

## **Hampstead School District Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

This document is intended to meet the federal statutory requirement that, within 30 days of receiving ARP ESSER LEA allocation (anticipated May 24th), an LEA shall publish an LEA Plan on the Safe Return to In Person Instruction and Continuity of Services, which is often called a “school district reopening plan.”

Note, if an LEA developed a plan before *The American Rescue Plan Act* (ARPA) was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all the requirements below, then the LEA must revise its plan no later than six months after receiving ARP ESSER funds

For further context, please reference ARPA (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1319/text>) or the Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-04-22/pdf/2021-08359.pdf>).

### **I. General Information**

1. LEA Name: Hampstead School District SAU55
2. Date of Original Publication: June 21, 2021 Updated: July 28, 2021 and 12/16/2021

### **II. Transparency and Accessibility**

1. This plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services was published and made publicly available online here:

<https://sites.google.com/hampsteadschools.net/covid19/home>

Description: In the spring of 2020 SAU55 Administration created the Safe Learning Taskforce. The Safe Learning Taskforce was comprised of a variety of stakeholder groups including administrators, teachers, support staff and community members. The plan developed by the Safe Learning Taskforce incorporated research based public health strategies from various local, state, and federal agencies including the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Center for Disease Control, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. In August of 2020, the plan was presented and voted by the Hampstead School Board.

2. Before making the plan publicly available, the LEA sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan (please check one).

Yes: ☒ X      Somewhat:      No: ☐

Description: The Hampstead Reopening Plan was presented to the Hampstead School Board on August 4, 2020. Members of the Hampstead community were encouraged to attend the publicly held Zoom meeting. Parent input surveys were administered to all families throughout the process to ensure that parental input drove decision making.

3. The plan is in an understandable and uniform format (please check one):

Yes: ☒      Somewhat:      No:

Description: The plan was intentionally developed in a manner that made it easy to understand and followed a uniform format.

4. The plan, to the extent practicable, is written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable, orally translated (please check one):

Yes: ☒      Somewhat:      No:

Description: While creating the plan, great care was taken to avoid technical language from the fields of public health and education. For ease of access, the plan was made accessible on the the Hampstead School District website.

5. The plan, upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability, is provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent (please check one):

Yes: ☒      Somewhat:      No:

Description: The plan is available on the Hampstead School District website. Translation services are available upon request and available via Google Translate.

### III. Health and Safety

1. How the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other school and LEA staff:

Description during SY20-21: The Hampstead School District instituted research based public health measures as defined by local, state, and federal agencies. This included but was not limited to social distancing, enhanced sanitizing practices, mask wearing, modifications to the physical plant, staff training, and participation in the weekly partner call with the Department of Health and Human Resources

Description during SY21-22: The Hampstead School District will continue to implement research-based public health best practices. The Hampstead School District will continue to follow written guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services. The Hampstead School District will continue to monitor local, state, and national Covid 19 data to make well informed adjustments to the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction Plan.

2. The LEA's adoption of the following CDC health and safety strategies are described below: (Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.)

a. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☒      Somewhat:      No:



During SY21-22 (check one): Yes:

Somewhat: X

No:

Description of both SYs: Universal masking was a requirement for both staff, students, and visitors during the 2020-2021 school year. Time was devoted at the beginning of the school year to train both staff and students regarding proper mask wearing techniques. Masks were made available to all staff and students upon entering each school building.

For the 2021-2022 school year the Hampstead School District will follow the Hampstead School District approved Decision-making Matrix for Face Coverings:

		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases Within Facility	Sporadic cases without evidence of facility transmission	Optional*	Optional*	Targeted
	Single Cluster	Targeted	Targeted	Universal <sup>†</sup>
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak	Universal <sup>†</sup>	Universal <sup>†</sup>	Universal <sup>†</sup>

### *Masking Phases*

**Optional:** Face coverings are not required within the school facility in any location or at any point during the duration of the school day. Student face coverings are a parental choice. Per CDC mandate, face coverings are required on school buses and vans.

**Targeted:** Face coverings are required within the school facility but may be removed in controlled settings including the classroom and cafeteria when three feet of physical spacing is achievable. Face coverings remain optional outdoors. Per CDC mandate, face coverings are required on school buses and vans.

**Universal:** Face coverings are required within the school facility at all times. Staff will build in multiple face covering breaks throughout the school day. Face coverings remain optional outdoors. Per CDC mandate, face coverings are required on school buses and vans.

The Superintendent has the authority to implement a 5-school day temporary indoor face covering requirement for a classroom where a confirmed positive case has been identified.

The Superintendent has the authority to institute a universal face covering mandate on an individual school basis when a suspected or confirmed Covid-19 cluster is identified.

