LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

I. General Information
   1. LEA name: Gilford School District SAU #73
   2. Date of Publication: Original date was August 18, 2020. The plan has been updated all year as DHHS has updated their guidance. Last presented at June 8, 2021 School Board meeting.

II. Transparency and Accessibility
   1. Available online at SAU73.org
   2. The LEA surveyed parents and staff in the summer of 2020 before making the plan public.
   3. The plan is in a powerpoint presentation and a pdf document.
   4. The plan is written in English and our ESOL teacher is always available to help in any translation that is needed for families.
   5. Any parent or guardian who is an individual with disabilities is always able to seek out support from the district to provide accessible information.

III. Health and Safety
   1. The LEA will maintain health and safety of students, educators and others and the LEA staff: During the 2020-21 school year we required mask wearing, practiced physical distancing (3-6 feet), used plexiglass barriers for those that requested, each classroom had sanitizing spray and wipes, and we disinfecting daily with victory sprayers. During the summer of 2021 and into the 2021-22 school year masks will be optional for all, physical distancing of 3 feet will try to be maintained, plexiglass barriers will be made available for those that want them, sanitizing spray and wipes will be available in all classrooms, and disinfecting will happen daily.
   2. The LEA’s adoption of the CDC health and safety strategies and NH DHHS guidance:
      a. Universal mask wearing: for the 2020-21 school year we wore masks the entire year. Transitioning into the summer of 2021 mask wearing will be optional. The LEA is planning on being mask optional for the 2021-22 school year.
      b. Physical distancing: for the 2020-21 school year we started with a 3-6 feet physical distancing which was reduced to just 3 feet based on NH DHHS guidance. During the 2020-21 school year we did use pods or cohorts. For the summer of 2021 we will try to maintain 3 feet and use some pods. For 2021-22 we will try to achieve 3 feet, but know that we may not be able to consistently maintain that distance.
      c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette: handwashing and respiratory etiquette were emphasized with learners and staff during the 2020-21 school year. We will continue to emphasize the importance of handwashing and respiratory etiquette with learners and staff during the 2021-22 school year.
      d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation: school year 2020-21 and 2021-22 the LEA will provide sanitizing spray and wipes in all classrooms for regular use. The district will also use disinfecting spray every
evening in all classrooms and offices. The air exchange systems have had and
will have an extra filter change. Our air exchange systems are maintained
regularly.
e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine: During the 2020-21
school year the district completed contact tracing and required quarantining of
close contacts and positive COVID cases. During the summer of 2021 and
school year of 2021-22 based on NH DHHS guidance we will no longer contact
trace, however we will require positive COVID cases to quarantine and family
members of a positive case will be required to quarantine. Positive cases must
be symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
f. Diagnostic and screening testing: During the 2020-21 school year the district
required all employees and students to complete a daily self survey for screening
purposes. During summer of 2021 and school year of 2021-22 the district will not
require self screening, but will recommend families and employees monitor for
symptoms.
g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities: During the 2020-21
school year the district worked with the Public Health Network to provide access
to the Pfizer vaccine for all staff that wanted to receive the vaccine. We allowed
people to leave work and scheduled appointments around their free periods. The
district provided information to eligible students and families that wanted to
participate in a regional vaccine clinic. In school year 2021-22 the district will
provide information to students, families and employees if the local Public Health
Network provides clinics.
h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health
and safety policies: During the school year 2020-21 we worked with families and
children to develop appropriate plans for health and safety concerns, like we do
each year. We will continue to work with families and children during the school
year 2021-22 to develop appropriate accommodations related to health and
safety policies.
i. Coordination with state and local health officials: During the 2020-21 school year
the district has notified NH DHHS whenever there was a positive case of COVID
in the schools. We did all contact tracing in our district throughout the school
year and sent the line list to NH DHHS once completed. We worked closely with
the Public Health Network to get information on vaccinations. During the
2021-22 school year the district will continue to use the NH DHHS guidance to
inform our decisions. The district will continue to work with the local Public
Health Network during the 2021-22 school year.

IV. Continuity of Services
1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
During the 2020-21 school year the district provided in person and remote learning
models. Families were surveyed at the start of each trimester to determine which
instructional model they wanted to attend. During the 2021-22 school year we will offer
an in person learning model for all learners. The district is expanding the academic
offerings during summer of 2021. The district is also offering enrichment opportunities for learners during the summer of 2021.

2. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student social, emotional, mental and other health needs, which may include student health and food service: During the 2020-21 school year the district provided supports for students that attended school in person and remotely. The district made certain that specific staff members were assigned to both in person and remote learners. The supports included a trusted adult, a school counselor, or a school psychologist. The district provide seamless summer food program all year to students in person and remote. Any student that wanted to eat breakfast or lunch had access to food. During the 2021-22 school year the district will continue to offer supports (school counselors, school psychologist or a trusted adult) for all learners. Because we did not have enough information regarding the seamless summer food program at the June 8th Board meeting the Board has not taken action on offering this program, but I anticipate that the district will offer this food program for the 2021-22 school year. The high school has a wellness room and the middle school will be creating a wellness room (when our ESSER II grant is approved) for students and staff.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental and other health needs: During the 2020-21 school year the district has provided services through the health insurance plan for staff to address their social, emotional, mental and other health needs. The district has opportunities for staff to use a wellness room to support their wellbeing. During the 2021-22 school year the district will continue to emphasize and market the health and wellness programming offered by the health insurance of the district. The district plans on expanding the wellness room at the middle school so that there will be space on campuses for staff to meditate, practice yoga or have a quiet place to collect their thoughts.

V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirements to review and as appropriate, revise its Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan at least every six months through September 30, 2023. Yes. The district has been offering in person instruction for the entire 2020-21 school year. The district will review that plan and will be offering in person learning for the 2021-22 school year.

2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirements to seek public input and take such input into account in determining whether to revise the plan and, if revisions are determined necessary, on the revisions it makes to its plan. Yes. The plan will be brought to the School Board meeting and linked on the district web site for public input.

3. In doing so, the LEA will also meet the federal regulatory requirement to address CDC safety recommendations and, if the CDC has updated its safety recommendations at the time the LEA is revising its plan, each of the updated CDC safety recommendations. Yes. The district has relied on the NH DHHS guidance on safety recommendations throughout the 2020-21 school year and will continue to review both CDC and NH DHHS guidelines in the 2021-22 school year.
VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature:  

Date:  

6/23/2021
Introduction: This plan is focused on the safety and well being of our students and staff for the summer 2021 programming. We are planning on being open for in person summer academics, enrichment activities and camps. The district will utilize the summer 2021 to transition into our planning for the 2021-2022 school year. We realize adjustments may need to happen as we progress through the next 2.5 months. The Gilford School District will continue to review any updated guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS).

Instructional model: We are planning for full in person summer academics, enrichment activities and camps.

Schedule: We are planning on being open Monday through Friday for different camps, academic supports / academies and enrichment activities.

Daily schedule: Buildings will be open 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM for camps, academic support and enrichment activities. Some of the summer camp offerings will have hours extended beyond 3:00 PM.

District Safety Protocols - In all Buildings

Physical Distancing: Classrooms and other spaces being utilized for summer programming will be configured to create space between learners and staff. We will make every effort to maintain 3 feet between all people in the Gilford School District buildings.

Masking: Mask usage will be optional for learners and staff during our summer programming; camps, academic supports / academies and enrichment activities. Masks will be optional in an indoor or outdoor setting. Masks will be made available in all buildings for those that would like to use a mask.

Plexi-glass Barriers: The district will still have plexi-glass barriers in place and have them available for use if learners or staff need them for summer programming.

Screening: Self screening protocols will be encouraged but not required to be recorded daily. Learners and staff with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should stay home. If symptoms persist for multiple days people are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19.

Hygiene: Learners and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not possible. Sanitizing stations will be located inside and outside of the buildings throughout the district. Learners and staff are encouraged to cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbow or a tissue.
**Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols:** The district will continue to maintain daily disinfecting and regular daily cleaning. Logs will be kept for all cleaning and disinfecting. Cleaning supplies (wipes, paper towels and spray) will be made available for learners and staff.

**Transportation:** The district and bus company will continue to spread learners out on the bus using one seat per person when available. There could be times when learners would be doubled up in a seat. Siblings will continue to be allowed to double up in a seat. Based on Federal guidelines the bus company will require masks on the buses. Buses are considered public transportation.

**Positive COVID-19 Communication:** We ask families to report COVID-19 related absences to the schools this summer for our awareness and so that we can monitor the other learners and staff. There will be no contact tracing during summer programming. We will no longer notify the district of positive COVID-19 cases.

