

Approved by the School Board 8-24-2021

Londonderry School District 2021-2022 School District Reopening Plan

Overview: As our town and school district continue to adapt to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 Pandemic, we come to the beginning of the 2021-22 School Year with a balance of optimism for the opportunities ahead and a sense of caution rooted in the challenges that the pandemic continues to present. Our primary goal, at this time, is to reopen schools for the coming year under the most typical conditions possible while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. To that end, we present the following plan for reopening.

1. **School Operations:** The District will return to a state of full in-person learning. With our students back in our buildings, the District will not be able to offer elective remote options as we did last year. Any student requiring specific health accommodations will be addressed through the Pupil Services process, including special education services and the 504 planning process. The District will also work with such options as VLACS and other learning resources where appropriate. We acknowledge the academic struggles of students who were impacted by the adjustments in school operational model that were required of us during the past year and a half, and we commit to the development of substantive academic remediation and support programs to facilitate their learning recovery.
2. **Specific Public Health Measures in Schools:** The District will continue to observe the following measures to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment this year:
 - a. Wearing of Cloth Face Masks is strongly recommended, but not mandatory. In specific circumstances this requirement will change in response to changing conditions as outlined in the Mitigation Matrix. (See addendum)
 - b. Enhanced cleaning methods introduced last year will remain in place.
 - c. To the degree possible given space and group size, 3 foot distancing will be observed in classrooms and other instructional spaces. The majority of our classroom settings will be less than 3 feet of social distancing based on current enrollment.
 - d. Vaccinations are recommended, but not mandatory. **The District is not permitted to require them, nor may we require students/families to disclose their vaccination status.** This includes teachers in classrooms.
 - e. Hygiene and hand washing protocols will continue to the greatest extent possible.
 - f. The District will continue to adhere to the NHDPHS Definitions for Exclusion Around Viral Symptoms: At the publication of this plan, that process calls for quarantine of household contacts. The process also allows for exceptions by vaccination status.

- g. The District will participate in the NH Department of Public Health Optional Pooled Testing for Interested Families/Staff. This will grant free access to asymptomatic testing services to any person who chooses to participate. There is no obligation to do so, nor is there any cost to families or the District.
- 3. **Reaction to a Positive Case of COVID-19:** As noted previously, the District will continue to adhere to the reporting process administered by the NHDPHS.
 - a. Current procedure for contact tracing is administered by the NHDPHS, with support from the school district
 - b. Current process, August 2021, calls for household contacts to quarantine under the authority of the NHDPHS.
 - c. Further information is available in the addendum material.
- 4. **Communication Plan:** There will be no significant changes to the current plan regarding methods of communication.

The School District will continue to deploy, to the greatest degree possible, existing tools for communicating with our parents, our staff, and our community at large. Time sensitive information will be distributed through both text and email to reach as many recipients as possible. Should it be required, we also have the capacity to send voice messages through phone contacts, as we do for weather related cancellations. School-specific information will be generated by building level administrators in conjunction with School District administrators and will address logistical details and student specific information. Relative to communication with the broader community, we have established a dedicated web page for all COVID-19 related information on the District's website, which includes a blog that is focused on responses to Frequently Asked Questions received from members of the community.

 - a. Our communication with specific families will vary, depending on occurrences of in-school positive cases versus close contacts.
 - b. We will communicate to families a positive case in their child's classroom and request that they watch for viral symptoms.
 - c. We will provide information on where to receive a vaccine and update it when the vaccine is available to other age groups.
- 5. **Building Specific Accommodations for Reopening:** Each building will have specific circumstances regarding their return to a more normal model of operations. Procedures such as drop-off and dismissal, schedule, and lunches will be developed at the building level in response to the circumstances at that building. As such, each will communicate specific expectations with their parents.
 - a. Regular operations to the greatest degree possible
 - b. Details to be communicated with students, staff and parents both initially and upon any possible changes.
 - c. To the degree possible, the buildings will provide staff supervision consistently for outdoor activities such as recess.

6. Special Education: As with all of our other programs, Special Education will be returning to in-person instruction. Any parents with specific questions or concerns regarding their student's programming should contact their individual case manager or building level Special Education administrator as they would with any matter involving their program.

- a. As was the case prior to the pandemic, any exceptions to in-person learning should come before the IEP team for consideration per IDEA's continuum of placement settings.
- b. We will offer both in-person and remote/virtual meeting options.

