

# **SAU 70**

# **School Opening Plan**

# **2021-22**



Safety is PRIORITY #1

Based on the current local COVID-19 data, we propose opening fully in the fall with no virtual option. We will continue to monitor data throughout the year and update recommendations and requirements as necessary. We will meet as a Pandemic Response Committee on an as-needed basis this year. If changes in the progression of coronavirus infections occur, we will revert back to the three distinct learning models prepared by the Task Force last year with each linked to medical situations within our community.

**WE BELIEVE THAT OUR LOCAL EPIDEMIOLOGY SUPPORTS A PLAN TO RETURN TO FULL IN-CLASSROOM EDUCATION, WITH APPROPRIATE SAFETY MEASURES.**

These safety measures include these District Wide Expectations:

1. **Masks.** We recommend mandatory cloth or medical masks **for all students and staff.** Masks with exhalation valves are not allowed. Masks will be required for the first two weeks of school, and then the Committee will reassess. We will examine local and state transmission and infection rates, as well as vaccination rates of 80%. Accommodations should be made for those who cannot wear masks due to medical conditions. Where appropriate, eye protection/face shields in addition to masks should be used by staff where there is a likelihood of exposure to individuals with incomplete adherence to masking.
2. **Buses.** All students and staff will be required to wear masks on buses. Masks continue to be required on all public transportation. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available on buses. All windows on the bus will be open to maximize airflow when possible.
3. **Physical Distancing.** The Committee supports guidelines recommending social distancing of three feet when possible. Based on the most recent data, the demonstrated benefit from physical distancing occurs in the first three feet. The most important time for physical separation will occur when masks are removed, such as snack time and lunch time.
4. **Stay at home if you are sick.** It is extremely important to continue the practice of remaining home when experiencing any adverse symptoms. Students, staff and guardians are asked to complete a temperature and health check at home using the checklist below. Nurses will check on students and staff at school when warranted.

5. **Hand washing.** Focus will remain on frequent hand washing and sanitizing. Schools will offer and promote frequent hand washing and the use of hand sanitizers, especially in instances where students share objects and equipment with others, after using the bathroom, upon returning to a classroom, and prior to eating. Hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the school, in hallways and in classrooms.
6. **Cleaning and Disinfecting.** Each school will create a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting, employing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and state guidelines. All cleaning and disinfecting supplies will meet the approved EPA List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2. Teachers will have access to safe and appropriate supplies for use in their classrooms to clean surfaces as necessary. Playgrounds and athletic fields will be handled accordingly.
7. **Visitors/Volunteers.** We will allow fully vaccinated visitors and volunteers into the buildings at this time as long as an appointment is made prior to the visit. Visitors and volunteers will be properly vetted upon entering the building, and must follow all COVID-19 protocols.

There are of course many other risk reduction efforts the schools will be taking, such as the use of ventilation and outdoor spaces where possible.

**Daily at Home Health Check for Students and Staff:**

IF I/My Child is experiencing any of the following symptoms you must stay home:

- Temperature of 100.4 or higher
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or Difficulty Breathing
- Chills or Repeated Shaking with Chills
- Congestion or runny nose
- Muscle Pain
- Headache
- Sore Throat
- New Loss of Taste or Smell
- Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea

Please notify the school of any of these symptoms. Students or staff experiencing any of these symptoms at school will be sent home. Students and staff may return to school after 24 hours of being temperature free without medication.

## Additional Guidelines

### Travel Restrictions:

Students and adults should follow their home state mandates relating to travel restrictions and required quarantine regulations. The latest information can be found using the following links:

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/response/coronavirus-covid-19/traveling-vermont>  
[Bureau of Infectious Disease Control NH COVID-19 Employer Travel, Screening, and Exclusion Guidance June 17, 2021](#)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

### Exposure to COVID-19:

- Those who have been vaccinated do not need to quarantine.
- If unvaccinated and a close contact living within the same household, you must stay home and quarantine for 10 days (NH) or 14 days (VT) from last exposure. Get tested 5-7 days after your last exposure to a person with COVID-19. Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure.
- Contact tracing will not occur in schools this year. Students and staff exposed to others with COVID-19 in school will not need to quarantine.
- SAU 70 will not notify families of COVID-19 cases in the school unless a cluster of cases occurs.

## SCHOOL OPERATIONS

1. All students and staff are required to stay home when sick or presenting with any of the symptoms as named by the NH & VT Department of Health Guidelines and listed above.
2. Students and staff who are not able to attend school due to illness, should report their symptoms to the front office.
3. Students and staff should be excluded from school property and grounds until they are no longer considered contagious. (Students and staff are no longer considered contagious when - a note is received from a health care provider with confirmed alternative diagnosis and no fever for 24 hours without medication and respiratory symptoms are improving).
  - a. While at home, students and staff should continue to work if possible.
  - b. Students and staff with a fever greater than 100.4 F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g. Advil, Tylenol).

- c. Should a student or staff member show symptoms of illness, siblings and students in their cohort do not need to be sent home if they are asymptomatic and the child has not yet been diagnosed with COVID-19.
  - d. Follow the guidelines established by the VDH & NHDHHS & CDC if a student or staff is confirmed positive with COVID-19.
  - e. Refer anyone sent home with COVID-19 symptoms to their healthcare provider; based on the healthcare provider's findings, Return To School (RTS) steps will be determined.
4. For students with special health and educational needs, school nurses will be a part of the planning for students in these high risk populations and their return to in person learning - especially those with special health needs.

