



*Newfound
Area School
District's
2021-2022
School Year
Opening
Plan*

**First Day of School
August 25, 2021**

Pending Board Approval

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

This draft plan is developed based upon current NH DHHS guidelines and will be reviewed for any needed revisions and for final approval in August 2021.

DRAFT

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

Academic Needs

- Students will attend school in-person full time, in the 2021-2022 school year. There will not be a remote learning option.
- The district has hired 2 full time literacy specialists to begin in the 2021-2022 school year to address the literacy needs of students K-12.
- There will be an increased emphasis on the effective use of data to drive instruction through developing data team protocols to be used district-wide.

Athletics

- All sports will be played following the NHIAA guidelines for safe participation.

Daily Operation of Buildings

- All doors to our schools stay locked as usual.
- Access to our buildings will be limited.
- Vendors will not be allowed in buildings.
- Volunteers will not be working in our buildings this year.
- Parents/guardians will not be permitted in the buildings to drop items off to students or early dismissal from a parent/guardian request.
- Parents/guardians will notify school office personnel when they have something to drop off. Office personnel will direct the student to go outside to obtain the items.
- Parents/guardians will make appointments to enter the building for essential reasons.
- Deliveries such as mail, FedEx, Ups, will be delivered to a designated location outside the building.
- We will have essential deliveries such as food service made by drivers wearing masks and taking safety precautions.

Facilities

- The facilities department will work to improve air quality in all of the schools. A new HVAC system was added to NMMS in the fall of 2020. Plans are being made to update ventilation systems in BES and NHCS.
- Hand sanitizers are located at each entry point into the buildings, bathrooms, and classrooms.
- Appropriate signs are placed in the buildings with reminders of social distancing, wearing required masks, washing hands, and the use of sanitizer, etc.
- New water fountains with bottle filling stations are available in all schools.
- All buildings will have extensive daily thorough cleaning of bathrooms, corridors, touchpoints, and classrooms at all schools.

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

Health Management Expectations to Maintain Safety

Masks

- When indoors, following the American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations, students can be as close as 3 feet apart as long as they are wearing a face mask.
- All adults will be required to wear masks when indoors.
- The majority of students will need to wear masks if they cannot achieve 6 feet of physical distancing.
- Administration can make an exception for health and or disability-related reasons.
- We may need to teach younger students how to wear masks.
- Disposable masks will be available for students as needed. A supply of masks will be available in central locations (office, health office, athletic office, etc.)
- Mask breaks will be provided and scheduled/determined by the teacher and/or building administrator.
- The District will provide all staff with masks.
- During close contact, when masks are not appropriate, staff will use a Plexiglas barrier. A few examples would be staff working closely with students, speech therapy, cognitive evaluations, reading tutoring.

Physical Distancing

- Distancing will be maintained at 3 feet with masks, and 6 feet without masks.

Health Screenings/Students

- Students with a temperature of 100.0 or higher will be referred to the school nurse.
- Nurses will provide documents to be sent home to all families, instructing them when to keep their children home from school including a list of specific symptoms and/or conditions.
- Parents/guardians will sign and return, indicating that they understand the protocol.
- Parents/guardians will be asked to screen children daily, including taking daily temperatures. Children will need to stay home if temperature is 100.0 or higher.
- Parents/guardians with concern about any symptoms will notify or contact the school nurse.

Health Screenings for Staff

- Nurses will provide health screening documents to all staff with a list of symptoms and conditions under which they should not report to work. Staff members will sign and return, indicating that they understand the protocol.
- Staff members will be asked to do self-screening each morning, including taking daily temperatures. Staff members will need to stay home if temperature is 100.0 or higher. If staff stay home from school, they will contact the Human Resources Director.
- Staff members with concerns about any symptoms will notify or contact the school nurse.

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

Plans for Dealing with Sick Students:

- If a student has COVID-19 symptoms, the health office or other designated space will be used to isolate the student.
- School nurses will encourage parents/guardians to contact their health provider if there are symptoms of COVID-19 so the child can be tested. Parent/Guardians are required to pay for the testing through their health insurance or Medicaid. If the school nurse recommends that a child get tested and this is not done, or if there is a positive result, the child will need to stay home for 10 days from the start of symptoms and until the child is fever free (without the use of medications) for 24 hours. If the test is negative and documentation of this is provided to the school nurse, the child will need to stay home until fever free for 24 hours (without the use of medications).
- If there is a positive or presumptive case of COVID-19, siblings or other household members who attend schools in the district may be sent home as a precaution.
- After an hour of trying to reach parents/guardians or emergency contacts, the nurse will reach out to the administration for guidance on the next steps if a child needs to be sent home due to illness.
- School nurses and administration will follow all protocols and recommendations to contact and work with public health officials for follow up in the event a student has symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19.

Quarantine Protocols

The district will work with the New Hampshire Department of Human Services (NHDHHS) to conduct contact tracing and to establish quarantines.

Quarantine after Exposure/outside of school

- Students or staff who are exposed to someone with COVID-19, who are considered a close contact as defined by NH DHHS need to quarantine for ten days from the date of last exposure. Please note there are times someone may need to quarantine for twenty days if a house hold member needs to quarantine.

