

# **MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT RETURN PLAN**

Fall 2021

Revised Aug. 20, 2021

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## **1 – Welcome**

Dear Manchester Community,

The following document is the result of a year of successes, of challenges, of learning, of reviewing, of revising, and of committing to improve upon our successes and learn from our mistakes. This plan draws heavily on the return plan from our colleagues in the ConVal school district. Our initial Re-Entry Plan for Fall 2020 represented countless hours of research, discussion, planning, writing, and reviewing by district leadership, staff, and community members. Our Return Plan for Fall 2021 builds from that work and incorporates the feedback and experiences of countless students, parents and staff. Our focus is learning from what we have done over the past year, and the primary guiding principles will remain the health and safety of our students, staff, and community members.

We are excited that many of the changes to this document represent a return to a normal school experience with plans of what we will do in the unlikely chance we have to shift to more mitigated instructional models. We know that returning to a model closer to normalcy is in the best interest of our students – academically, socially, and emotionally. We will continue to make decisions based on health data, not personal preferences, emotions, or politics. Specifically, we will look to guidance from the Manchester Public Health Department. The district-established COVID-19 Response Team will continue to meet periodically to assess real-time information to our staff and community members.

Please know that the information presented here is based on the most current information at the time. As we have all learned this year, the situation is fluid, and we will likely be making changes throughout the 2021-2022 school year. The plan that follows demonstrates our confidence that the 2021-2022 school year will represent the Manchester community putting much of the pandemic behind us and moving forward toward recovery and resiliency.

The last 18 months were filled with many types of uncertainty for all of us. I cannot imagine moving through those challenges without the dedication of the staff of the Manchester School District. We are pleased to provide you with a plan that is based on more certainty, an eye to recovery, and the building of resilience for our staff, our students, and the Manchester community.

Sincerely,

John Goldhardt, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## **2 – Executive Summary**

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement of the New Hampshire Department of Education to have a Reopening Plan for the 2021-2022 school year, Manchester School District has developed the following Return Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The central aim of the plan is to return to an in-person model of instruction with meaningful and intentional plans in place to be used in the unlikely circumstance that we need to shift to more rigorous levels of mitigation.

### **2.1 - Basic Premise and Starting Point**

The expected starting point for the safe return of students and staff to MSD schools is Blue Phase operating conditions. When school is operating in the Blue or Green Phase, school buildings will be open for full in-person instruction. The District's COVID-19 Response Team will assess conditions for school operation periodically and will respond in turn by moving to a different level of the metric if the transmission or school impacts show higher rates or impacts. Significant shifts in operating conditions, i.e., those that would warrant a transition from one phase to another, will be communicated to the public by the Superintendent or his designee.

### **2.2 – Abbreviations**

The following abbreviations will be used throughout this Plan:

- ❖ NHDHHS = New Hampshire Health and Human Services
- ❖ MHD = Manchester Health Department
- ❖ MSD = Manchester School District
- ❖ CDC = Center for Disease Control

### **3 – Introduction**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly disrupted multiple facets of everyday life. Public education has been no exception. MSD has worked to respond to the evolving circumstances surrounding the pandemic by constantly monitoring the state of public health in the district, region, state, and country while planning, revising, and implementing adaptive school programming.

In this document, you will find the details for the district’s return in Fall 2021. We explain the overall approach and provide information for what school will look like during each phase.

Due to the significant drops in community transmission, we are enthusiastic about welcoming *all* of our students back to school for in-person instruction at the beginning of the school year. We have developed models at the elementary, middle, and high school levels with specific safety precautions in place. While this document outlines plans for the coming school year, it is important to note that we may need to adjust the plans in accordance with federal, state, and local health guidelines.

### **4 – Planning Process**

Building from our planning process that first began in the spring and summer of 2020, we have reflected on experiences, and feedback from the 2020-2021 school year and to put together this Return plan for stakeholders to review and provide their thoughts on.

While there are risks and uncertainties involved with any planning process that takes place during the current pandemic, the implementation plan for returning focuses on the safety of staff and students, and an unwavering commitment to the education of the children of the Manchester School District.

