



# **Re-Opening Plan 2021-2022**

August 24, 2021

## Introduction

Next Charter School looks forward to welcoming our students, staff and families back to our schools, onsite, on September 7, 2021. We will continue implementing health and safety measures to maintain the highest possible standard of care as we learn, grow, and connect. Instruction for medically compromised students will be accommodated through the 504 or IEP team process. The information included in this plan is subject to change based on evolving circumstances and guidance from local and state health officials.

As we plan for the 2021-2022 school year, the school will focus on two main priority areas. Results from public input show that student social-emotional well-being and unfinished learning should be prioritized throughout the school year. As recommendations and guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), and the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) adapts to the changing conditions in our community, we will continue to examine these in collaboration with our partner, the Derry Cooperative School District.

### **Guiding Principles for Planning**

- Protect and monitor the health and safety of students and staff.
- Monitor access and support for students to meet their academic and social-emotional health needs.
- Identify and address unfinished learning through targeted instruction and support.
- Continue to provide 1:1 technology devices to support learning and instruction.
- Maintain a strong communication system between families and Next Charter School.
- Enhance cleaning and sanitization protocols to meet the most recent recommendations and guidance.
- Monitor national, state, and local mandates, emergency orders, recommendations and guidance.

### **National, State and Local Guidance**

- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS)
- New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS)
- New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE)
- State of New Hampshire Governor
- Center for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
- Derry Cooperative School District (DCSD) plans and guidance

2021-2022 Plan Overview

<p><b>Completely Open/Onsite</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● School facilities are open to all students, staff and families with health and safety measures in place.</li> <li>● Instruction is delivered in person, onsite at Next Charter School.</li> <li>● Instruction for medically compromised students will be accommodated through the 504 or IEP team process.</li> <li>● Instruction for students suffering from the effects of COVID-19 or quarantining will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health &amp; Safety</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Continuously review guidelines from NH DPHS, CDC, AAP, NH School Nurse Association and available medical literature on COVID-19.</li> <li>● Collaborate with state and local health experts, including close coordination with the Derry Cooperative School District.</li> <li>● Implement appropriate mitigation protocols and adjust practices as needed.</li> <li>● Communicate with staff and families in providing guidance on return to school after illness or exposure based on NH DHHS/DPHS current guidelines.</li> <li>● Remind families to participate in daily home health screening of their children before sending them to school.</li> </ul>
<p><b>School Environment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social distancing of a minimum of 3 feet, with the ideal being 6 feet should be maintained, whenever possible, but cannot be guaranteed.</li> <li>● Instruction for hand washing and hygiene protocols are communicated clearly.</li> <li>● Regular cleaning and disinfecting of facilities will continue.</li> <li>● Maximizing the use of outdoor learning spaces and activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Classroom Design</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In alignment with the DCSD, face covering procedures will be determined based on the decision matrix outlined in <a href="#">Appendix A</a>.</li> <li>● Chairs, desks, and tables are arranged so that, where possible, students are spaced at least 3 feet apart.</li> <li>● Efforts are made to minimize student-to-student sharing of materials.</li> </ul>

## 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://docs.google.com/document/d/1QnmmbISimBi08HD\\_mACQcbjwuCU0zT1wTfq6NhqaOOo/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1QnmmbISimBi08HD_mACQcbjwuCU0zT1wTfq6NhqaOOo/edit)

Description: We have posted our return to school plan on our website: [www.nextcharterschool.org](http://www.nextcharterschool.org) > Quick Links > Re-Opening Plan 2021-2022

2. Before making the plan publicly available, the school sought public comment on the plan and took such comments into account in the development of the plan: Yes

Description: Next surveyed students, staff, parents, and board members for comment and feedback prior to making revisions and posting the finalized plan online.

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

Description: The plan follows the template provided by the NH Department of Education.

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

Description: The plan is written in English. We have not received any requests for translation of this plan or any other school document.

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: Yes

Description: Upon request, we will make this plan available in another format.

