

## REOPENING PLAN SAU 71 – Lempster

**Submitted and Approved: June 10, 2021**

**Updated: September 1, 2021**

**Updated: November 18, 2021**

*“We shall never know if we overreacted, but it will be quickly apparent if we underreacted.”*

### **Summary**

The Lempster School reopened the school on Tuesday, August 31, 2021. Our goal was to maintain our in-person model of instruction with no masks, or distancing or daily temperature scans. However, the data offered to us the week before classes began, insisted we took proper and prudent measures to ensure the safety of the students and staff. This included masks, distancing, and temperature-taking before entering. The same mitigating strategies we employed last year.

### **Process**

#### *Communication*

As accomplished last year, throughout the pandemic, during the entire school year thus far the school’s administration communicates with staff, families and agencies regarding its need to again follow the steps in the process of maintaining safety for all who are associated with the school.

As a vehicle to facilitate and promote communication and solicit feedback, the superintendent sends a newsletter to all the stakeholders each Friday to provide information and encourage their opinions and concerns from the parents, staff, Board of Selectmen, School Board, areas businesses and elected officials to provide information and seek feedback. The staff receives a separate weekly newsletter on Thursdays.

We also utilize the K12 alert system for immediate messages to stakeholders.

We have posted this plan can also be found on the school’s website at [www.SAU71.org](http://www.SAU71.org).

In addition, the Lempster School's Guidance counselor reaches out to families to check on the wellbeing of the families. Since the beginning of the school year, the school, in cooperation with the Newport Food Bank, offers free food and drinks for anyone who may need them. The school has arranged for the Newport Food bank to deliver the majority of the food to the homes of the students, while the rest is brought to the school and distributed from there. We are happy to announce the Food bank delivered turkeys with fixings for the Thanksgiving holiday to numerous families in Lempster. Also, because Lempster is so small, the teachers and paraprofessionals usually have a personal knowledge of the citizens and staff members who could use a hand, and they report it to the superintendent who reaches out to them.

The school district analyzed all data available and decided to reinstitute this plan based on the safety and best practices available. The administration continues to monitor the status of the Covid pandemic from the CDC and NHDPS websites throughout the school year. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, when the number of students who tested positive for Covid approached 25%, and our three bus drivers all became infected, we reached out to the Commissioner to request remote learning. Teachers prepared for online learning and information for the remote learning was shared with the families enrolled our plan is to return to in-school instruction at the Lempster School on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The district will use its current newsletter email list and school board posting locations, including the district's webpage, and the school's physical sign, to disseminate the information to all parties.

### *Vaccinations*

Although strongly encouraged, the school district will not require vaccinations of students before they return to school.

### *Identifying and excluding*

The district has enjoyed a good relationship with the citizens of the town and requests for self-identification and quarantine have been reliable. The district will continue to encourage this practice.

- If a person is determined by self-identification or medical confirmation to have the SARS-CoV-2 virus, they will be required to quarantine out of the school for ten days.
- The school continues to take student temperatures before they board the bus or enter the building until further notice. Temperatures will also

be taken before students or staff enter the building. Here is a sign in sheet for all staff to confirm they have taken their temperature.

- Students or staff who demonstrate signs of the flu are tested immediately with the BinaxNOW testing kit and if positive are sent home and will be required to remain home until a doctor's note is presented, or ten days of quarantine have passed.

### *Testing*

The school district will not require student or staff to be tested, unless there is a reasonable likelihood the person may be carrying the virus. A blanket permission to test with the BinaxNow Antigen has been sent to all families. Positive results require the student or staff to leave the school immediately/as soon as possible.

### *Social/Physical Distancing*

Social distancing will continue to be required unless there is updated information from the CDC or NHDPHS indicating otherwise.

### *Face Mask Use*

Face masks will be required unless there is updated information from the CDC or NHDPHS indicating otherwise. Presently the district has secured enough masks that it is prepared to offer each student/and staff a new mask every two weeks throughout the holidays.

### *Cohorting and Limiting Group Sizes*

Until further notice, limiting group sizes will continue to be practiced unless there is updated information from the CDC or NHDPHS indicating a drop in the number of Covid cases and their approval to refrain from this strategy.

### *Modified Layouts and Processes*

Modified layouts and processes will continue throughout the school year unless there is updated information from the CDC or NHDPHS indicating otherwise. For example, Plexiglas barriers will continue to be utilized as they were throughout the 2020-2021 school year.

### *Hand Hygiene*

The Lempster School will continue to promote proper hand hygiene with its current practices, i.e. providing appropriate time for students to wash their hands before they eat, hand sanitizer available throughout the school, etc.

### *Cleaning & Disinfecting*

The Lempster School will continue its ongoing daily routine of cleaning and disinfecting the school. The school has reestablished its weekly fogging of the building and does not plan to stop unless the CDC or NHDPHS encourages us to discontinue the practice. Students in the early grades will continue to be reminded not to share objects. State-provided wipes will be utilized in every classroom and activity room throughout the school after each use.

### *Improving Ventilation*

The Lempster School currently has a state-of-the-art air movement system which continues to operate efficiently. Each room in Kindergarten, first, second and third grade currently has a room-sized air scrubber, which we shall continue to use. In addition, air circulation on pleasant weather days by opening windows will be encouraged as it has been throughout the pandemic. The school subscribes to the thought that fresh air is always more healthful than stagnant recirculated air.