7. Transportation: The District will continue to work with representatives from the Student Transportation of America, our contracted bus provider, to ensure student health and safety while riding school busses. This will include:

- a. Full capacity restored. No spacing on busses. Goal is 2 riders per seat.
- b. Current legal advice is that CDC requirement for masks on public transportation extends to school busses. We will adhere to that advice - masks required for bus drivers and passengers. We will continue to monitor the status of this regulation as it is being contested at the national level. Administrators will bring the matter back to the Board if we receive word that the requirement has been lifted or overturned.
- c. We will return to three bus runs in the AM and PM.
- d. Bus cleaning will continue with current procedures in place.

8. Facility Operations: We will continue to apply techniques that we have added over the past year regarding the cleanliness and sanitization of our school buildings.

- a. Continued enhanced cleaning, sanitizing, etc.
- b. Ensure cleaning 'introduction' to all students at the beginning of the school year.
- c. Deployment of air filtration units, upgrades to air intake and filtration systems, ventilation as a critical component, fresh air introduced to the greatest degree possible given weather.
- d. Tents will be in place once again to provide additional outdoor learning space.
- e. Hand sanitizer dispensers deployed throughout facilities
- f. HVAC upgrades are currently underway with funding from the ESSER Grants
- g. Outside agencies will be allowed to resume use of School District facilities, given that they follow any applicable safety guidance adopted by the District.

9. Dining Services Operations: The District continues to receive considerable support from the National School Lunch Program relative to food supplies and free meals.

- a. Free meal service continue, this year through NSLP.
- b. Cafeteria operations: Procedures are largely building specific where we have different sized cafeterias, group sizes and student needs. Again here, our aspiration is to maintain normalcy to the greatest degree possible.
 - i. We will try a normal cafeteria to start.

- ii. Operations may be altered if school becomes impacted continuously by COVID-19 cases. We could serve lunches in classrooms as needed.
- iii. We will utilize other spaces within the building, and such as outdoor tents, as is feasible to encourage distancing while students eat.

10. Professional Development: Training of staff will continue to be an important element of our operations, where we are shifting our focus to competency recovery and skills remediation. We also anticipate a limited return to professional development programming in areas of academic and social emotional program development that were in place prior to the onset of the pandemic.

- a. Professional Learning Community, Pupil Services Teams, and Curriculum Coordination Groups tasked with academic adjustments to post-COVID-19 learning needs. Training support developed in accordance with staff needs.
- b. FERPA/virtual meeting training
- c. Training in specific areas determined by IT software implementation, 1 to 1, device deployment
- d. Renewed training on any new or updated COVID-19 protocols

11. Reopening Timeline

- a. Late July: Reopening Task Force charged, meets to discuss recommended changes to School District Reopening Plan.
- b. August 10 School Board Meeting - Plan Presentation and Task Force Recommendations
- c. August 24 - School Board Meeting - Final draft approval and Implementation update
- d. August 25 - First day for staff, building tours, Professional Development and Facilities in place
- e. August 31 - First day for students, Full operation

12. Athletics and Extracurricular Activities We will move ahead with regular operations of our sports and co-curricular activities, with health and safety measures to be determined by the NHIAA and regional subgroups or leagues for each activity. Response to positive cases will be consistent with that of our in-school plan.

- a. Safety standards to be determined by State and Regional collaboration between school districts or the NHIAA on a state-wide basis.
- b. Current expectation is to resume normal operations, while adjusting as needed to possible positive cases or close contacts.

13. Visitors and Volunteers

- a. Volunteers are welcomed again for outdoor events, and for classroom events on a limited basis as is determined by administrators to be safe and appropriate.

- b. **School District staff may not ask for the vaccination status of visitors or volunteers.**
 - c. Some circumstances may require the District to limit the number of volunteers at a given event or activity.
 - d. Where possible, volunteer events will be held outdoors.
- 14. Field Trips and Assemblies:** The District has a well-established value for learning experiences that take place outside of the school buildings. We will:
- a. Allow field trips again, with review on a case by case basis to ensure that the event is both safe and appropriate.
 - b. Building level teams will evaluate which assemblies are truly necessary and which can be conducted remotely/ televised. Group size will also be evaluated.
 - c. Continued use of outdoor spaces, tents, etc. as alternative venues for assemblies

15. Emergency Operations Planning: The District EOP Team will continue to plan for situationally appropriate responses to possible hazards, as they have to date. Areas of concentration will be any circumstances that continue outside of our normal strategies covered in the District Emergency Operations Plan.

16. Addressing Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Needs: The District continues to hold student and staff mental health to high priority and remains committed to focusing on relationship building as schools reopen. District initiatives already in place to support social emotional needs include: social-emotional curriculum, advisory time, and a District Mental Health Committee. The District continues to explore a variety of other options that will provide our students with social and emotional support, and parents access to information and resources within the community. .

