

Plainfield School District

COVID Management Plan

Plainfield Elementary School's plan for school in the midst of a pandemic.

Plainfield School District

August 2021

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IMPORTANT NOTE: This plan is based on the best information we have at this time. Changes could be made very quickly.

We Believe...

- The safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is our highest priority
- Schools serve numerous, important roles in a community and it is our responsibility to support our students
- The best place for students is in school – being out of school can have a negative impact on learning and social connection for our students
- The COVID-19 pandemic continues and we – staff, students, families and the community – will need to be flexible and adapt our protocols/procedures/models of learning as necessary to ensure the best possible support and safety for the learning environment
- We have an obligation to provide a learning experience that is equitable for all students
- COVID-19 case numbers can change quickly and we need to adjust accordingly. In an effort to keep the school open for in person instruction, please maintain a heightened awareness of the risks COVID poses to our community. Community behaviors have a direct impact on our ability to keep the school open for in person instruction.

Summary

Since March 2020, when COVID-19 reached New Hampshire we have been learning about how to live with the virus.

We believe that schools are the core of our community and the impact of stay-at-home orders upended students, families and staff. In addition to academic learning, schools provide social emotional learning, athletics, extracurricular activities, meals, family support, counseling, medical care, learning resources, companionship, a place for congregation, socialization, along with a sense of belonging.

Our focus continues to be on the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students while providing a high-quality in person education. Student and staff safety remain the primary factor in developing recommendations, based upon the recognition that various mitigation efforts can be effective in reducing risk, but cannot entirely eliminate it. Our school district will be using the following documents as resources for planning and decision making: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#) the [NH School Nurses Association Best Practices Plan](#), the [New Hampshire K-12 Back to School Guidance](#), the [DHHS Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions](#), the [State of New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) School and Childcare Toolkit 2021-2022 School Year](#) and the [DHHS New Hampshire COVID-19 Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#).

Recommendation

The district believes that returning to as much normalcy as possible is important for both the physical and mental health of staff and students, as well as learning. At this time, the recommendation is to return to full in person learning, reduce a number of the mitigation strategies we implemented last year, and focus on working together to keep our students, staff and community safe.

We are also fortunate that the taxpayers have supported high quality air filtration systems, and that we have the space and grounds to utilize and repurpose for optimal distancing and outdoor instruction. We have made additional upgrades to our facility to increase the safety and wellness of all staff and students and limit the threat of illness. We have installed touch free items, such as paper towel dispensers, soap dispensers and faucets, and we have purchased additional sanitization equipment and supplies.

The instructional model at Lebanon High School is determined by the Lebanon School Board and all questions regarding high school can be directed to the Lebanon School District. Transportation for PES students to/from Lebanon High School will continue.

It is important to stress that this is the recommendation TODAY. The recommendation could change quickly based on federal, state or local orders, increases in COVID-19 cases, staffing or supply issues.

General Overview of Learning Model

Please note: Compliance is a communal responsibility and of utmost importance in staying open and avoiding an outbreak. Please follow all safety guidelines and precautions outside of school as recommended by the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Safety Protocols for In Person Instruction

The district will continue to use a variety of tactics to keep our students and staff as safe as possible. PPE and protective supplies will be provided for the nurse, custodial staff and others who are at direct risk due to interaction and/or contact with individuals who are symptomatic or cleaning spaces throughout the building, increasing risk of exposure.

Masks

- Mask wearing is required for staff, students and visitors indoors.
- Mask wearing is optional for staff, students and visitors outdoors.
- Students must wear masks on buses at all times.
- Parents are expected to wash masks after each use.
- Disposable masks should be discarded at the end of each day and not reused.
- Every family is encouraged to purchase at least three reusable masks for each child and label them.

Screening/Symptoms

- Parents should complete a [health screening](#) for each child before leaving the home **every** morning. We will no longer require daily screening results submission to the school.
- Staff will continue to monitor students throughout the day and will report any symptoms to the school nurse.
- Students and staff must stay home if they are ill, have a fever or any **new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19**.
- Report any sick child absences to the school nurse and discuss need for testing.

- Staff and students are required to exercise proper hand hygiene (handwashing and/or sanitizing) before and upon arrival to school, before and after eating, after bathroom use, after sneezing, blowing nose or coughing, before putting on and after taking off masks, upon entering/exiting classrooms, and before dismissal.
- Parents need to have alternative plans if their child needs to be picked up with short notice due to illness.

Class Setting

- Sharing of objects will be permitted.
- Classrooms of students (cohorts/pods) will be able to mix with other students during lunch, recess or other settings.
- Whenever practicable, learning will happen outside.
- Whenever possible, 3' of social distancing will be maintained.
- Parents must prepare students for all weather conditions -- students will be going outside during rain, wind, snow, sun, and extreme temperatures -- they will get wet, dirty, sweaty, etc.
- As with any natural environment, there is potential for bug bites or other skin irritations, please plan accordingly.
- There is also potential for sun exposure, please plan accordingly.

Building & Grounds

- Classrooms have only necessary furniture to allow for spacing desks 3' apart.
- High-contact surfaces and areas are cleaned frequently, including desks, tables, bathrooms, door handles and railings.
- Teachers and students have access to cleaning supplies to be able to clean surfaces at their discretion.
- Outdoor instruction is encouraged.
- The Plainfield School has a highly rated air filtration system that has undergone recent upgrades.
- The custodial team has a daily disinfectant/sanitizing schedule.
- The district installed touchless water faucets, touchless paper towel dispensers, and touchless soap dispensers in all bathrooms and touchless hand sanitizer dispensers around the building.
- All cleaning and disinfecting supplies meet the approved EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2.