### *Public Health Contact Tracing*

The Lempster School will continue to alert families of possible exposure, even if there is only a suspicion of a positive case. The school's camera system can identify and record up to two weeks all locations a potentially infected person may have travelled throughout the school. The school maintains ongoing communication to the NH DPHS to identify the source of the virus and ensure the individual(s) were quarantined from the school. The school has secured the BinaxNOW testing kits and tests anyone who may be showing possible signs of symptoms.

### *Continuity of Services*

Upon return of the students in the fall, diagnostic academic testing began almost immediately. Areas of need and learning loss were identified and immediate interventions i.e. more instruction, differentiated instruction, parent notification, ensued.

In addition, the guidance counselor created a specific schedule to visit each student in the school to obtain a baseline of information regarding his or her

social, emotional, mental health status and share with administration. Interventions aimed at ameliorating the needs will be implemented immediately. The school has taken steps to use the ESSER money to address mental health as well as physical health.

### *Review*

This plan was reviewed on September 1<sup>st</sup>, and will be reviewed again at designated school board meetings for January 1<sup>st</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> of this school year to, determine if updates need to be made. Any changes will be noted and implemented as soon as possible and copied to the NH DOE.

To avoid any more spread of the virus we continue with the following procedures:

### Bus

- Students will be at the bus stop with a means to return home waiting for the bus distancing from other students. Each student will be thermally scanned before boarding the bus.
  - IF the student has a temperature at or above 100.4 degrees F, THEN he/she will be asked to return home for ten days.
  - IF the student has a temperature below 100.4 degrees F, THEN he or she will be permitted to ride the bus. We will have a monitor on the bus ensuring students maintain a more than six-foot distance away from each other.

### Arrival

- Upon arrival staff will be scanned before entering the building. IF they present with symptoms THEN they will be directed home and if possible offer remote instruction from there.

- A secondary person will assist with the associated classroom.
- Student will be delivered to the area near the gym doors behind the school.
  - A larger group of families will be driving and we want to avoid a backup on to School Road.
- A staff will be present orchestrating the student exiting his/her car and into the six-foot squared off area at the gym's entrance. Each student will be thermally scanned.
  - IF the student has a temperature at or above 100.4 degrees, THEN he/she will be asked to return to his/her waiting vehicle and return home for ten days.
  - IF the student has a temperature below 100.4 degrees F, THEN he/she will be permitted to enter the rest of the gymnasium and to a destination of the playground or classroom.
  - An available staff will escort/ensure students do not convene too closely and are wearing a mask if they are moving throughout the building.
  - Staff scanning students will confidentially keep track of students who have symptoms
- We are able to scan seven persons in less than two minutes. All entering students in a day can be scanned within twenty minutes. We'll have staff here early to address families who may arrive early.

## Staff

- Each staff member will have his/her temperature scanned before entering the building.
  - If the staff member displays possible Covid-like symptoms then he/she will need to leave and produce lessons via remote.

- We shall keep a log of who has scanned and indicate their temperature was within range (not 100.4 or above).
- Staff will help maintain cleanliness in the classroom and adjoining bathrooms via wipes.
- Staff will tie up their classroom trash at the end of the day and place it in the hallway for time efficiency which provides more times for cleaning.

### Classroom

- Students will wash their hands with soap and water (preferred) or use hand sanitizer before entering the classroom.
- Student desks will be at least six-feet apart.
  - *IF a student needs to leave the room, for any reason THEN he/she will re-clean his/her hands before reentering.*

### Nurse

- The nurse's room will have two separate entrances. One for injury or meds; the other for anything else.
- Annette or Jim will fill in for the nurse on days she is not here or unavailable.

### Lunch periods

- Will be expanded to four from two to ensure we have enough room for student to maintain distancing.
- The cafeteria will have markers on the floor indicating the six-foot distance nearness limitation for students.
- Students will be handed their entire lunch, including food, drink and utensils.

- Cafeteria table seats will have green dots on the seats to indicate where a student may sit.
- Tables will be disinfected after each meal.

### Ongoing prevention

- Group A will meet in school on Mondays and Tuesdays. Group B will meet on Thursdays and Fridays. Wednesdays will be used as a deep cleaning day.
- We have purchased foggers to encompass an entire room on a Wednesdays.
- Sprayer will be used each evening.
- Walls, doors, crash-bars, windows and anything within a child's reach will be wiped down throughout the day.
- Almost every room has a fan or air exchanger which will be left on for continuous air flow. Air exchange is the most effective way to reduce the spread of the SARS-CoV-2.
- For rooms without state of the art air exchangers – 1950's wing - we have purchased industry-recommended air scrubbers.
- Filters in the ceilings will be changed once per month.
- ERU in gym monitors Co2 particles and automatically turns on when 800/ml is reached. We have programmed it to turn on at 400/ml to keep air exchanging.
- IF it is weather appropriate, THEN teachers will instruct outside.

### Dismissal

- Pick up will be in back of the gym, where they arrived.
- Students will remain in their classrooms and teachers will be alerted by walkie-talkie when the student should begin making his/her way to the gym.
- Each class will have a receptacle into which students will place their masks upon leaving.
- The school will launder the masks during the evening and return the masks to the appropriate classes for the ensuing day.

### Instructional Preparation

- Teachers and paraprofessionals have assembled lessons for live and remote instruction, as well as precautionary lessons for long-term remote learning.
  - One important lesson is how to avoid spreading the SARS-CoV-2.
- Guidance preparing for in school and out of school support for students and families.
- Communication.
  - Update all families every Friday via two-page newsletter.

***Presented to the Lempster School Board 6/10/2021***

***Reviewed at August 5<sup>th</sup> school board meeting for September 1<sup>st</sup>***

***Review at December 2<sup>nd</sup> school board meeting.***