

## **Executive Summary**

The goal of the Hopkinton School District is to return to full in-person learning for 180 days of school. The priority for our students, staff, and community is their health and safety. We will continue with our safety mitigation procedures which are summarized below.

## **General Overview**

The first day for new staff of the Hopkinton School District will be Friday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, with the remaining staff beginning Monday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Students will return to school Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>. In-person learning and instructional time is the most valuable to both students and staff. This allows not only for academic time, but also for social and emotional time. We recognize the need for face-to-face interactions and communications for social and emotional connections. The following required protocols and guidelines are in place to protect the safety and welfare of all personnel and students while in the school or in use of school facilities:

## **Safety and Mitigation Strategies**

The key mitigation strategies that we successfully employed this past year will continue:

- Masks
  - Universal Masking will be required indoors during the school day.
    - Mask breaks will occur frequently throughout the day.
  - Masks are optional while outside.
    - Outdoor learning will occur when possible.
- Physical Distancing
  - 3 feet in classrooms when possible
  - Lunches – 3 feet standard
- Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
  - Handwashing and hand-sanitizing will be encouraged throughout the day.
  - Respiratory etiquette and procedures will be taught and emphasized in our schools.
  - Change of mask will be available throughout the day.
- Self-Screening
  - Most important mitigation strategy
  - Parents are asked to assess their children before leaving home and to contact their schools if symptoms develop (PK-12).
  - Employees are required to self assess prior to entering facilities.
- Facilities Maintenance and Cleaning
  - Cleaned daily following guidelines of DHHS
    - Focus on high traffic/high touch areas
  - HVAC will continue to be monitored
    - Filters changed as needed
- Visitors
  - Visitors, volunteers, and community groups will be limited during the school day.

### **Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine**

- People who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must still [isolate](#) at home until they have met [criteria for discontinuation of isolation](#).
- Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 ARE required to [quarantine](#) if they are NOT fully vaccinated.
- Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are NOT required to quarantine if they ARE fully vaccinated; however, in [accordance with CDC guidance for people who are fully vaccinated](#), such persons are recommended to get tested 3-5 days following their exposure and wear a facemask in indoor public settings for 14 days, or until they receive a negative test result.
- Non-household contacts should [self-observe](#) and monitor for symptoms.

### **Monitoring and Determination**

The Hopkinton School District will monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies.

- Number of cases within the Hopkinton School District schools
- Level of Community Transmission
- Monitor Merrimack County
- Vaccination coverage in the community and among students and staff

### **Effective Communication**

It is imperative the Hopkinton School District Leadership continually communicates to families any cases or anticipated changes in practices.

- District dedicated dashboard
- Email/text/social media (discuss at 8/24 School Board Meeting)
- Standing agenda item on School Board Meeting

### **Vaccination**

The CDC and DHHS emphasize vaccines prevent infection, prevent spread of COVID-19 between people, and limit the seriousness and duration of illness for people who develop COVID-19.

- While vaccination for COVID-19 is not currently required to attend school, voluntary reporting of your child's vaccination to your school nurse will help with future decisions on appropriate levels of mitigation