



Derry Cooperative School District 2021-2022 Reopening Plan Roadmap to 2021-2022 School Year

August 17, 2021

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Introduction

On behalf of the Derry Cooperative School District, we look forward to welcoming our students, staff and families back to our schools, onsite, on August 31st. We will continue implementing health and safety measures to maintain the highest possible standard of care as we learn, grow, and connect. In planning for the 2021-2022 school year, the district will focus on the following priority areas: social-emotional well-being, unfinished learning, technology integration, and health and safety. The information included in this plan is subject to change throughout the year based on the most current circumstances, data, and guidance from national, state and local health officials.

Recommendations and guidance from national, state and local agencies continue to change and evolve. As of August 11, 2021, the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) recommends “face mask use based on a local assessment of risk from COVID-19 in the community” (Chan, Talbot, Daly, Pierce, Nielsen, 2021).

Transmission rates are continually monitored and decisions are made accordingly. Currently, Derry is at a substantial level of transmission. During the past year and a half, the Derry Cooperative School District has focused on meeting students' needs in the safest possible way with flexibility and adaptation while monitoring ongoing conditions associated with the pandemic. As we move into this new school year, we will continue to adjust health and safety protocols as necessary.

Guiding Principles for Planning

- Protect and monitor the health and safety of students and staff.
- Monitor access and support for students to meet their academic and social-emotional health needs.
- Identify and address unfinished learning through targeted instruction.
- Provide 1:1 technology devices to support learning and instruction.
- Maintain a strong communication system between families and the School District.
- Enhance cleaning and sanitization protocols to meet the most recent recommendations and guidance.
- Continue to collaborate with South Central Public Health Network and Pinkerton Academy to provide closed-pod vaccination clinics whenever possible.
- Monitor national, state, and local mandates, emergency orders, recommendations and guidance.

National, State and Local Guidance

- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS)
- New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS)
- New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE)
- State of New Hampshire Governor
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- U.S. Department of Transportation

2021-2022 Plan Overview

Completely Open/Onsite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School facilities are open to all students, staff, families, other visitors and outside organizations. Individuals must follow current district health and safety measures and requirements. ● “NH DPHS recommends face mask use based on a local assessment of risk from COVID-19 in the community” but “generally not recommended in most outdoor locations” (Chan et. al 2021). Therefore, the requirement for face coverings indoors is based on the Face Covering Decision Matrix (see Appendix). Outdoor activities are excluded from face covering requirements. Changes throughout the school year will be informed by guidance from federal, state and local health officials. ● When face coverings are required, breaks will be provided outdoors and/or at a distance of 6 feet or more. ● Accommodations for medically compromised students will be determined through the 504/IEP process. ● Students have access to after-school activities, including interscholastic athletics.
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuously review guidelines from NH DPHS, CDC, AAP, NH DOE, NH School Nurses Association and available medical literature on COVID-19. ● Collaborate with state and local health experts. ● Implement appropriate mitigation protocols and adjust practices as needed. ● Utilize school nurses to communicate with staff and families in providing guidance on return to school after illness or exposure based on NH DHHS/DPHS current guidelines. ● Health attestation agreement to daily home health screening of their child(ren) will be signed by parents/guardians at the start of the school year with periodic reminders via school communications.
School Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The goal for social distancing is at least 3 feet of separation. ● Maintain social distancing floor markings in office spaces, hallways, restrooms, and common areas. ● Staff is required to complete a sign-in/sign-out procedure for each classroom they enter. Specific procedures are developed and implemented at the school level. ● Instruction for hand washing and hygiene protocols are designed according to the developmental level of students. ● Students may eat lunch in classrooms, outdoors, cafeteria, library, or gymnasium.
Classroom Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chairs, desks, and tables are arranged so that, where possible, students are spaced at least 3 feet apart. ● Desks are positioned to minimize direct face-to-face exposure. ● Students are organized in assigned seats. ● Efforts are made to minimize student-to-student sharing of materials.

Social-Emotional Well-Being

Schools continue to play an important role in helping students and staff cope and build resilience to support the well-being of the school community. Social-Emotional well-being has been identified as a priority area for our district as the COVID-19 pandemic has had a lasting and profound impact on family, staff and students.

