

## **PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES**

The Board recognizes that a pandemic/epidemic is a serious threat that stands to affect students, staff, and the community as a whole. The Board establishes this policy in the event the town/ municipality and/or school district is affected by a pandemic or epidemic. At all times, the health, safety and welfare of the students and staff shall be the first priority. The District shall follow the advice and recommendations of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (“NHDHHS”), the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the United States Public Health Services Centers for Disease Control (“CDC”). .

### **Planning and Coordination**

Planning for a pandemic requires a multi-faceted effort, and school preparedness should include input from a team of individuals to address their specific areas of expertise.

The Superintendent shall designate one or more employees to serve as a liaison between the school district and local and State health officials. This designee is responsible for communicating with health officials to identify local hazards, determine what crisis plans exist in the school district and community, and to establish procedures to account for student wellbeing and safety during such a crisis. The designee shall work with local health officials to coordinate their pandemic/epidemic plans with that of the school district. The Board encourages the designee to become a member of the Health Alert Network through the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services.

The principal and/or school nurse or other designee shall develop a curriculum component to health classes that is designed to teach students about preventing or limiting the spread of communicable diseases.

With fiscal concerns in mind, the district may purchase and store supplies necessary for an epidemic/pandemic response, including but not limited to disinfectant products, face masks, water, examination gloves, and other supplies as recommended by the school nurse.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures and plans for the transportation of students in the event students are released from school early.

### **Response**

In the event anyone within the school is discovered or suspected to have a communicable disease that may result in transmission to other students, faculty, or staff, that person shall be immediately isolated pending further medical examination. The New Hampshire Communicable Disease Control Section of the Department of Health and Human Services shall be notified immediately.

### **Infection Control**

In instances when a student or staff member is found to be infected with an infectious or communicable disease susceptible to risk of transmission, response will be in accordance with Policy EBCG.

Consistent with State law, the District will not require students or members of the public to wear a facial covering for any purpose while on the school’s property unless required by some other section of the law, or is necessary for a specific extracurricular or instructional purpose.

**Continuance of Education**

The Superintendent will develop a plan of alternate means of educating students in the event of prolonged school closings and/or extended absences. Such a plan may include providing students with assignments via mail, local access cable television, or the school district's website.

The Superintendent is authorized to amend the traditional class schedule and schedule of days. Such a plan may include extending the school day, having school days held on Saturdays, the use of previously scheduled vacation days, and/or extend the school year beyond the previously established end of school year.

***Legal References Disclaimer:** These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

| Legal                            | Description                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Influenza Pandemic Public Health | <u>Information and Resources on Influenza</u> |
| NH Statutes                      | Description                                   |
| RSA 189:10-a                     | <u>Facial Covering Policy for Schools</u>     |

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| First Reading:  | August 19, 2026   |
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