### *Levels of Community Transmission\**

Minimal: New cases per 100K are less than 50 over 14 days and % positivity rate is below 5%

Moderate: New cases per 100K are greater than 50 over 14 days and % positivity rate is below 5%

Substantial: New cases per 100K are greater than over 14 days or the % positivity rate is below 5%

\*Community transmission is determined utilizing county data tracked at:  
<https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map>

b. Physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/podding and modifying facilities):

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes:      Somewhat: X      No:

Description of both SYs: During the 2020-2021 The Hampstead School District observed social distancing of 3 to 6 feet in all instructional spaces. Several modifications were made to the physical plant to allow for physical distancing including the elimination and replacement of furniture in classrooms and appropriate signage in all common areas and hallways.

For the 2021-2022 school year the Hampstead School District will follow the recommendations of the Department of Health and Human Services as it relates to social distancing and spacing within a school setting.

c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs: During the 2020-2021 school year staff members built time into their classroom schedule to allow for students to wash and disinfect their hands. Disinfection stations were established in common areas of the school. Teachers were supplied with soap, hand sanitizer and disinfecting wipes. Developmentally appropriate signage was added to both schools to promote healthy hygiene practices such as handwashing.

d. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs: Significant financial resources were allocated to maintaining healthy facilities during the 2020-2021 school year. Additional custodial staff were hired, electrostatic sprayers were utilized to disinfect surfaces, custodial staff received comprehensive professional development in sanitizing surfaces, teachers were encouraged to leave classroom windows open to help improve ventilation, indoor air quality tests were performed, and an HVAC evaluation was conducted in both schools. This practice will remain in effect for the 2021-2022 school year.

e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, and/or Tribal health departments:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: X      Somewhat:      No:



During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☒ X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs: The Hampstead School District administration and school nurses worked collaboratively with the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct contact tracing investigations when a positive Covid-19 case was identified. Such investigations resulted in little to no community-based transmission of Covid-19 within the school setting. The Hampstead School District will continue to partner with the Department of Health and Human Services for the 2021-2022 school year to complete contact tracing investigations.

f. Diagnostic and screening testing:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐      Somewhat:      No:  
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs: For SY2020-2021 the Hampstead School District collaborated with local health care partners to streamline testing for both students and staff. As a result, students and staff were able to receive antigen test results with 15 minutes of testing and PCR test results within 24 to 48 hours of testing.

For SY2021-2022 The Hampstead School District has partnered with ConvenientMD offer the Safer at Schools Screening Program to students and staff members at both the Hampstead Central School and Hampstead Middle School. In collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services the Hampstead School District was able to obtain Quidel QuickVue Covid-19 tests for home use by parents and staff members.

g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐ X      Somewhat:      No:  
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs:

For SY2020-2021, a vaccination clinic was conducted at Pinkerton Academy for all eligible students ages 15 and older.

For SY2021-2022 the Hampstead School District partnered with the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a community vaccination clinic for all eligible individuals ages 12 and over. On November 18<sup>th</sup> the Hampstead School District hosted a booster vaccination clinic for eligible staff. Approximately 90 staff members participated. On November 15 and December 7, the Hampstead School District hosted a vaccination clinic for students ages 5 to 12. Approximately 150 students participated.

h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies:

During SY20-21 (check one): Yes: ☐ X      Somewhat:      No:  
During SY21-22 (check one): Yes: ☐ X      Somewhat:      No:

Description of both SYs:

The Hampstead School District has gone to great lengths to ensure access and

equity to all students identified with disabilities during the pandemic. This included conducting compensatory education meetings for all students in the first month of school to determine if students had made meaningful progress on their goals.

For the 2021-2022 school year The Hampstead School District will work closely with families of students with disabilities who are not able to return to the physical school environment to ensure that they are able to receive a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE).

i. Coordination with state and local health officials (please check one):

During SY20-21 (check one):	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
During SY21-22 (check one):	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Somewhat: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

Description of both SYs:

This school year the Hampstead School District has worked closely with the Department of Health and Human Services. This includes participating in the weekly DHHS partner calls. This practice will continue for the 2021-2022 school year.

#### IV. Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:

Description during SY20-21: The Hampstead School District has a robust Response to Instruction (RTI) model that continues to: identify students with learning gaps, provide targeted intervention, and monitor ongoing student progress.

Description during SY21-22: Through available ESSER Funds, The Hampstead School District has committed additional resources to our RTI program that will assist in identifying potential gaps in students' content knowledge and social development. The emphasis of the Hampstead School District will be reducing learning gaps, providing necessary learning supports for vulnerable populations, providing staff training to emphasize student well-being, and encouraging programs that prove to be effective for achievements gains, including non-traditional opportunities.

