



2021-2022
Stay-In-School Recommendation

Laconia School Board
Approved on August 17 and September 1, 2021
Revised on February 15th, 2022

Priorities



- ❖ **Providing safe, in-person learning every day of the school year is a priority of the Laconia School District to support student success in school and to increase opportunities for them in the future.**
- ❖ **Ensure success for every student, every day, in every way**
- ❖ **Build on past successes and lessons learned**
- ❖ **Maintain health and safety in our schools**
- ❖ **Use flexibility when circumstances related to COVID-19 change based on data**

Vaccinations

- ❖ Inform the school community of vaccination opportunities
- ❖ The Center for Disease Control and New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services continue to promote vaccinations as an important layer of protection against COVID-19
- ❖ People 5 years old and older can receive a vaccine for free at various sites
- ❖ See <https://www.vaccines.nh.gov> to register for a vaccine
- ❖ Vaccinations are a choice
- ❖ If you have questions or concerns, contact child's school nurse or doctor

Daily Screening

- ❖ Staff, students and families will conduct daily Covid-19 self screenings
- ❖ “(E)xclud(e) and (test) people with new signs/symptoms of a viral syndrome (e.g., fever, chills, body or muscle aches), or respiratory viral infection (e.g., sinus congestion, sore throat, runny nose, cough)” (NH-DHHS)
- ❖ Encourage testing when a person experiences new and/or unusual symptoms
- ❖ Stay home when sick
- ❖ If there are questions about a child’s health, contact the school nurse or doctor

Health and Cleaning Protocols

- ❖ Wash hands frequently
- ❖ Cough and sneeze into the inside of your elbow
- ❖ Educate staff and families on proper hand-washing
- ❖ Clean high contact surfaces frequently
- ❖ Deep clean, including fogging, in spaces with positive cases

Ventilation

- ❖ Rist-Frost-Shumway (RFS) conducted air quality assessments in the district last year.
- ❖ Air exchanges rates are excellent in the elementary schools, the Middle School, and in the Huot.
- ❖ Portable air exchange units were purchased and will continue to be used in some spaces at LHS and the SAU to increase air exchange rates
- ❖ Continue to work on improving air quality in spaces at LHS and the SAU

Teaching and Learning

- ❖ 16 extra staff positions have been approved to support students this year using ESSER funds (interventionists, extra teachers, College and Career exploratory teacher at LMS, Student Learning Coordinator at LHS, etc.)
- ❖ Google Classroom will be used by teachers for students as a platform for communication and for students to access class information and assignments
- ❖ There will be no remote division. Families who want to access remote opportunities can access the [Virtual Learning Learning Academy \(VLACS\)](#)

Masks and Physical Distancing

- ❖ Mask usage is optional when indoors and when 6 feet of physical distance between people cannot be maintained
- ❖ The district will continue to follow the guidelines on First Student Transportation busses
- ❖ At this point, the federal transportation mandate requires masks on busses, including First Student Transportation busses, through to March 18th

- ❖ “...(M)aximize physical distance to the extent possible between everybody with an ideal goal of at least 3 feet of separation” (from NH-DHHS)

Gatherings and Visitors

- ❖ **Visitors will be allowed in the buildings providing they are presenting no Covid-19 symptoms upon approval of the administration**
- ❖ **Large-scale, indoor events may be limited or modified if physical distancing is a challenge. This includes concerts, assemblies, etc.**
- ❖ **Lunches will be held in the cafeteria and in other spaces as needed so that students can adequately physically distance to the greatest extent possible between everybody with an ideal goal of at least 3 feet of separation**
- ❖ **IEP, 504, and other staff-parent meetings can be held either in-person or remotely at the parent's request**

Considerations for Mask Usage from NH-DHHS

Schools and childcare programs can recommend or require facemasks. Decide with your community how to implement face masks to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 based on:

1. *Community transmission*
 - a. State
 - b. County
 - c. City
2. *Number of cases of COVID-19 occurring within your school or childcare facility, and the presence of clusters/outbreaks*
3. *Your ability to implement other prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, cohorting, etc.). For example if you can separate children who are indoors by 6 feet, or activities are outdoors, masks may not be as important*
4. *Level of COVID-19 vaccination within your school population, or within the surrounding town/city (see Vaccination Data Dashboard) – we recommend a goal of at least 80% of the population fully vaccinated (The district is using the 70% as a target)*

Considerations for Mask Usage

1. Mask usage is optional in the Laconia School District
2. Masking will be required in accordance with [the most recent quarantine and isolation guidelines](#) issued by NH-DHHS
3. If a cluster or an outbreak occurred, targeted masking for 10 days will be a response of the district.
 - a. Cluster: (3) or more cases involving individuals within a specified core group
 - b. Outbreak: (2) or more unrelated clusters within a school
4. The district will work with NH-DHHS if further guidance is required
5. If the vaccination rate in Laconia reaches 70 percent, the district will consider not shifting to a mask requirement
6. The district will follow any new guidelines that come from NH-DHHS

Quarantine and Isolation (updated Jan. 10, 2022)

- ❖ See the NH-Department of Health and Human Services (NH-DHHS) updated [“Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines for the General Public.”](#) which came out on January 6, 2022.
 - **Isolation:** If you test positive for Covid-19, you must isolate for 5 days after the date of the positive test or the date of symptom onset (whichever came first).
 - You may then return to school "if you are fever-free (without medication) for at least 24 hours, and other symptoms are improving."
 - You must "(w)ear a well-fitted mask when around other people" for 10 days from the date of the positive test.
 - **Quarantine:** If you are a household contact who is unvaccinated or not “up to date” on receiving all recommended Covid-19 vaccine doses, you must quarantine at home for 5 days from the last date of contact of the positive case.
 - This could mean your quarantine would last for up to 10 days (or more depending on whether symptoms develop or you end up testing positive).
 - You must "(w)ear a well-fitted mask when around other people" for 10 days after the date of exposure.
- ❖ DHHS could expand quarantine to non-household contacts to control a potential outbreak

NH-DHHS Reporting Requirements

The February 7th NH-DHHS [“Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools and Child Care Facilities”](#) guidance relaxes the reporting requirements of cases by schools and contact tracing. The document states: “NH DHHS is also no longer asking schools or child care programs to actively conduct contact tracing to identify clusters or outbreaks.”

Athletics and Co-Curriculars

- ❖ Full play / participation with no restrictions is planned at this point
- ❖ The Superintendent will work with the athletic directors and principals to determine if schedule changes or cancellations are necessary due to COVID-19 circumstances
- ❖ Winter indoor sports
 - Masks required for fans and student-athletes not participating on bench or sidelines
 - Masks are optional for student-athletes engaged in competition or practice

Laconia School District COVID-19 Dashboard



The dashboard will appear on the [Laconia School District website](#).

Decision-Making Matrix

Level	Transmission		Vaccination Rate			Clusters / Outbreaks in Schools	Building Mitigation
	Belknap County	Laconia	Belknap County	Laconia	Laconia Schools	School	School
Minimal							
Moderate							
Substantial							

Covid-19 data reviewed regularly by the SAU and the School Board

Resources

- ❖ [STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 \(COVID-19\) SCHOOL & CHILDCARE TOOLKIT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Education and Childcare Partner Call \(21 July 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Partner Call \(5 August 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Education and Childcare Partner Call \(11 August 2021\)](#)
- ❖ [Covid-19 New Hampshire site](#)