This work is not finished; we sought feedback on a draft of this plan from the community and received nearly 200 responses through an online form. We have incorporated that community feedback into the plan where appropriate. As in the past, this document will need to remain fluid for an evolving situation. The COVID Response Team, which is explained in more detail on the following page, comprises a variety of stakeholders and decision makers. The team, which will meet regularly throughout the school year, is built to help guide our ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The work will continue by examining implementation, maximizing effectiveness and efficiency, and creating a successful pathway for students, staff, and the community throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

## **5 – COVID Response Team**

The COVID Response Team was charged with overseeing, consulting, and responding to pandemic issues during the 2020-2021 school year. The team will continue to function during the 2021-2022 school year and will continue to monitor national, state and local data as a means to inform and guide decision-making in regard to COVID-19. In addition to their formal roles listed below, many team members represent other stakeholder groups as city residents and parents of current students. City residents are denoted with the number one (¹), and parents of current students are denoted with the number two (²).

### **5.1 – COVID Response Team Members**

- ❖ Leslie Want, Vice Chair, Board of School Committee ¹
- ❖ John Goldhardt, Ed.D., Superintendent ¹
- ❖ Anna Thomas, Director, Manchester Public Health
- ❖ Jaime Hoebecke, Manchester Public Health
- ❖ Josh Gagne, Facilities, City of Manchester
- ❖ Phil Alexakos, Manchester Health Department
- ❖ Todd Markowitz, Aramark
- ❖ Mike Whitten, Manchester Transit Authority
- ❖ Kelly O'Brien Hebert, Director, MSD Transportation ¹
- ❖ Amy Allen, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching, Learning & Leading ¹ ²
- ❖ Jennifer Gillis, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Operations
- ❖ Andrew Toland, Director, Communications ¹ ²
- ❖ Katie Cox Pelletier, Chief Policy and Legal Officer
- ❖ Karen DeFrancis, Chief Financial Officer ¹
- ❖ Mary Steady, Chief Student Services & Wellness Officer
- ❖ Tina Kim Philibotte, Chief Equity Officer
- ❖ Sue Hannan, President MEA
- ❖ Lisa Hanel, President AFSCME/Paraprofessionals ¹
- ❖ Rick Chreitien, Vice President, AMP, Assistant Principal, Weston ¹
- ❖ Lynn Standish, President, MESPA ¹

## **6 – Mitigation Strategies**

The district is charged with safely providing for health and sanitation in the school buildings as evidenced by the response to COVID-19 since February 2020. This duty includes “the daily administration and provision of educational services to students at the school facility including . . . staff, student and parent safety. . .” (see RSA 194-C:4, II(j)). We will continue to seek and apply current research and data to inform and guide all actions regarding the response and planning for the district regarding COVID-19.

To this end, the district will continue to implement a variety of layered mitigation strategies aimed at keeping people safe. While the following routines outlined by the MHD COVID-19 Response Plan for Schools.

### **6.1 – Travel Routines and Transportation**

We plan on opening school in the Blue Phase, in this phase transportation will return to traditional bus routes based on geography with students assigned to seats. We will resume the typical scheduling process for bus rosters and routes as we anticipate remaining in blue. All routes and rosters will be posted on our webpage (under transportation). In addition, school messenger alerts will be sent in mid to late August.

In the event that the COVID-19 status and CDC/Manchester Public Health/NHDHHS recommendations dictate, the district will shift to a different phase. Should the District need to transition into the Yellow Phase, in order to minimize the risk of community spread, it will be strongly recommended that family members drive students to and from school or that licensed students drive themselves. School transportation will be provided but will not be guaranteed during the Yellow Phase. Masking and physical distancing guidelines related to waiting at bus stops, entering a bus, traveling on a bus, and exiting a bus will follow the recommendations of the CDC/ MHD/NHDHHS.

### **6.2 – Arrival Routines**

Signage will be posted at entrances indicating that all persons — students, staff, contracted service providers, or parents/guardians — are subject to screening for symptoms of COVID-19. All persons awaiting screening will be required to stand in a physically distanced line outside of the building.

