

ELM STREET SCHOOL REOPENING SUMMARY

Original - August 5, 2020

Updated - September 2022

Reviewed on January 8, 2024

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Elm Street School was closed to in-person instruction on March 12, 2020, and remained closed through the end of the 2019-2020 school year. During this time, our school community switched to a remote learning model. While this model aimed to keep students engaged during this difficult time, we recognize that distance learning can not replace students' experiences in school with their peers and teachers. As we plan for a safe reopening of our school this fall, we will be fully open with in-person instruction while following all CDC standards for food service, health conditions, and transportation.

The Maine Department of Education has released a working draft of its *Framework for Returning to Classroom Instruction*. Using this document as a guide, we have developed a reopening plan that we believe will best address the unique needs of our school community at Elm Street School. While we acknowledge that this pandemic will have a lasting impact on education, we believe it is important that students are able to return to a sense of normalcy as soon as possible. We have developed this plan with one main goal - to deliver safe, quality instruction without losing our sense of what school should be.

- Elm Street School will fully open in September. The school day will run five days a week, from 8:00-2:30.
- Elm Street School will educate staff, families, and students concerning guidelines and protocols.
- There is no mask mandate at this time. Each family will make the best decision for their child.
- Parents are encouraged to transport their children as much as possible.
- Physical Distancing
 - Students will enter and exit the building through designated doors based on classroom location.
 - Students will be asked to maintain a minimum distance of three feet.
 - Lunches will be staggered to allow a minimum of three feet between students.
- Handwashing with soap and water will be utilized as much as possible. Hand sanitizer stations will be available at every doorway.
- Restrooms, desktops, surfaces, doorknobs, light switches, etc. will be sanitized multiple times throughout the day.

A complete reopening plan is available by request.