

WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and
Continuity of Services for 2021-22

The primary focus of the District’s back-to-school health and safety plan is to ensure that all of our students are back to in-person learning with the necessary academic, social/emotional supports in place and to ensure that the risk of COVID-19 transmission is minimized for our students and staff. With this in mind, the following plan is designed to promote a healthy and safe school environment, while also making every effort to “normalize” the school setting as much as possible. The plan is a working document intended to be flexible and responsive by adjusting mitigating strategies as local community conditions and school related factors change, and as new information about COVID-19 becomes available. Information from Federal and State sources, as well as available local and NH data will be reviewed regularly to help ensure that the most optimal decisions are being made for the benefit of our students and staff. Please note that we will develop and update weekly a data spreadsheet that tracks several data points, including relevant school data. It will be located on our SAU website.

The plan outlined below includes the following:

- A list of strategies and expectations to help mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in our schools.
- Three levels that reflect a progressively restrictive learning environment and the inclusion of remote learning at level III as conditions change
- Information that will be considered in making decisions about the instructional model and preventive strategies
- Links to the American Academy of Pediatrics, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the New Hampshire COVID -19 government site

LIST OF PREVENTIVE STRATEGIES AND EXPECTATIONS

Mitigation of Risk	Level I (L I)	Level II (L II)	Level III (L III)
Families/Community	It is important for our community to help protect our schools, students, and staff. Families should monitor daily for signs of illness, especially signs/symptoms of viral or respiratory illness (fever, chills, muscle/body aches, sinus congestion, sore throat, runny nose, cough) and keep students home (to include getting tested) as necessary. It’s critical to note that fully vaccinated individuals can still become ill with COVID-19 and transmit it to others.		
Instructional Model	Full in-person learning 5 days/week	Full in-person learning 5 days/week	Full remote instructional model as directed by NH executive order. Remain in place until further notice. All students are learning remote via Google classroom.

			In-person services for critical needs students as necessary
Face coverings	Mandatory for all school buses. Optional for all staff and students at all schools Will use DPH face mask decision matrix for targeted face mask use as necessary	Mandatory for indoors & school buses & optional outdoors Mandatory face coverings will be determined based on school & local data/conditions and in consultation with DPH & NH DOE	Mandatory for indoor/outdoor at all schools, school events while on school property or school buses
Physical Distancing	Minimum of three feet indoors whenever possible to include lunch room (except for WLC lunch room)	Minimum of three feet indoors at all schools, school events, school buses	N/A
Temperature Checks	N/A	Required for all students and staff	Required for anyone entering school buildings
School Visitors	Building Principals will work with families and individuals as necessary	Limited and isolated to the front foyer/office area	Limited and isolated to the front foyer/office area
Hand Washing & Respiratory Etiquette	Frequent hand washing and hand sanitization will be promoted, to include hand sanitizer available in every classroom and office space in the District. Covering coughs and sneezes will be taught and practiced		
Social/Emotional Needs of Students	Emphasis will be place on school culture and climate with a developmentally appropriate focus on students' social & emotional needs		
Academic Needs of Students	The District will assess the needs of students in the first 30 days of school to determine if additional programming/support is warranted and create a program/supports as necessary. Data such as STAR360 assessments will be continued to determine students with academic needs.		
Staff Wellness Needs	Staff will be informed of the "Wellness" program offered through School Care and how to access those programs. Building Principals will work closely with staff to ensure that staff wellness needs are identified and addressed as necessary		
Cleaning of Facilities	Cleaning schedules will be documented with the Facilities Director on a weekly basis		
Building Air Quality and Ventilation	Air purifiers have been placed into every space in the District and have the appropriate specifications to be effective in each space regardless of size. Windows will remain open when possible to help promote fresh outdoor air		
Contact Tracing	If there is a positive case in school, families of the close contacts will be notified. Families will need to monitor their student(s) for any symptoms of exposure and intervene accordingly.		

Isolate & Quarantine	The District will consult with the Division of Public Health and follow guidelines		
Monitor Students	Teachers will monitor students as they arrive to school and send any students to the school nurse as necessary	Teachers will monitor students as they arrive to school and send any students to the school nurse as necessary	N/A
School Board Review	The School Board will review the health and safety protocols at the minimum on September 28, December 14, and March 15		

INFORMATION TO CONSIDER: Below is the **NH Division of Public Health & NH Department of Education guidance** for public school districts when considering transitions between instructional models. Two areas of data to focus on:

1. Levels of Community COVID-19 Transmission
2. Level of School Impact

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY COVID-19 TRANSMISSION			
CRITERIA	MINIMAL	MODERATE	SUBSTANTIAL
Number of new cases per 100,000 over prior 14 days (rest of Hillsborough)	<50	50 – 100	>100
COVID-19 PCR test positivity as a 7 day average (rest of Hillsborough)	<5%	5 – 10 %	>10%

LEVEL OF SCHOOL IMPACT			
CRITERIA	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Transmission w/in the school facility	Zero or sporadic cases with no evidence of transmission w/in the school setting	One cluster in the school (3 or more confirmed cases in related group, e.g., classroom)	Two or more unrelated clusters in the school with onset (based on source case symptom onset dates) w/in 14 days of each other
Student absenteeism due to illness	<15%	15 – 30%	>30%
Staff capacity to conduct classes and school operations	Normal	Strained	Critical

MAKING A DECISION: The matrix below will be used as guidance, while keeping in mind the goals of keeping our students & staff safe and providing in-person learning for all our students. The decision to move a school(s) and/or district to level II/III should remain in place for at least one quarter (9 weeks) to minimize disruption to the learning environment, while allowing time for review of community & statewide data trends and information.

		LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION		
LEVEL OF SCHOOL IMPACT		MINIMAL	MODERATE	SUBSTANTIAL
	LOW	In-Person (LI)	In-Person (L I)	In-Person (L I)
	MEDIUM	In-Person (L I)	In-Person (L II)	<i>Remote (L III) see “instructional model” above</i>
	HIGH	In-Person (LII)	In-Person (LII)	<i>Remote (L III) see “instructional model” above</i>

RELEVANT LINKS:

<https://www.covid19.nh.gov/> The site is maintained by the NH DHHS and provides a wealth of current information, data, and resources

<https://www.cdc.gov/> The Center for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/> The link in the American Academy of Pediatrics provides a COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools report

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/school-childcare-toolkit-2021-2022.pdf>
 School & Childcare toolkit 2021-2022 School Year