Recommendations to support students' social-emotional well-being:

- Recognize students that need additional social-emotional support.
- Provide staff, families, and students with information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness. Website links can be found on the school district website.
- Continue communication with families and students in providing additional support for students.
- Continue connection with community mental health providers.
- Provide ongoing staff professional learning on a variety of topics to include:
 - Anxiety and depression in children and adolescents
 - Resilience and coping strategies
 - Self-care strategies
 - Core competencies for social-emotional learning
- Continue to research the procurement of additional resources to support the increased needs of students.

Operations

Cleaning and sanitization

- All plans follow the most recent CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting.
- A schedule for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces including high-touch areas such as railings, doorknobs, water bubblers/filling stations, and bathrooms is provided to staff and students.
- Appropriate protocols are used to clean and disinfect if a COVID-19 case is suspected and/or confirmed.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers are located in each room as well as common areas such as hallways, gymnasium, and cafeteria/dining hall.
- Custodial staff continues to participate in training for cleaning and disinfecting procedures.
- Electrostatic sprayers are available for custodial staff to use to disinfect non-porous surfaces.
- Schedule custodial staff, as needed, to be available during the school day for routine cleaning and enhanced disinfecting.

Water and ventilation systems

- The District is currently using MERV 13 air filters that are replaced every two months. This will be revisited as necessary.
- Continuous fresh air intake and optimal ventilation are always maintained.
- Drinking water continues to be tested per state and federal recommendations.

Child Nutrition Program

- Breakfast and lunch are available to all Derry students at no cost to families.
- Meals continue to meet federal guidelines, however, the number of options for each component are fewer than normal.
- Where possible, foods are pre-packaged or individually wrapped to ensure limited exposure.
- All condiments are pre-packaged.
- All containers, napkins, and utensils are disposable.

District Communication and Planning

Communication Tools for Messaging

- The District will provide updated details of the plan. Archived versions will be made available on the district website.
- Email, text message alerts, Facebook, Twitter, Local Cable Television, and the District and individual school websites will be utilized to distribute and post updated information regarding the plan.

District Planning

Planning is a continual process of developing a strategy, monitoring its implementation, and making adjustments. Teams will meet as necessary:

- Leadership
- Pandemic Response Team
- Local Health Representatives
- Community Leaders/Partners
- Individual School-Based
- Other District-Wide Teams, which may include Educators, Staff, Parents/Guardians, Administrators, School Board Members, Union Representation, Local Health Representatives

Timeline/Action Steps

- Develop an updated reopening plan for 2021-2022, based upon NH DOE request - May/June 2021
- Present the vision for the 2021-2022 Roadmap to Reopening Schools plan - June 8th School Board meeting
- Post the draft plan on the district website with a link to a survey for families and staff to share their input - June 2021
- Review survey input from family, staff, and community (District Leadership) - June 2021
- Review and approve 2021 Reopening Plan - School Board; June 22, 2021
- Post approved 2021 Reopening Plan will on the District website - After June 22, 2021
- Present revised version of 2021 Reopening Plan, if not approved at the June 22nd school board meeting - July 13, 2021
- Finalize changes to 2021 Reopening Plan, if necessary - August 2021 School Board Meeting
- Review and revise the plan as needed - February 2022

Monitoring School Attendance

The School Nurse Team Leader provides a weekly student attendance/COVID-Like Illness (CLI) report to the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent on the final day of each school week, or sooner, if necessary.

Curriculum, Instruction, Learning, and Assessment (CILA)

Teaching and Learning

Guiding Principles for Instruction:

- Robust integration of technology with instruction
- Accessible by all students for which the learning is intended
- Responsive to diverse learning groups
- Purposeful alignment to curriculum standards and instructional learning targets
- Mindful consideration for the whole child and the connection to the home environment

School Community Communication

- Maintain consistent connections with families using various communication mediums, including both online and offline formats when possible.
- Schools accommodate for potential communication barriers (such as language and Internet connectivity).
- Provide resources for learning and social emotional needs on the district website.
- Share routines, processes and expectations focused on how to support students.
- Utilize various modes of communication with families, including both online and offline formats.