## Health and Safety

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

In 2020-2021, Next:

- continuously reviewed guidelines from NH DPHS, CDC and available medical literature on COVID-19,
- collaborated with state and local health experts,
- implemented appropriate mitigation protocols and adjusted practices as needed,
- communicated with staff and families in providing guidance on return to school after illness or exposure based on NH DHHS/DPHS current guidelines,
- reminded families to participate in daily home health screening of their child before sending them to school, and
- required that students and staff wear masks and practiced social distancing in accordance with local, state and federal recommendations.

In 2021-2022, Next will:

- align face covering protocols with the DCSD,
- continuously review guidelines from NH DPHS, CDC, AAP, NH School Nurse Association and available medical literature on COVID-19,
- collaborate with state and local health experts,
- implement appropriate mitigation protocols and adjust practices as needed,
- communicate with staff and families in providing guidance on return to school after illness or exposure based on NH DHHS/DPHS current guidelines, and
- remind families to participate in daily home health screening of their child before sending them to school.

2. The school'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
    - i. 2020-2021: Yes
    - ii. 2021-2022: Yes, in accordance with face covering decision matrix (Appendix A)
    - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next required students, staff, and visitors to wear masks while inside buildings and outside when 6 feet of separation was impossible. On Monday, June 7, 2021, Next formally relaxed its outdoor mask-wearing requirement in collaboration with the Derry School District. In 2021-2022, Next will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear masks while inside buildings according to our face covering decision matrix and in accordance with DCSD procedures.
  - b. Physical distancing
    - i. 2020-2021: Yes
    - ii. 2021-2022: Yes

- iii. Description: During the 2020-2021 school year Next, to the greatest extent possible, enforced physical distancing requirements of students, staff, and visitors of 3-6 feet. In 2021-2022, Next will continue to enforce, to the greatest extent possible, physical distancing of all community members but will make it clear to students, parents, and staff that 3-6 feet of distance between all individuals will be impossible to maintain at all times.
  
- c. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next installed hand sanitizing stations throughout the classrooms and common spaces and reminded all community members about handwashing practices. In 2021-2022, Next will continue to maintain hand sanitizing stations throughout the classrooms and common spaces and remind all community members about handwashing practices.
  
- d. Cleaning and maintaining of healthy facilities, including improving ventilation
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: Next currently rents space from the Derry Cooperative School District and works collaboratively with the Derry school facilities team to ensure the maintenance of healthy facilities. In 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, Derry has ensured that:
    1. All plans follow [CDC guidance for cleaning and disinfecting](#),
    2. Only [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) approved products](#) are used,
    3. A schedule for cleaning and disinfecting surfaces including high touch areas such as railings, doorknobs, water bubblers/filling stations, and bathrooms are provided to staff,
    4. Appropriate protocols to clean and disinfect if a COVID-19 case is suspected and/or confirmed,
    5. Custodial staff participate in on-going training for enhanced cleaning and disinfection procedures,
    6. Electrostatic sprayers are available for custodial staff to use to disinfect non-porous surfaces, and
    7. Schedule custodial staff, as needed, to be available during the school day for routine cleaning and enhanced disinfecting.
  
- e. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, and/or Tribal health departments
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next followed all recommendations and guidelines provided by NH DPHS in relation to contact tracing with isolation and quarantine. In 2021-2022, Next will continue to enforce all recommendations and

guidelines provided by NH DPHS concerning contact tracing with isolation and quarantining.

- f. Diagnostic and screening testing
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next followed all recommendations and guidelines provided by the NH DPHS in relation to diagnostic and screening testing. Next complied with local guidelines provided by the Derry Cooperative School District concerning diagnostic and screening testing. In 2021-2022, Next will continue to ask families to conduct diagnostic screening of students prior to their arrival in school and will recommend that individuals participate in diagnostic testing and/or quarantining when symptomatic or when they are determined to be close contacts.
- g. Efforts to provide vaccinations to school communities
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next participated in and advertised two closed-pod vaccination clinics for staff and students. In 2021-2022, Next will continue to support and advertise vaccination opportunities to members of the school community.
- h. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next made accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies including, but not limited to, the use of alternative face coverings and alternative grouping of students. Next will continue to make necessary accommodations for children with disabilities in 2021-2022.
- i. Coordination with state and local health officials
  - i. 2020-2021: Yes
  - ii. 2021-2022: Yes
  - iii. Description: In 2020-2021, Next coordinated with state and local health officials by participating in regular meetings presented by the NH Department of Education and by participating in leadership meetings with the Derry Cooperative School District. Next will continue to coordinate with NH state officials and members of the Derry leadership team.