### **6.3 – Screening Procedure**

Screening procedures will follow the MHD COVID-19 Response Plan for Schools.

### **6.4 – Additional In-School Routines in the Green and Yellow Phases**

- ❖ In the Blue Phase students will return to typical spacing prior to the pandemic.

- ❖ In the Green Phase and Yellow Phase, students will maintain a physical distance of three feet.
- ❖ The set-up of classrooms will incorporate individual student learning spaces that are aligned with phase.
- ❖ One-way traffic patterns will be identified and labeled in hallways and on stairs to maximize physical distancing. This will occur at the beginning of the school year, regardless of phase, to get all students familiar with the traffic flow. It can be changed based upon the phase as well as logistics at each school site.
- ❖ During the Blue Phase and Green Phase, students will eat breakfast and/or lunch in the cafeteria. During the Yellow Phase, students will eat breakfast and/or lunch in their individual classrooms, a designated indoor space that allows for physical distancing, or in a designated outdoor space.

Students and staff members will promote and practice frequent hand hygiene by washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and by using hand sanitizer. At a minimum, hand hygiene is encouraged:

- ❖ Before and after meals and snacks
- ❖ Before and during meal preparation or service as necessary to prevent cross contamination
- ❖ After outside time
- ❖ After using the restroom
- ❖ After handling any bodily fluid
- ❖ Before and after medication administration
- ❖ After cleaning up and handling any garbage
- ❖ Prior to leaving for home

All students and staff members will follow the most recent guidance from the CDC/MHD/NHDHHS, and the Board of School Committee regarding the use of face masks while on school grounds. If face masks need to be worn, regularly scheduled mask breaks will be incorporated into the daily schedule.

Staff from Aramark will continue to maintain healthy school environments according to CDC/MHD/NHDHHS guidance. In the Blue Phase, Aramark will use Virex. In the Green Phase, Yellow Phase and Red Phase, Aramark will continue to use Oxivir.



## **7 – Air Quality Enhancements**

During the Fall of 2020 the District installed new MERV 13 filters that capture 90-95% of particulate 1-3 microns in size and 100% of particulate 3-10 microns in size and larger.

Additionally, the District installed HEPA filter units in schools that had HVAC systems that could not tolerate the MERV-13 filters and do the air exchanges.

We will continue to maximize outside air introduction into the HVAC systems throughout the day for all classrooms and school wings. This programming which provides air exchange between outdoors and indoors will be increased to three exchanges per hour. The air flow system will be opened two hours prior to the opening of school and remain open 1.5 hours after the school day ends.

MSD had an independent third-party evaluation (ASHRAE) of the air quality in our 21 schools. The evaluation concluded: HVAC equipment is maintained in a condition that either meets or exceeds the guidelines for ventilating schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **8 – Reporting, Communicating Positive Cases Of Covid-19**

We will follow the MHD COVID-19 Response Plan for Schools.

## **9 – Special Education And Students With Disabilities**

While we will need to operate within newly established safety guidelines for students, staff, and families, we will continue to put forth our best efforts to support all children PreK-12, including those with disabilities, during return. The District will comply with federal law and will, at all phases of operation, offer in person education as necessary to students with disabilities.

We will continue to follow our approach to adapt, plan, innovate, and partner along with families to meet the unique needs of their children. Through ongoing planning and implementation, the district, schools, and staff will work to support individualized educational needs as well as ensure access to an appropriate education for MSD students.

## **10 – Technology And Connectivity**

### **10.1 – Student Devices**

Elementary students will each be assigned a device to prevent sharing. Devices will remain at school during in-person learning and be sent home with the student if it becomes necessary to transition to remote learning.

Middle and high school students will continue to be issued a device as part of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Students at these levels will be expected to bring their device to and from home daily.

## **10.2 – Internet Access**

Should the need arise, the district will work with local vendors to procure hotspots. The hotspots can use a cellular signal to create a Wi-Fi network to which laptops, Chromebooks, and other devices can connect. These devices will be made available to families who have inadequate Internet access at home to support remote learning.