Instructional Plan

- Create standards-aligned lessons that work toward mastery of the learning targets that incorporate elements of technology.
- Use district curriculum guides and curriculum committee guidance to inform instructional planning and prioritize standards.
- Incorporate Learning Management Systems (such as Google Classroom and SeeSaw) into regular daily instruction, allowing students and families to become adept at accessing and using them for communication and assignments.
- Address unfinished learning based on assessment data through targeted instruction, including the integration of individualized learning paths (such as Edmentum Exact Paths).
- Focus on quality assignments that work toward mastery of the learning target over the quantity of work.
- Design activities as evidence of learning, allowing for student voice and choice.
- Create activities at varying Depth of Knowledge (DOK) levels.
- Provide assignments that require authentic application, meaningful independent practice, or written reflection.
- Include instructional activities that build relationships, develop learning strategies and foster social-emotional well-being.
- Provide ongoing professional learning for teachers and staff, including the effective use of technology and balancing students' social-emotional well-being.

Technology Integration

- Provide all PK-8 students computing devices.
- Allow students to take devices home as necessary.
- Provide ongoing professional learning for teachers and staff to extend technology skills.

Student Services

Including IEP and Section 504 Plans

- Accommodations for medically compromised students will be determined through the 504/IEP process.
- IEP, 504, and parent/guardian meetings held in the buildings with the option to be remote when necessary.
- Additional PPE is provided to staff and students as needed.
- Existing health and safety plans and/or school protocols modified to meet student specific needs.
- Use data to identify growth and unfinished learning for academic, social and behavioral needs and adjust service delivery as needed.

Extended Learning Opportunities

Target Unfinished Learning

Summer Learning Path

- Instruction and activities to build and strengthen skills in mathematics and literacy
- Individualized learning paths in mathematics and reading, with teacher guidance and feedback
- Group activities focused on social-emotional well-being and growth in the DCSD dispositions (such as perseverance, problem-solving, and self-motivation)
- Structured movement activities focused on physical health and teamwork

Just In Time Learning Path

- Learning opportunities available before and/or after school to provide additional targeted instruction in mathematics and literacy
- Activities related to social-emotional well-being are integrated as needed
- Structured movement activities focused on physical health and teamwork are integrated as needed

Temporary COVID-Related Quarantine and Isolation

Specific plans for DCSD students who are unable to attend classes in person because of temporary COVID-related quarantine or isolation are coordinated with building administrators, on a case-by-case basis.

These plans include the following components:

- Students are provided with content materials and assignments online, such as Google Classroom.
- Students have access to designated teachers and staff to provide additional support.

Student Transportation

Families drive students to and from school

- Avoid congregating on school grounds during arrival and dismissal.
- Family members remain in vehicles.
- Expectations are communicated to students and families.

Students ride school buses to and from school

- Students with symptoms do not ride the bus.
- Students on buses will be required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Physical distancing between students is not guaranteed on buses.
- Students are encouraged to sit facing forward.
- Siblings are encouraged to sit in the same seat.
- Students are encouraged to sanitize their hands prior to boarding the bus.
- Expectations are communicated to students and families.

In addition, the bus company:

- Drivers will be required to wear face coverings at all times.
- Follows a regular schedule to disinfect buses.
- High-touch surfaces are disinfected before each bus run.
- Opens windows to ventilate buses whenever possible.
- Assigns students to seats and maintains current seating charts.

Funding

The District uses available federal grant funds to support:

- Social-emotional well-being of students and staff
- Unfinished learning (interrupted learning during the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Technology
- Health and safety of students and staff
- No cost breakfast and lunch for all students

Appendix: Face Covering Decision Matrix

Decision Matrix: Recommendations for use of face coverings indoors based on the level of community transmission and COVID-19 transmission within Derry Cooperative School District facilities.

Face Covering Decision Matrix				
		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases within District	Sporadic cases without evidence of transmission within district facilities	Optional ¹	Optional ¹	Universal ³
	Single cluster within a district facility	Targeted ²	Targeted ²	Universal ³
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak within district facilities	Universal ³	Universal ³	Universal ³

¹ Face coverings are optional in all district facilities.

² Face covering use is “targeted” in the setting of a cluster/outbreak for a specific group of individuals and time limited if a cluster/outbreak is small and confined (work with public health).

³ Face coverings are universal in all district facilities.

(Adapted from State of New Hampshire School & Childcare Toolkit 2021-2022 School Year, August 2021)

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