## Continuity of Services

1. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing student academic needs:
  - a. 2020-2021 Description: Next continued to provide academic instruction throughout the pandemic to all students. During the winter months, when infection rates were the highest, Next prioritized in person instruction to students with the greatest academic needs. Next offered flexibility to students and families throughout the year to ensure that individuals could receive instruction through in person, hybrid, and remote learning opportunities. Next provided academic tutoring to all students, prioritizing those students with evidence of the greatest learning loss.
  - b. 2021-2022 Description: Next will continue to provide in person instruction for all students. Next will continue to offer academic tutoring to all students, prioritizing those students with evidence of the greatest learning loss.
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:
  - a. 2020-2021 Description: Next planned and implemented a curriculum that emphasized the social-emotional needs of all students. Next organized regular team building and social learning activities through the implementation of “community days.” Next planned smaller field trips for all students to support and encourage healthy social interactions. All Next students had access to free breakfast and lunch in the 2020-2021 school year.
  - b. 2021-2022 Description: Next will return to regular social-emotional learning activities aimed at supporting the social, emotional, mental, and other health needs of all students. This programming includes daily community meetings, regular field trips, and team building activities. All Next students will continue to have access to free breakfast and lunch in the 2021-2022 school year.
3. The LEA has provided continuity of services in addressing staff social, emotional, mental, and other health needs:
  - a. 2020-2021 Description: The Next staff met twice per week to collaborate and problem-solve the challenges posed by the pandemic. Next provided professional development and training to staff at the start of the pandemic about the impact of the virus and how it is transmitted. Next decreased teacher workload by restructuring the academic day. Next allowed individuals to work from home when necessary.
  - b. 2021-2022 Description: Next will continue to facilitate regular staff meetings to support collaborative work. Next organized whole-group, small group, and individual activities during the summer of 2021-2022 in order to support teacher readiness for the upcoming school year.

## 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**

Description: Next will seek input from stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, and board members at least every 6 months. This plan has been reviewed prior to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and will be again within 6 months.

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**

Description: Next will continue to use survey data to inform changes to the plan. Next will post board meeting agendas publicly on its website and invite comments from the public at board meetings.

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**

Description: Next will continue to revise its plan in accordance with federal regulatory requirements and/or in accordance with CDC safety recommendations. Next will meet regularly with local and state officials to ensure recommendations and regulations are shared publicly and considered in any changes to the plan.

## Authorization



Superintendent Signature

August 24, 2021

Date

## Appendix A

### Appendix: Face Covering Decision Matrix

**Decision Matrix:** Recommendations for use of face coverings indoors based on the level of community transmission and COVID-19 transmission within Derry Cooperative School District facilities.

Face Covering Decision Matrix				
		Level of Community Transmission		
		Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases within District	Sporadic cascades without evidence of transmission within district facilities	Optional <sup>1</sup>	Optional <sup>1</sup>	Universal <sup>3</sup>
	Single cluster within a district facility	Targeted <sup>2</sup>	Targeted <sup>2</sup>	Universal <sup>3</sup>
	Multiple clusters or a larger outbreak within district facilities	Universal <sup>3</sup>	Universal <sup>3</sup>	Universal <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Face coverings are optional in all district facilities.

<sup>2</sup> Face covering use is “targeted” in the setting of a cluster/outbreak for a specific group of individuals and time limited if a cluster/outbreak is small and confined (work with public health).

<sup>3</sup> Face coverings are universal in all district facilities.

(Adapted from State of New Hampshire School & Childcare Toolkit 2021-2022 School Year, August 2021)