

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	Mandatory for all school buses and strongly recommended indoors for all staff & students at all schools	Mandatory for indoor at all schools, school events & school buses for all students and staff. Strongly recommended outdoors	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	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 a building
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	We will follow New Hampshire Division of Public Health guidance and update as information and guidance changes (see links attached below)		
Provide Vaccinations	If available, the District will hold clinics for COVID-19 vaccinations as well as the annual flu clinic held in the District during school hours for staff. Community members looking for COVID-19 vaccinations can contact the school nurse for location and availability		
Diagnostic/Screening	As students arrive at school, teachers will assess the well-being of students in their classes	As students arrive at school, teachers will assess the well-being of students in their classes	N/A

	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		
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/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 & Lyndeborough	Wilton: 1 – 4 No data available Lyndeborough: 1 – 4 No data available
% of individuals fully vaccinated (Note a vaccine is not yet available for children <12 years of age)	Wilton 48.2% 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 Corridor Group)	21
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-19-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