## **10.3 – Digital Resources**

The district will provide digital resources to staff and families to support training on the technology platforms that are being used with in-person and remote learning. The Technology Committee will seek ongoing feedback from the community to identify technology training needs and provide additional resources and support to address those needs.

## **11 – Before And After School Programs**

Before and after school programs will continue to be offered. Protocols outlined in the MHD COVID-19 Response Plan for Schools will be followed.

## **12 – Preschool Programs**

In an effort to serve all preschool students equitably, and if there continues to be low community transmission, Preschools will plan to open and follow the “Blue Phase” for the Fall 2021 reopening. The instructional model in the Blue Phase reflects the traditional Preschool schedule. This model allows students the ability to make personal connections with teachers and peers while helping them to achieve a sense of normalcy by maintaining a predictable schedule. Preschool return will be consistent with the relevant Elementary School procedures in this plan.

## 13 – Instruction At Manchester Elementary Schools

In an effort to serve all elementary students equitably, and if there continues to be low community transmission, MSD Elementary Schools will plan to open and follow the “Blue Phase” for the Fall 2021 return. The instructional model in the Blue Phase reflects the traditional Elementary School schedule. This model allows students the ability to make personal connections with teachers and peers while helping them to achieve a sense of normalcy by maintaining a predictable schedule. Recommendations is phases are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NH Department of Health and Human Services, and the City of Manchester Health Department.

### 13.1 – Elementary School Instruction by Phase

|            | Blue Phase   | Green Phase  | Yellow Phase  | Red Phase   |
|------------|--|--|---|---|
| Definition | No detectable or <i>minimal</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Moderate</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Substantial, controlled</i> transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Substantial uncontrolled</i> transmission (based on declaration of a state of emergency)   |
| Curriculum | <p>In-person instruction. Remote learning is not available.</p> <p>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed.</p> | <p>In-person instruction. Remote learning is not available.</p> <p>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed.</p> | <p>In-person instruction** Remote learning is not available.</p> <p>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed.</p> <p><i>**Contingent on a voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default model to hybrid/cohort instruction model for most. In-person instruction for small groups of Specialized Instruction students.</i></p> | <p>No in-person instruction – only exceptions are for Specialized Instruction students.</p> <p>All students are remotng into their classes.</p> |

| Mitigation Levels     | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard  | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard   | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard AND presence of voluntary screening testing program AND no school-based outbreaks   | NH State of Emergency  |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Mitigation Strategies | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom.</p> <p>Typical spacing prior to the pandemic.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing at least three feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks required in all school areas.</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing is maintained at 3-6 feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>No in-person instruction for majority of students.</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> |
| Student Grouping      | By grade-level classroom as determined by individual school  | By grade-level classroom as determined by individual school   | <p>By grade-level classroom as determined by individual school</p> <p><i>**If hybrid model is necessary, students will be placed in cohorts for staggered in-person learning.</i></p>   | <p>No in-person instruction (other than those in need of Specialized Instruction).</p> <p>All students are remoting into their classes</p>   |
| Entrances             | Students enter school via identified main entrances.   | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.   | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.   | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p>   |

|                                      |   |   |  |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <b>Student Arrival and Screening</b> | Students report directly to their classroom.  | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.  | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.   | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remotng into their classes.  |
| <b>COVID-19 Screening Program</b>    | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: Do not need to screen test students. (1) | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: Do not need to screen test students. (1) | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (1) | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remotng into their classes.  |
| <b>Lunch and Recess Routine</b>      | Cafeteria Open<br><br>Eat indoor/outdoor<br><br>Traditional recess  | Cafeteria Open<br><br>Eat indoor/outdoor<br><br>Traditional recess  | Grab and Go lunch options.<br><br>Eat in classrooms or outdoor as much as possible<br><br>Recess by instructional group  | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remotng into their classes.  |
| <b>Bus Routine</b>                   | Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus<br><br>Bus routes based on geography.  | Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus<br><br>Bus routes based on geography.  | Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus<br><br>Encourage parents to drive to and from school.   | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remotng into their classes.<br><br>Only exceptions are students needing Specialized Instruction; masks are required. |
| <b>After School Activities</b>       | Extracurricular activities following MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.   | Extracurricular activities following MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.   | In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered **<br><br>**Contingent on a school-based, voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default to Before/After School are remote only.                           | No in-person instruction; extracurricular activities are remote only.   |