Quarantine after Exposure/in school

- Students or staff who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 in the classroom setting are not required to quarantine provided they were seated 3 feet apart and were consistently wearing a mask. All cases will be reviewed to check for compliance with 3 feet spacing and mask wearing.

Quarantine after Travel:

- People who travel outside New England, but within the United States or its territories, are no longer required to quarantine when returning home. People who do travel are recommended, regardless of vaccination status or prior immunity, to wear a well fitted, multi-layered face mask, practice social distancing, avoid large groups of people, sanitize hands and monitor for symptoms.

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

International travel:

- People who travel internationally or on a cruise ship are required to quarantine upon arrival in New Hampshire, unless diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days or fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Quarantine will be for 10 days unless the person is asymptomatic and has a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR based test that is collected on days 6 or 7 of the quarantine.

Movement Within the School

Entering the School at the Start of the Day

- Students will enter buildings at different entrances to avoid large groups of students meeting each other. Principals will establish traffic patterns to minimize congestion.

Exiting the School at the End of the Day

- Teachers will stagger the release of students to minimize large groups meeting each other in hallways.
- Buildings will have multiple exits to minimize traffic congestion.

Large Group Meetings/Assemblies

- Meetings will be restricted to one class at a time in the Middle and High School, practicing social distancing.

Passing in Hallways

- Middle and High School will set up traffic lanes.
- Elementary students will remain in their classrooms for the majority of the day.
- Elementary schools will coordinate the movement of students to avoid large groups.

Bathroom Use

- All will follow safety and sanitation protocols.
- Staff will direct students to use physical distancing and hygiene protocols.

Main Office, Nurse, Guidance

- The offices will post a sign as a reminder of one student or staff member at a time.
- *Classrooms, Library, Locker Rooms, Gymnasium*
- All students wearing masks will adhere to 3-foot spacing in the locations.
- Desks will be placed at least 3 feet apart whenever possible.

Cafeteria/Lunch Time

- Elementary students will eat lunch in their classrooms or other designated location within the school
- Middle and High schools will expand spaces in the cafeteria to ensure 6-foot spacing for students to eat lunch.
- The administration will work with Fresh Picks, our food service provider, to ensure that they follow all safety protocols.

Recess

- Recess will be a mask free time for students only if they remain 6-feet apart.

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

- Students will use hand sanitizer when returning to class.

Professional Development/Training/Staffing Needs

- School nurses will provide training and professional development to staff prior to the start of the school year. This training will focus on health and safety for students and staff, hygiene and sanitization, use of personal protective equipment, and other related topics.
 - ✓ Prior to school starting staff will be trained in health and safety procedures, Google Classroom and Infinite Campus. Additional training will be given to teachers regarding Social Emotional Learning, as we monitor our students closely for emotional issues which have occurred during remote learning.
- Professional development will be provided to teachers and support staff relating to the use of Google Classroom as our learning platform. The expectation is that all teachers will use Google Classroom on a daily basis with their students in anticipation of a switch to remote learning.

Project Promise After School Program

- All students and staff will follow district COVID-19 protocols while attending any Project Promise site.

Special Education

- Upon returning to school, if a student is unable to wear a mask, the staff working with that student will wear a face shield and mask (this includes all preschool staff).
 - ✓ Gowns and gloves will be provided to staff to use at times when bodily fluids may be involved, such as changing diapers and personal hygiene care.
 - ✓ Individual Education Teams (IEP) teams may need to consider how students who cannot wear a mask can safely access regular education classrooms.
 - ✓ IEP teams will work with providers to create social stories/videos to prepare students for changes to school routines.
 - ✓ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be available for crisis teams for students with significant behavioral needs who may need close physical contact.
 - ✓ We will provide Plexiglas dividers for some service providers as needed
 - ✓ Special education meetings will be held virtually to limit visitors to schools.
 - ✓ We have implemented an approved electronic signing process for all documents.

Substitute Teacher Procedures

- In an effort to maintain the health and safety of all, the following procedures will be implemented for substitute teachers for the 2021-2022 school year.
 - ✓ Prior to the first day of substitute teaching, individuals will view the health management PowerPoint with embedded videos, located on the SAU4

SCHOOL OPENING PLAN 2021-2022

website. Substitute teachers will be asked to sign off that they viewed the presentation.

- ✓ Upon arrival in any school, the substitute teacher will check in at the main office, where they will have a health screening including answering a series of questions. This will be done each day in the district, even if the assignment is consecutive days in the same classroom.

Student and Staff Wellness

- Each school will have at least one full time school counselor. This is an increase at the elementary schools, where previously there were shared resources.
- The elementary school psychologist position will increase to full time from a part time position.
- Professional development in the area of social emotional learning will be offered to all district staff throughout the 2021-2022 school year.
- The district worked with the Central NH Public Health Network to run vaccination clinics for staff and for students aged 12 and up during the 2020-2021 school year. The district will continue to collaborate with the Central NH Public Health Network in the event future vaccination clinics are needed for students and/or staff.

Transportation

- The administration will establish protocols for regular education and special education buses for social distancing. Our transportation provider, First Student, will keep the buses disinfected and safe. They will also adhere to safe student load limits determined by First Student and administration. We encourage families to transport their "own" children to school.