Summation: The District will continue to place student and staff safety as a priority, as we facilitate a return to full in-person learning this school year. While many of the details of that effort are outlined here, we will continue to develop processes and adjustments that are consistent with the overall elements of this plan, including:

- a. A focus on reopening under as typical a model as possible.
- b. Completing facilities upgrades outlined in ESSER Grants
- c. The expansion of academic skills and competency recovery programs continued through School Year 2021-2022 and beyond, as is required.
- d. Retain cleaning and health practices outlined in this plan.
- e. Refocus our efforts in curriculum and instruction back upon the tenets of the Strategic Plan and Portrait of a Graduate.

Conclusion: As has been stated previously, this plan establishes an initial expectation for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year. We acknowledge that it is reliant upon the current status of COVID-19 infections in the State and local area remaining constant. It will be crucial for the District to remain prepared to alter these plans should these rates change in the coming

months. There has been considerable work done on different models and scenarios that will allow us to adapt our programs as the situation dictates. Should the circumstances improve to a point where restrictions are loosened further, we are prepared to make a transition toward a more traditional model of schooling as well.

Addendum:

- Londonderry School District COVID Mitigation Matrix for 2021-2022

Londonderry School District COVID Mitigation Matrix for 2021-22

Before reaching the recommended matrix from the NH DPHS, we will first react to positive cases in separate classrooms and separate schools.
[\(DPHS August 11th Presentation as a Reference\)](#)

Classroom Response to a Positive Case

If there is a positive case in a classroom, we will

- Notify families of students of the possible exposure.
- Have all affected returning students monitor for symptoms.
- Require facemasks in the hallways and passing periods for those students that were part of the infected classroom.
- Strong recommendation for facemasks in the classroom for students and staff that were present for the positive case.
- Recommend testing 3 to 5 days after exposure for all students and staff to the positive case.
- Students in the infected classroom can stop facemask use in the hallways and passing periods after the monitoring period is over (10 days), or after producing a negative COVID test (that was administered 3 to 5 days after exposure).
- Infected classrooms will be encouraged to seek alternative learning spaces during the observation period so they can increase their physical distance as well as spend more time outside to mitigate risk if possible.

At Londonderry Middle School we could potentially expand this approach to teams and their general space they use. For Pre-K to 12, our self-contained populations may move quicker towards these mitigation measures.

Multiple simultaneous and unrelated Positive Cases in a School

- With multiple unrelated cases in one building, our first step will be to require facemasks for students in the hallways and passing periods for a short period of time.

At Londonderry High School, since responding to classroom level positive cases, as well as monitoring facemasks in the hallways will be far more challenging, we will most likely implement this mitigation strategy quicker than in our Pre-K to 8 schools.

If after implementing the above strategies, we continue to experience a high frequency of the positive cases in one building, we will use the matrix on the following page to determine face mask use by each school building. We will prioritize Londonderry specific data in the matrix. We assume we would be at the “single cluster” stage in the matrix or higher.

If we are able to achieve a high rate of vaccination (80% or above) in each school building, we would then update the matrix as recommended by the NH Department of Public Health for those school buildings.

Londonderry School District Indoor Face Mask Matrix (Adapted from NH DPHS Matrix)		Level of Community Transmission Londonderry Specific Data Prioritized Over Rockingham County		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
		<p>Rate of less than 50 new cases per 100,000 people over prior 14 days</p> <p>OR</p> <p>PCR Test Positivity Rate Below 5% over prior 7 days</p>	<p>Rate of between 50 to 100 new cases per 100,000 people over prior 14 days</p> <p>OR</p> <p>PCR Test Positivity Rate Between 5% and 10% over prior 7 days</p>	<p>Rate of above 100 new cases per 100,000 people over prior 14 days</p> <p>OR</p> <p>PCR Test Positivity Rate Above 10% over prior 7 days</p>
Cases within School Buildings	Sporadic cases without evidence of facility transmission	Optional*	Optional*	Targeted
	Single Cluster	Targeted	Targeted	Targeted to UniversalΩ based on NH DPHS Guidance
	Multiple Clusters or a Larger Outbreak	UniversalΩ	UniversalΩ	UniversalΩ

*Face masks still recommended for people who want maximal protection for themselves and others.

ΩExceptions can be made for classrooms/schools that have achieved a vaccination rate above 80%.

NH DPHS definitions of Cluster and Outbreak can be found [here](#).