss of instructional time.

Preschool- this is the main focus of our instruction during the first few weeks.

### **Middle**

Students need consistent reminders to use sanitizer provided.

Students are not using hand sanitizer regularly even with reminders

### **High**

Sanitizer is at the main entrance none at exits

We need hand sanitizing at back entrance and loading dock.

Although there has been some progress regrading wipes there is a need for more wipes especially in the elective areas.

## **Physical barriers**

### **PK-5**

Plexiglas dividers are for designated people. Some staff have requested a plexiglass divider however it does not meet the guidelines.

In order to do small group work, we need more plexiglas barriers.

We continue to have a STRONG need for additional plexiglass in various forms. We believe instruction would be more accessible in classrooms for small groups. We would like input on what forms (size and shape) would be supportive of their instructional practices. We appreciate what has been provided but it may not always be the best for elementary classroom needs.

We have only a few extra face shields. Plexiglas was made available to Special Ed but classroom teachers are hesitant to do small-group work until they have one in their classroom.

We have four Plexiglas barriers and we are ordering more. This is necessary in our front office.

Plexiglas was not available right away. Now we have 5 in the building and are requesting more.

Staff are submitting requests in School Dude.

### **Middle**

Many who have been approved for plexiglass since August still don't have it.

### **High**

Need additional for evaluators

Plexiglas is needed for staff conducting evaluations and counseling.

## **Cleaning**

### **PK-5**

Our custodial staff has worked really hard to ensure safety and cleanliness. The best use of outside service providers are still a question. Additional training and communication regarding their protocols needs to be discussed, systematized and communicated. We have come up with building specific procedures to support this part of our re-opening but continue to look to CO for guidance.

Our building is amazingly clean and cared for by our custodial staff, led by our contracted custodial support staff are providing constant cleaning in all areas and are giving an extra sense of comfort to our staff. Everyone is extremely grateful!

Additional staff has assisted with us being able to complete this task.

More hand sanitizer needed. Wipes needed for computers.

Sometimes there is a lag in securing wipes, gloves plexi barriers

Would prefer wipes to spray bottles. Need spray refilled frequently.

Currently there have been concerns about outside cleaning staff and training and coordination between FPS custodians and outside staff. Supplies are just enough at this point with limited extra supplies ready to be used when they run out.

### **Middle**

Cleaning products and wipes need to be available for all classrooms. Communication issues around cleaning protocols.

People complain about the school dude process. Not user friendly. Very similar to protrx.

### **High**

Custodian cleans everything, after each class as well

Additional cleaning and disinfecting materials are need for staff. Specifically, wipes.

## **HVAC**

### **PK-5**

1. Regular Monitoring of HVAC: We assume this is being done and monitored and logged, but the information is not shared regularly with school administration or custodial team. 2. HVAC filtration: Filters are changed regularly. We don't know how the filtration compares to what is recommended per rooftop unit. 3. Fresh Air Flow per DPH: Airflow is currently functioning. We are not sure how to measure proper DPH standards.

Opening of school report is the only information we have regarding HVAC. We have no idea if it is monitored, as ongoing communication has not been shared.

We are unsure of these answers although our air conditioning has been running.

Concerns about air quality have been shared for several years with Facilities Leaders. Windows are very old and not all open and many do not have screens preventing staff from having airflow. System (vents) as noted in previous Tools For Schools have regularly not worked. This becomes more of a concern at NSS at this time with constant mask use. This is the case for most classrooms and a major concern of the staff who occupy the main office and offices within this area.

We are watching this carefully given the current renovation

ECC Warde has struggled with humidity during the first weeks. Would like more timely and specific updates about problems and repairs.

### **Middle**

Teachers question this but any questions have been answered. When things break, they are fixed. Teachers are opening windows for fresh air.

We are monitoring all HVAC systems regularly to ensure proper ventilation. Level of ventilation varies from room to room.

Big temperature differences in building. AC is inconsistent. Teachers do not trust without a specific written report given to them.

### **High**

This area is unknown.

HVAC is an area of concern as noted in the report provide to the district.

## **Self-screening**

### **Elementary**

Strong indicates that students and staff are NOT coming to school with symptoms

Currently we have had limited situations with students and staff. We have had no COVID positive situations. Parents have been open with communication. Staff is being cautious and we are consulting often with the school nurse and HDP for guidance.

I have blasted out the checklist and guidance for Covid 19 scenarios document multiple times to families and staff. We posted the self-checklist on all exterior doors as well

To date, we have not had any cases in our school.

### **Middle**

Everyone appears to be healthy. Parents and staff are freely communicating and asking questions about any health related illnesses and what to do. The nurses have been great.

### **High**

We continue to work with our families to encourage and maintain high levels of communication around illness.

No students/staff have arrived with symptoms or have needed to quarantine