|                         |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| <b>Specials Program</b> | Masks are required for high risk activities.(3)<br>Art, Music, Wellness, etc. run in same manner prior to the pandemic | Masks are required for high risk activities.(3)<br>Art, Music, Wellness, etc. as a special outside when possible | Use of masks required in all school areas.(3)<br><br>Art, Music, Wellness, etc. as a special outside when possible and/or remotely | No in-person instruction; specials are remote only |
| <b>Library</b>          | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all.<br><br>Library is fully open and accessible                | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all.<br><br>Library is fully open and accessible          | Use of masks are required.<br><br>Library learning has limited student access  | No student access to Library                       |

(1) CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

(2) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

(3) High-risk activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.htm>

## 14 – Instruction At Manchester Middle Schools

In an effort to serve all Middle School students equitably, and if there continues to be low community transmission, MSD Middle Schools will plan to open and follow the “Blue Phase” for the Fall 2021 return. The instructional model in the Blue Phase reflects the traditional Middle School schedule. This model allows students the ability to make personal connections with teachers and peers while helping them to achieve a sense of normalcy by maintaining a predictable schedule. Recommendations is phases are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NH Department of Health and Human Services, and the City of Manchester Health Department.

### 14.1 – Middle School Instruction by Phase

|            | Blue Phase   | Green Phase  | Yellow Phase  | Red Phase  |
|------------|--|--|---|--|
| Definition | No detectable or <i>minimal</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Moderate</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Substantial, controlled</i> transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Substantial uncontrolled</i> transmission (based on declaration of a state of emergency)  |
| Curriculum | In-person instruction.<br>Remote learning is not available.<br><br>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed. | In-person instruction.<br>Remote learning is not available.<br><br>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed. | In-person instruction**<br>Remote learning is not available.<br><br>Students remain home when sick/absent with no option to remote in. Work will be provided via google classroom or hard copy as needed.<br><br><i>**Contingent on a voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default model to hybrid/cohort instruction model for most. In-person instruction for small groups of Specialized Instruction students.</i> | No in-person instruction – only exceptions are for Specialized Instruction students.<br><br>All students are remotng into their classes. |

| Mitigation Levels     | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard  | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard   | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard AND presence of voluntary screening testing program AND no school-based outbreaks   | NH State of Emergency   |
|-----------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Mitigation Strategies | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom.</p> <p>Typical spacing prior to the pandemic.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing at least three feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks required in all school areas.</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing is maintained at 3-6 feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>No in-person instruction for majority of students.</p> <p>Majority of students are remotng into their classes</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> |
| Student Grouping      | Traditional middle school groupings.   | Traditional middle school groupings.  | <p>Traditional middle school groupings.</p> <p><i>**If hybrid model is necessary, students will be placed in cohorts for staggered in-person learning.</i></p>  | <p>No in-person instruction (other than those in need of Specialized Instruction).</p> <p>All students are remotng into their classes</p>   |



|                                      |   |   |  |  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Entrances</b>                     | Students enter school via identified main entrances.  | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.   | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.  | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.  |
| <b>Student Arrival and Screening</b> | Students report directly to their classroom.  | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in the MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.  | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in the MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.   | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.  |
| <b>COVID-19 Screening Program</b>    | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: Do not need to screen test students. (1) | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: Do not need to screen test students. (1) | All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).<br><br>Students: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (1) | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.  |
| <b>Lunch and Recess Routine</b>      | Cafeteria Open<br><br>Eat indoor/outdoor<br><br>Traditional recess  | Cafeteria Open<br><br>Eat indoor/outdoor<br><br>Traditional recess  | Grab and Go lunch options.<br><br>Eat in classrooms or outdoor as much as possible<br><br>Recess by instructional group  | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.  |
| <b>Bus Routine</b>                   | Masks are required on the bus per the CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus.<br><br>Bus routes based on geography.   | Masks are required on the bus per the CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus.<br><br>Bus routes based on geography.   | Masks are required on the bus per the CDC order.(2)<br><br>Assigned seats on bus<br><br>Encourage parents to drive to and from school.   | No in-person instruction<br><br>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.<br><br>Only exceptions are students needing Specialized Instruction; masks are required. |