**Quarantine:** Learners and staff that test positive or live with someone that has tested positive will need to quarantine for 10 days. At the completion of quarantine learners and staff will need to be symptom free for 24 hours prior to return.
Planning for reopening 2020 - 2021

1. This is unlike any school year we have ever planned for.
2. I would like to thank all the teachers, staff members, nurses, and administrators that have spent countless hours working on reopening Gilford Schools safely.
3. We are not only planning for reopening safely, but we must develop flexibility and adaptability in our plan so that we can shift swiftly when required to do so.
4. In our reopening plan, we have a clear plan to reopen and a plan to respond to a case of COVID-19 in one of our schools.
Task Force Members

- Danielle Bolduc - GES Principal / Parent
- Liz Fiore - GES School Counselor
- Katie Bryant - GES Teacher / Parent
- Carol Young-Podmore - GES Teacher
- Jen Johansson - GES Nurse
- Peter Sawyer - GMS Principal / Parent
- Liz Kovar - GMS Teacher
- Chantelle Moynihan - GMS School Counselor
- Jessica Scudder - GMS Teacher
- Beth Haddock - GMS Nurse
- Andrea Damato - GMS Teacher
- Sean Walsh - GMS / GES Assistant Principal
- Anthony Sperazzo - GHS Principal
- Tim Goggin - GHS Assistant Principal
- Rick Acquilano - GHS/MS Athletic Director
- Melissa Otis - GHS Teacher
- Amy Tripp - GHS Teacher / Parent
- Kathy Dubois - GHS Admin. Assistant
- Meg Jenkins - GHS Nurse
- Corey Nazer - GHS Library / Media / Parent
- Jessica Wallace - GHS Teacher / Parent
- Laurie Belanger - GHS Student Assistance Counselor / Parent
- Lori Jewett - GHS School Counselor
- Ken Mulleavey - Supervisor of Building and Grounds
- Esther Kennedy - Director of Student Service
- Brenda McGee - Director of Technology
- Jonathan Dupuis - Food Service Director
- Amie Leigh - Business Administrator / Parent
- Nancy Bordeau - Student Service Admin. Assistant
- Valerie Mulkhey - District Psychologist
- Kirk Beitler - Superintendent
Some Resources Used to Develop Plan

- Survey results from Gilford and Gilmanton parents and employees
  - More opportunities for input and feedback will come
- US DOE
- NH Department of Education
- School Transition Reopening and Redesign Taskforce
- Governor Sununu
- NH Department of Health and Human Services
- Center for Disease Control
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- World Health Organization
Gilford Summer 2020 Successes over a 3 to 7 week period of time

- Gilford summer camp was successful
  - We had cohorts of nine campers working with one counselor
  - We had equipment and supplies for each cohort of children
  - Campers were outside the majority of the day

- Gilford Kindergarten screening was successful
  - We had individual students working with teachers
  - Each student had their own manipulatives
  - Six students worked with six teachers 45 minutes - one hour
  - The screening happened outside

- Gilford Title One program was a success
  - We invited 38 students to participate in the summer program
  - Student and teacher work 1:1
  - Tables are six feet in length to keep the social distance
  - Work for 45 minutes and use 15 minute to disinfect tables

- Special Education services in person
  - OT, PT, Speech and academics
  - 23 students participated
More Gilford Successes

- Gilford Middle School summer math and literacy academies were a success
  - Offering both in person and remote work opportunities
  - In person was a 10:1 ratio of students to staff
  - 57 students total
- Gilford High School competency recovery and summer school were a success
  - Offered both in person and remote opportunities
  - 57 total students - 13 students in person
  - In person 9 students credit recovery
- Gilford High School athletic teams summer workout sessions have been a success
  - We started with small groups (nine) athletes working with a coach
  - We continue to work outside with the athletes and coaches
  - After 2 weeks we increased the size of the groups and remained outside for the sessions
- We know the guidance for summer camps and sports has been to work with small groups of children to start these processes
- Screening, disinfecting, personal hygiene (hand washing, mask wearing, hand sanitizing) and social distancing were in place throughout our summer programming
- Belknap County, Gilford and Gilmanton have a limited number of cases of COVID-19
Goals and Understandings

● The safety of our students, faculty, and community is our priority.

● Optimal learning takes place when students interact in-person with their peers and teachers.

