## WILTON-LYNDEBOROUGH COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT DRAFT 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.

The decision whether to begin the school year with a more "permissive" learning environment will be based on the most current level of community transmission information available, as well as data from our summer school programs at all three of our schools. 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.

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 as health and safety conditions change
- Information that will be considered in making decisions about the instructional model and preventive strategies
- Other information that will regularly be reviewed and considered
- 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 with a remote option (reevaluate model after 9 weeks)	Full remote instructional model (reevaluate after 9 weeks)

Face coverings  school buses and strongly recommended events & school buses for all staff & students at all schools, school events while on school buses for all staff & students at all schools staff. Strongly recommended outdoors  Minimum of three feet indoors whenever possible to include buses outdoors  Minimum of three feet indoors whenever possible to include buses  N/A  Required for all students, school events, school				
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	and send any students to the school nurse as necessary	and send any students to the school nurse as necessary	
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

(Note: August 4, 2021 data in red)

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 77.4	>100
COVID-19 PCR test positivity as a 7 day average (rest of Hillsborough)	<5% 3.3 %	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 maintaining the safety of our students & staff and providing in-person learning for all our students. The decision to move a school(s) and/or district to a more restrictive level II/III should remain in place for at least one quarter (9 weeks) to minimize disruption to our learning environment, while allowing time for review of community & statewide data trends and information

		LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION		
		MINIMAL	MODERATE	SUBSTANTIAL
LEVEL OF	LOW	In-Person (LI)	In-Person (L I)	In-Person (L I)
SCHOOL IMPACT	MEDIUM	In-Person (L I)	In-Person/Remote (L II)	Remote (L III)
	HIGH	In-Person/Remote (LII)	Remote (L III)	Remote (L III)

**OTHER INFORMATION TO KEEP IN MIND:** The data below is not included in the decision matrix above, but will be reviewed and/or considered as necessary when making a decision to change the instructional model of our school(s).

CRITERIA	DATA
Rate of new cases statewide over prior 7 days	8/3: 123 (96% increase when compared to the
	previous 7-day period)
Number of new cases over prior 14 days in Wilton &	Wilton: 1 – 4 No data available
Lyndeborough	Lyndeborough: 1 – 4 No data available
% of individuals fully vaccinated (Note a vaccine is	Wilton 48.2%
not yet available for children <12 years of age)	Lyndeborough 48.4%
% of individuals with at least 1 dose	Wilton 54.3%
	Lyndeborough 48.4%
Cumulative % of total infections by age group	0 – 9 5.7% (5,783)
	10 – 19 12.5% (12.669)
Cumulative % of total hospitalizations by age group	0-9 .7% (12)
	10 – 19 .8% (13)
# of confirmed COVID-19 hospitalizations (I-93	21
Corridor Group)	
New cases (NH) 7-day average by age group	0 - 9 10.7
	10 - 19 13.7

## **RELEVANT LINKS:**

https://www.covid19.nh.gov/ This 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-1 9-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/ This 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/self-isolation-covid.pdf NH DPH Isolation Guide for People Who Have COVID-19

https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/self-observation-covid.pdf Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Self-Observation Guide

https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/documents/self-quarantine-covid.pdf Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Self-Quarantine Guide