|                                |  |  |   |   |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>After School Activities</b> | In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered.   | In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered.   | In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered **<br><br><i>**Contingent on a school-based, voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default to Before/After School are remote only.</i> | No in-person instruction; extracurricular activities are remote only. |
| <b>Music Program</b>           | Masks are required for high risk activities.(3)<br><br>Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least once per week for all participants. (1) | Masks are required for high risk activities.(3)<br><br>Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least once per week for all participants. (1) | Masks are required for high risk activities.(3)<br><br>Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least twice per week for all participants. (1)   | Band and Chorus are remote only.                                      |
| <b>Library</b>                 | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all.<br><br>Library is fully open and accessible  | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all. Library is fully open and accessible   | Use of masks required in all school areas.<br><br>Library learning has limited student access   | No student access to Library  |

(1) CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

(2) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

(3) High-risk activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

## 15 – Instruction At Manchester High Schools

In an effort to serve all high school students equitably, and if there continues to be low community transmission, MSD High Schools will plan to open and follow the “Blue Phase” for the Fall 2021 reopening. The instructional model in the Blue Phase reflects the traditional High School schedule. This model allows students the ability to make personal connections with teachers and peers while helping them to achieve a sense of normalcy by maintaining a predictable schedule. Recommendations is phases are based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, NH Department of Health and Human Services, and the City of Manchester Health Department.

### 15.1 – High School Instruction by Phase

| Definition        | Blue Phase   | Green Phase  | Yellow Phase  | Red Phase  |
|-------------------|--|--|---|--|
|                   | No detectable or <i>minimal</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity) | <i>Moderate</i> community transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity) | <i>Substantial, controlled</i> transmission (based on NH DHHS School Dashboard – new case rate and test positivity)   | <i>Substantial uncontrolled</i> transmission (based on declaration of a state of emergency)  |
| Curriculum        | In-person instruction; no remote option.   | In-person instruction; no remote option.   | In-person instruction; no remote option.**<br><br>** <i>Contingent on a voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default model to hybrid/cohort instruction model for most. In-person instruction for small groups of Specialized Instruction students.</i> | All classes offering synchronous learning, with asynchronous option available. In-person option available for those needing Specialized Instruction. |
| Mitigation Levels | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard  | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard  | Based on NH DHHS school Dashboard AND presence of voluntary screening testing program AND no school-based outbreaks   | NH State of Emergency  |

|                                      |  |   |   |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Mitigation Strategies</b>         | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom.</p> <p>Typical spacing prior to the pandemic.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks are optional when seated in the classroom; recommended for all. Masks are required for all times of transition and movement (i.e. entry/exit, travelling the building internally, indoor recess/gym).</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing at least three feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>Use of masks required in all school areas.</p> <p>Hand hygiene encouraged upon arrival, before and after eating, after using the bathroom</p> <p>Physical Distancing is maintained at 3-6 feet.</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> | <p>No in-person instruction for majority of students.</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes</p> <p>Follow MHD COVID-19 Health Manual for infectious disease protocols.</p> |
| <b>Student Grouping</b>              | None, all students fully in person.  | None, all students fully in person.   | <p>None, all students fully in person.</p> <p><i>**If hybrid model is necessary, students will be placed in cohorts for staggered in-person learning.</i></p>   | All students and staff fully remote, (other than Specialized Instruction).   |
| <b>Entrances</b>                     | Students enter school via identified main entrances.   | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.   | Students enter school via predetermined identified entrances.   | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p>   |
| <b>Student Arrival and Screening</b> | Students report directly to their classroom.   | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in the MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.  | Student screening at home/school will be based on questions in the MHD COVID-19 Health Manual.  | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p>   |