Food Service

- Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch continue to receive meals as they have in the past.
- Lunch continues to be eaten in classrooms or outside, maintaining social distancing guidelines.
- Bagged lunches are available for purchase from the Abbey Group.

Transportation

- Masks are required at all times on the bus.
- Buses will operate at full capacity.
- Policies related to transportation of students are still in effect

Screening Protocols

- The school nurse is the District's COVID-19 contact.
- We follow the guidance from the [NH Department of Health and Human Services](#) and the [CDC](#) regarding screening, exclusion from school, returning to school, etc.
- Families are strongly encouraged to screen their children for risk factors daily before going to school.
- Staff will be educated about the [symptoms of COVID-19](#) and notify the school nurse with any signs of symptoms that are new or unexplained.
- Any student or staff member with new or unexplained symptoms should contact their health care provider to be tested for COVID-19 and self-isolate at home per the [NH Department of Health and Human Services](#) and the [CDC](#).
- The school has protocols in place to respond to any potential cases of infection.
- Any person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 will be reported immediately to the department of public health.
- Any students requiring COVID-19 testing must provide the school nurse with a copy of the negative test result prior to returning to school.
- Staff and students who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must still [isolate](#) at home until they have met criteria for [discontinuation of isolation](#).
- Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (e.g. siblings) ARE required to [quarantine](#) if they are NOT fully vaccinated.

- Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 are NOT required to quarantine if they ARE fully vaccinated; however, in accordance with CDC guidance for people who are fully vaccinated, such persons are recommended to get tested 3-5 days following their exposure, and wear a facemask in indoor public settings for 14 days, or until they receive a negative test result
- Non-household contacts should self-observe and monitor for symptoms.

Travel Considerations

- The Plainfield School District follows the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) travel guidelines
- For the most up to date and accurate guidance, please reference the [DHHS Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions](#) and the [DHHS New Hampshire COVID-19 Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#)

Visitors

Visitors will be allowed at the school. They will be required to follow all school protocols in effect at the time of their visit.

Home Education

Any family choosing the homeschool option, will need to follow the rules and regulations of the state law ([NH Home Education rule](#)). Specifically, you will need to provide a letter (email is acceptable) to the school that includes the following information: a list of the names, addresses, and birth dates of all children who are participating in the home education program and the start date of the home education program. The New Hampshire Department of Education also has some [resources available for families regarding home education](#).

Partial/Full Pivot to Remote

Despite our best efforts to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 for in person instruction, we may experience a time when the school needs to switch to a fully remote option. The school administration will follow any directives given by an Executive Order or the Public Health Department.

Special Services

Special Education

- IEPs will continue to be implemented for students on a case-by-case basis.
- IEP team meetings will be held remotely either via video streaming or teleconference.

Section 504

- Section 504 Plans will continue to be implemented.
- 504 team meetings will occur remotely either via video streaming or via teleconference.

The Plainfield School District takes the health and safety of its students very seriously. For this reason, when determinations are made that affect “all students” it will be understood that this includes students who have educational disabilities, accommodation plans or other unique needs.

Social and Emotional Learning Support

The district is committed to supporting staff, families and students during this pandemic. The school counselor will lead the delivery of resources and will coordinate with other staff members and agencies to ensure needs are met.

Support teams will offer:

- Resources such as videos, contacts, and local supports.
- Frequent contact home for students who need additional supports.
- Connect with community health partners for appropriate supports in a coordinated and efficient way.
- Parents and guardians should reach out to the school counselor if they note anxiety in their child or need support.
- Social emotional instruction will happen during the school day to the extent possible.
- Students receiving services from Counseling Associates will continue to receive services.

Extracurricular Activities

Participation in extracurricular activities will be completely optional and a family decision. We expect to offer all of our typical extracurricular activities, including athletics, and will follow the same guidelines as during the instructional day. As new data and guidelines emerge, the School Board reserves the right to revoke permission for all extracurricular activities. A drastic increase in local COVID cases or uncontrolled spread within our school or surrounding areas are only two of many contributing factors that may require the Superintendent to cancel activities at any time.

After School Care

We hope that we will once again be able to offer families the Camp Coniston after school care program and will follow the same guidelines as during the instructional day.

Appendix

Taskforce Members

K-4	Abby Harrington
5-8	Jen Frederick
Special Education	Elisabeth Cairns
Facilities	Janna Downs & Bill Knight
Unified Arts	Josie Wolfinger
At Large Staff	Viki Bridge
PEA/PSSA	Mindy Taber & Leah Stone
Superintendent	Cory LeClair
Business Administrator	Beth Bierwirth
Student Services Director	Amy Dressler
Principal	Audra Bucklin
School Board/Parent	Jenny Ramsey & Victoria Ramos-Glew

PTA/Parent	Betsy Underhill
Health Consultant	Lindsay Bergeron
Additional Parents	Ryan Boynton, Emily Sands, Kassi Sarantopoulos, Olivia Campbell, Michael Daily

Resources

Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)

NH Department of Health
& Human Services

[DHHS Novel Coronavirus 2019 \(COVID-19\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[DHHS New Hampshire COVID-19 Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance](#)

NH Department of
Education

[New Hampshire K-12 Back to School Guidance](#)

American Academy of
Pediatrics

[COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#)

NH School Nurses
Association

[NH School Nurses Association Best Practices Plan](#)