The Hampstead School District has developed a program called Connection Coaching. Connection Coaching provides continuity of classroom instruction for students who are required to self-isolate or quarantine due to Covid-19. Certified Hampstead School District teachers provide daily remote instruction to students both on an individual and group basis.

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 services:

Description during SY20-21: 2019-2020 school year the Hampstead School District utilized existing systems for addressing the social and emotional needs of students. At the elementary level this includes the Second Step Program and the advisory program at the middle school.



Description during SY21-22: The Hampstead School District will continue with their current social and emotional supports and will explore additional resources to support the social and emotional wellbeing of both students and staff. The Hampstead School District has partner with AdventureLore to provide students with outdoor adventure-based learning opportunities. These opportunities work to develop students social and emotional skills.

3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:

Description during SY20-21: Staff well-being during the pandemic has been paramount. Staff were provided with additional professional development days at the beginning of the school year to allow for the opportunity to collaborate and support one another. In conjunction with local parent groups, staff have been provided with various appreciation opportunities throughout the school year.

Description during SY21-22: Staff well-being will continue to be a focus during the 2021-2022 school. The Hampstead School District is currently exploring a variety of wellness opportunities for staff. Employees will be encouraged to access additional wellness resources available through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) from HealthTrust.

## V. Plan Review

1. The LEA will meet the federal regulatory requirement 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 (the award period including the Tydings period). (Note an LEA that developed a plan before ARPA was enacted on 03/11/2021 that complied with the federal statutory requirements for public posting and comments but does not meet all of the requirements above must revise its plan no later than six months after the LEA receives LEA ESSER funds.)

Yes: ☒ No: ☐

Description: The Hampstead School District recognizes that the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan needs to be a living document. The document will be reviewed monthly by the Hampstead Leadership team and adjustments will be made based upon guidance from local, state, and federal agencies.

2. In doing so, the LEA will meet the federal statutory requirement 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: ☒ No: ☐

Description: It is the intention of the Hampstead School District to continue to seek input from the public on the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan

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.

(Note federal regulation on this plan requires such reporting but does not require adoption of CDC safety recommendations. The NH DOE recognizes schools will implement localized safety measures based on the guidance provided by the CDC, NH Public Health, and local public health officials.) Yes: X No:

Description: The Hampstead School District will continue to implement the guidelines established by the Department of Health and Human Services when making adjustments to the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.

## VI. Authorization

LEA Superintendent's Signature: Date:

Bob Thompson 12/16/21

## VIII. Appendices

### Appendix A. ARPA Statutory Excerpt

“(i) Safe return to in-person instruction.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency receiving funds under this section shall develop and make publicly available on the local educational agency’s website, not later than 30 days after receiving the allocation of funds described in paragraph (d)(1), a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services.

(2) COMMENT PERIOD.—Before making the plan described in paragraph (1) publicly available, the local educational agency shall seek public comment on the plan and take such comments into account in the development of the plan.

(3) PREVIOUS PLANS.—If a local educational agency has developed a plan for the safe return to in-person instruction before the date of enactment of this Act that meets the requirements described in paragraphs (1) and (2), such plan shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.”

### Appendix B. Interim Final Requirements of ARP ESSER Excerpt

“(3) *LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.*

(a) An LEA must describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services—

(i) how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

- (A) Universal and correct wearing of masks.
- (B) Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (*e.g.*, use of cohorts/ podding).
- (C) Handwashing and respiratory etiquette.
- (D) Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation.
- (E) Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments.
- (F) Diagnostic and screening testing.
- (G) Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities.
- (H) Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and



safety policies.

(I) Coordination with State and local health officials.

(ii) how it will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.

(b) (i) During the period of the ARP ESSER award established in section 2001(a) of the ARP Act, an LEA must regularly, but no less frequently than every six months (taking into consideration the timing of significant changes to CDC guidance on reopening schools), review and, as appropriate, revise its plan for the safe return to in person instruction and continuity of services.

(ii) In determining whether revisions are necessary, and in making any revisions, the LEA must seek public input and take such input into account.

(iii) If at the time the LEA revises its plan the CDC has updated its guidance on reopening schools, the revised plan must address the extent to which the LEA has adopted policies, and describe any such policies, for each of the updated safety recommendations.

(c) If an LEA developed a plan prior to enactment of the ARP Act that meets the statutory requirements of section 2001(i)(1) and (2) of the ARP Act but does not address all the requirements in paragraph (a), the LEA must, pursuant to paragraph (b), revise and post its plan no later than six months after receiving its ARP ESSER funds to meet the requirements in paragraph (a).

(d) An LEA's plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services must be—

(i) In an understandable and uniform format;

(ii) To the extent practicable, written in a language that parents can understand or, if it is not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, be

orally translated for such parent; and

(iii) Upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent.”