● Reopening school scenarios are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.

● All of the scenarios must be flexible and adaptive to the current epidemiological data.
A Review of the Data

- Surveys sent to parents and employees in July 2020
- 766 parents across all three schools responded to the survey
- 144 employees across all three schools responded to the survey
- Approximately 603 open responses from parents
  - These have all been read
  - Many supportive comments and many questions
- Employees were presented with a few open response questions
  - These have all been read
  - Many supportive comments and more questions
In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

224 responses

- **60.3%**: In-Person Instruction (in school all day)
- **23.7%**: Enhanced Remote Instruction
- **14.3%**: Hybrid Instruction (in school/remote every other day)
- **2%**: Unenroll (VLACS, Homeschool, etc)
GMS Return-to-School Family Survey Results - Model Preference (2020-2021)

In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

237 responses

- 57.8% In-Person Instruction (in school all day)
- 28.7% Hybrid Instruction (in school/remote every other day)
- 12.7% Enhanced Remote Instruction
- 3.2% Unenroll (VLACS, Homeschool, etc)
In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

305 responses

- **56.1%** In-Person Instruction (in school all day)
- **30.2%** Hybrid Instruction (in school/remote every other day)
- **13.4%** Enhanced Remote Instruction
- **1.3%** Unenroll (VLACS, Homeschool, etc)
In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

50 responses

- 36% In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- 18% Enhanced Remote Instruction
- 38% Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- Hybrid or Remote
- In person as long as everyone, staff and students, wear masks.
- I find it difficult to check any of these boxes
- This is a challenging question to answer
In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

33 responses

- **39.4%**: In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- **27.3%**: Enhanced Remote Instruction
- **27.3%**: Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- **I am in favor of Hybrid instruction, but grouping days two in a row (Monday/Tuesday & Thursday/Friday) rather than every other day.**
- **one week in person/remote the rest**
In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

35 responses

- 45.7% In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- 28.6% Enhanced Remote Instruction
- 22.9% Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- 3.4% Heard this on VPR today. Half the class shows up Mon & Tue, Wednesday is a remote learning day with the whole class, the other half of the class comes in on Thurs & Fri. Sounds good to me.
GES Staff Survey Results (2020-2021)

How are you feeling about returning back to school in “full opening” mode this Fall?

50 responses

- Very concerned: 48%
- Somewhat concerned: 38%
- Not concerned at all: 8%
- Unsure right now: 6%
How are you feeling about returning back to school in "full opening" mode this Fall?

43 responses

- Very concerned: 39.5%
- Somewhat concerned: 39.5%
- Not concerned at all: 11.6%
- Unsure right now: 9.3%
GHS Staff Survey Results (2020-2021)

How are you feeling about returning back to school in "full opening" mode this Fall?
51 responses

- Very concerned: 45.1%
- Somewhat concerned: 35.3%
- Not concerned at all: 9.8%
- Unsure right now: 9.8%
Recommended Safety Precautions

● A daily self screening of students and staff will be required. Travel restrictions have been dropped in the USA
  ○ Parents and staff must do this at home
  ○ A Screening Protocol will be provided
  ○ Students and staff that do not meet the criteria must stay home
  ○ Students and staff who feel sick must stay home
  ○ If a student becomes symptomatic or sick at school, parents must provide transportation home

● Face Coverings / Masks will be required
  ○ The District has purchased masks and PPE for all students and staff
  ○ This is non-negotiable
  ○ Mask breaks will be built into each student’s schedule
  ○ Parents and schools must partner on this requirement to ensure the safety of all

● Schools will be cleaned and Sanitized daily
  ○ Duct work has been inspected in all three schools
  ○ Water bubblers have been turned off, but bottle filling stations will be turned on
  ○ Electrostatic sprayers will be used each night to disinfect
  ○ Custodial staff schedules will be flexed to accommodate day time sanitation
Classroom and Hallway Safety Precautions

- Classroom furniture (tables and desks) will be distanced
  - Updated to 3 feet between desks based on NH DHHS HANS #38
  - Desks/tables will all face the front, where physically possible
  - Students will be asked to sanitize/wipe down hard surfaces
  - Seating chart will be used in each classroom

- All classrooms have hand sanitizing stations

- Each student may be responsible for their own supplies and a list will be provided for each family

- Schedules will attempt to minimize student movement and passing time

- Hallway lockers will not be in use - accommodations can be made

- Hallways and stairwells will be two way direction - Updated May 2021

- Necessary passing times will be staggered
  - Face Coverings / Masks will be required during passing time

- Cafeteria and Library may be used for instruction and lunch

- Elementary tent removed in October 2020
All employees and students will self screen, at home daily, prior to being admitted to the building. Temperatures will need to be taken and be recorded. If a person has over a 100.0 F temperature they will need to stay home. A screening checklist will be provided for each family.