### Hand Hygiene

1. All students and staff are expected to practice effective hand hygiene at the following times; arrival at school, before and after eating, after using the restroom, after coming in contact with bodily fluid, before and after handling facial coverings, after playing outdoors, and before switching locations.
2. Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If hands are not visibly dirty alcohol-based hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol can be used if soap and water are not readily available.
3. Extensive signage describing handwashing steps near sinks, and in hallways specifically located by hand sanitizing stations will be visible in all school buildings.
4. Consider hand sanitizer and symptom signs at all entry points and classrooms.

### Facial Coverings

1. All staff/students are required to wear facial coverings (without expiratory valves) while in the building. Masks do not need to be worn outside.
2. Students and staff are expected to bring their own clean masks daily to school.
3. "Face Mask Breaks" should be considered in the daily school schedule following the recommendations of AAP and CDC.

Face Masks with clear window panels around the mouth/lips can be considered for teachers who work with students with hearing impairments, speech delays as well as students in the PreK programming in order to support facial expression recognition and speech perception.

### Physical Distancing

In the elementary, middle and high school as per specific school guidelines considering social distancing and PPE.

### Health Office Structure

1. All schools are required to have a health office as the school's clean office space to accommodate medication administration, triage students, health screenings, etc..

## Resources Used

[NH Department of Health and Human Services](#)

[VT Department of Health of Human Services](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[COVID 19 School and Community Resource Library](#)

## **Transportation**

Busing will be used for student transportation, following CDC/Public Health guidelines. Masks will be required for all riders, regardless of vaccination status. Students will need to self monitor for any signs of sickness and not ride when symptoms are present. We will **no longer** be utilizing monitors, student tracking or assigned seating. Students may ride together sharing a seat. Younger students will be asked to sit in the forward section of the bus.

All windows on the bus will be opened to maximize airflow when possible. Buses will maintain an enhanced cleaning and sanitization schedule by the transportation vendor - Student Transportation of America. Masks and hand sanitizer will be available on all buses.

Special education transportation will be managed in a manner similar to and consistent with regular education. Exceptions and other arrangements will be made for students who, for medical reasons, may not be able to wear a mask.

## **Facilities Ventilation, Cleaning and Preparation**

All HVAC system filters have been removed and replaced per the manufacturer's specifications and preventative maintenance schedule. In order to improve air filtration and overall air quality, air filters will be routinely monitored and changed on a regular basis. In areas where filters may not be able to be upgraded due to building/system constraints, other means will be used including window fans and individual HEPA filtration units to enhance air filtration. Additionally, systems will be adjusted to maximize outdoor air intake which will increase the amount of fresh air circulating throughout the rooms. Filters will be checked, cleaned, and/or changed more frequently. ASHRAE and CDC standards are being consulted.

Each school's custodial team will implement a cleaning and sanitizing plan for day and night crews based on educational models being followed (cohorting vs. increased student movement). Custodial staff time will be adjusted to include more "disinfectant crews" during the day. These crews will prioritize cleaning and disinfecting centrally located, high traffic flat surfaces and touch points (doorknobs, handrails). Bathrooms will also be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Additional cleaning supplies will be available in the classrooms so desk areas may be cleaned when necessary. Night crews will prioritize cleaning and disinfecting of classrooms, offices, halls and floors. Second shift custodians will use electrostatic sprayers to disinfect classrooms and other large areas.

## **Whole Child Supports**

Work groups at each of the schools, continue to review guidance documents/resources, share information about current social-emotional learning (SEL) and mental health programs and supports at each school. Targeted areas for increased focus this year have been identified, with particular focus being placed on students returning from remote to in-person learning. Additional areas being addressed are: students with disabilities (Special Education and Section 504), parent/guardian communication, and staff training

around SEL and mental health.

### **Current Status of School Based Planning**

As each school finalizes school-based guidelines and protocols, building administrators will offer opportunities to families to attend virtual meeting sessions and orientations. Additionally, principals will provide updates through their weekly newsletters.

### **Members of the Pandemic Response Committee**

Robin Steiner, Assistant Superintendent  
Jamie Teague, Business Administrator  
Rhett Darak, Director of Student Services  
Joshua Mulloy, Director of Technology  
Lauren Amrhein, Ray School Principal  
Tim Boyle, RMS Principal  
Anissa Morrison, RMS Associate Principal  
Shawn Gonyaw, MCS Principal  
Julie Stevenson, HHS Interim Principal  
Deb Beaupre, HHS Associate Principal  
Elizabeth Murray, HHS Interim Associate Principal  
Dr. Steve Chapman, MD, FAAP, DHMC, Dresden School District Physician  
Dr. Michael Calderwood, MD, MPH, DHMC  
Michael Hinsley, Health Officer, Hanover, NH  
Kathryn Bonyai, School Nurse  
Candace Nattie, School Nurse  
Lynn McRae, School Nurse  
Abigale Pelletier, School Nurse  
Catherine McCarthy, RMS Teacher/HEA President  
Ania White, MCS Teacher  
Tony Daigle, SAU, Facilities Director  
Ryenne Schoonover, SAU, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent  
Amy Tallman, SAU, Human Resources Coordinator  
Karen Wright, SAU, Communications Specialist  
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