|                                   |   |   |  |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| <b>COVID-19 Screening Program</b> | <p>All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).</p> <p>Students: Do not need to screen test students.(1)</p> | <p>All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).</p> <p>Students: Do not need to screen test students.(1)</p> | <p>All teachers/staff: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered. (all can participate regardless of vaccination status, but recommended for unvaccinated).</p> <p>Students: weekly, voluntary COVID-19 screening testing offered.(1)</p> | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p>  |
| <b>Lunch Routine</b>              | <p>Cafeteria Open</p> <p>Eat indoor/outdoor</p>   | <p>Cafeteria Open</p> <p>Eat indoor/outdoor</p>   | <p>Grab and Go lunch options.</p> <p>Eat in classrooms or outdoor as much as possible</p>  | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p>  |
| <b>Bus Routine</b>                | <p>Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)</p> <p>Assigned seats on bus.</p> <p>Bus routes based on geography.</p>  | <p>Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)</p> <p>Assigned seats on bus.</p> <p>Bus routes based on geography.</p>  | <p>Masks are required on the bus per CDC order.(2)</p> <p>Assigned seats on bus</p> <p>Encourage parents to drive to and from school.</p>  | <p>No in-person instruction</p> <p>Majority of students are remoting into their classes.</p> <p>Only exceptions are students needing Specialized Instruction; masks are required.</p> |
| <b>After School Activities</b>    | <p>In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered.</p>   | <p>In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered.</p>   | <p>In-person, co-curricular activities and clubs will be offered **</p> <p><i>**Contingent on a school-based, voluntary screening testing program AND no school outbreaks. Default to Before/After School are remote only.</i></p>                   | <p>No in-person instruction; extracurricular activities are remote only.</p>  |
| <b>Music Program</b>              | <p>Masks are required for high risk activities.(2)</p>  | <p>Masks are required for high risk activities.(2)</p>  | <p>Masks are required for high risk activities.(2)</p>   | <p>Band and Chorus are remote only.</p>   |

|                |   |  |   |                              |
|----------------|---|--|---|------------------------------|
|                | Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least once per week for all participants.(1)        | Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least once per week for all participants.(1) | Offer screening testing for high risk activities at least twice per week for all participants.(1) |                              |
| <b>Library</b> | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all.<br><br>Library is fully open and accessible | Use of masks are optional when seated; recommended for all. Library is fully open and accessible | Use of masks required in all school areas.<br><br>Library learning has limited student access     | No student access to Library |

(1) CDC Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in Kindergarten (K)-12 Schools:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

(2) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

(3) High-risk activities are those in which increased exhalation occurs, such as activities that involve singing, shouting, band, or exercise, especially when conducted indoors.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

## **16 – Moving Forward: 2021-2022 And Beyond**

The 2020-2021 school year was a formidable challenge. As we shift our focus from reopening to recovery, we will need the cooperation of all students, staff, and community members. In order to continue in-person instruction, to provide opportunities for recovery, and to build the resiliency and adaptability of our District, it will be necessary for students, staff, and parents to cooperate with the procedures and protocols outlined in the phases of our plans and any updates that may be instituted as the situation evolves.

As outlined in our Return Framework, it is our goal to work toward having students on a normal curve of learning by the end of the 2021-2022 school year. This will require the District, the School Board, and the community to look beyond the traditional school calendar and implement not only differentiated instruction for students, but recognize that some students may need additional instructional time and support through extended school days and structured year-round learning opportunities.

Manchester School District has been allocated a significant amount of federal funding to aid in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We developed a wide-ranging plan to provide additional supports for students and their families and our district staff. This includes the addition of positions, including teaching and student support personnel, as well as clinical service providers and bilingual family liaisons. We have made further investments in staff training and development, and plan to purchase needed materials and resources and upgrade teaching and learning technology. These investments are spelled out in more detail in our ESSER II and III recommendations, which you can find online here at <https://bit.ly/3s2z877>.

We can do this. We must do this. This generation of students will be known for their resiliency and remembered forever in history as the students who attended school during the COVID-19 pandemic, and then rebounded to levels no one could have imagined.