All employees and students will answer 6 questions:
A. Are you experiencing any of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or runny nose?
B. Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours?
C. Have you been in close contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or who is under investigation for COVID-19?
D. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
E. Have you experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?
F. Travel question is no longer required - Updated HANS #38 - April School Board meeting
COVID Response Protocol (from STRRT guidance)

- Coordinate communications with public health officials to notify staff and families, in accordance with proper legal and privacy rights
- Inform students, families, and staff about the possible symptoms of COVID-19
- Advise sick staff members and students not to return to school until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 and are feeling better, or have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation
- Inform those who have close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to cooperate with State or local public health officials and to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days of quarantine after their last exposure to the person with COVID-19 - updated
- Impacted students and staff will go to REMOTE learning
- Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of physical distancing and good hygiene practices
Transportation

- Gilford School District will encourage parents to drive and pick up their students.
- Survey data indicates that approximately 30% of families will access transportation in the AM and PM at all three schools.
- We will have a specific transportation registration for all families and give families an opportunity to update the registration periodically (each trimester).
- Twenty-five students will be on the bus at one time, unless there are siblings, siblings will be allowed to double up in seats, otherwise one student to one seat.
- Masks will be required on the bus.
- Buses will have hand sanitizer.
Proposed Phase In Approach To School Year

- September 8th - 11th small cohorts of students will enter school to learn more about the school year expectations and set up chromebook access to Google Classroom - prepare for possible shift to Remote Instruction - Social Emotional needs addressed
- September 8th - 11th launch remote instruction for families that have chosen this instructional model
- September 14th - target to start full in person teaching with all students in school for families that choose this option
- Calendar adjustments have been made throughout the year, last at 12/7/2020 School Board meeting
Potential Remote Instruction

● District enlists teachers to develop “online” remote instruction school
● Students (families) that choose enhanced remote instruction will be assigned a fully remote instructor
● The remote instructors will engage fully with students/families 5 days a week
● Remote instructors will be on campus in Gilford
● We will look to create opportunities for students to engage with in person learning peers
● Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS)
  ○ Students and families (k-12) may choose this option for remote instruction
  ○ VLACS may not have all classes/grades available
● September 8th - Remote Instruction School is Launched for families and learners
Remote Instruction

- This option will be enhanced from the Spring with a daily schedule
  - There will be a consistent look and use of Google Classroom
  - Technology platforms used will be consistent
  - Daily responsibilities with deadlines

- Potential remote instruction considerations
  - Remote students to be connected to an in person class
  - Remote students may be connected to group activities with their in person peers
  - Remote students may watch a livestream lesson daily

- Students will be accountable to participate daily and meet deadlines (for attendance purpose)
  - Attendance will be taken daily
Frequently Asked Questions

● Will Face Coverings / Masks be required?
  ○ Yes  There will be built in mask breaks in all schools
  ○ Detailed plans for all schools will be developed and shared with families

● Will social distancing be enforced?
  ○ Yes

● What happens if students or adults do not follow safety protocols?
  ○ Adults will be handled via personnel protocols
  ○ Students will be handled via disciplinary procedure at each school
    ■ Schools need parent/home partnership to enforce these behaviors

● Can a parent/student change their instructional model?
  ○ Families were surveyed prior to each trimester starting at all three schools

● We will allow visitors for outside events - sports and field day as an example
Frequently Asked Questions

● What if there is a spike of COVID cases in NH or Gilford?
  ○ We all (students, teachers and parents) must be prepared to transition into remote learning model

● Will fall sports happen?
  ○ All sports happened this year (fall, winter and spring)

● Will there be a fall musical?
  ○ There was a musical in the fall, winter and spring with several different casts

● Will we offer co-curricular activities?
  ○ These opportunities will be evaluated and offered if safety guidelines can be followed
Next Steps

Develop protocols and plan for the 2021-2022 school year
Thank You!