

Reopening Plan FAQs

These questions and answers are related to the 2021-2022 Reopening Plan that was shared in August 2021. Responses were completed by the SRSD Administrators and align to NH DHHS guidelines available at the time.

1. What type of support will students receive when under isolation if they are Covid positive or have to isolate due to exposure? I understand there is no remote option but what if a student is out on more than one occasion throughout the school year? Will there be any type of support during that time? How will they make up tests or assignments due? And what accommodations will be made to allow them to catch up should they need to?

Students will receive work to complete at home, posted to SeeSaw or Google Classroom. Teachers will look over the work when it is complete and/or turned in. Tests or other assignments will be made up when they return to class.

Students in need of further services/accommodations because of IEPs or 504s will be made on an individual basis through the IEP/504 team process. Families would work with their case manager and the building level Special Education Coordinator to determine which services and accommodations would be provided remotely, if applicable.

2. I have a daughter who is going into eighth grade this year and she has really really really bad anxiety. Last year remote learning was a godsend for us and for her as going to school almost became physically unbearable. I was wondering if you guys have an option at all this year for online learning for the middle school? If not can you point me in the right direction?

Homeschooling or VLACS is the option for students needing full-time online learning. Please contact the principal of the school your child attends for more information on this topic.

3. Am I reading it correctly that staff and students have the choice to wear masks? Is that regardless of vaccination status? Recommended= They have the option?

Masks are recommended, and any student or staff have the option to wear or not, regardless of vaccination status. This is congruent with the guidance of the New Hampshire Department Of Education.

4. There is no mention of students not sharing supplies (think of a child chewing on a pencils eraser then sharing that pencil or putting it back into a community pencil bin.) *I firmly believe that the hand washing protocols and limited sharing of supplies significantly reduced illness among students last year. More so than masks. I respectfully ask the board implement the no sharing of supplies. Especially within our youngest students.

The revised plan addresses this. Shared supplies will be limited as much as possible and those that are shared will be cleaned.

5. Under covid symptoms it states "gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting or diarrhea"
*does this mean the school nurses will stop sending children home when they say they have a stomach ache not combined with nausea, vomiting or diarrhea? Stress often presents itself as stomach pain in young children and this was a huge issue last year for many parents. Additionally, headache was NOT LISTED as a symptom. So my hope is nurses will not be allowed to send a child home this year when complaining of a headache as a "covid symptom".

Our school nurses carefully eliminate other possible reasons for things like stomach aches and headaches, which can frequently be attributed to not eating. If they cannot rule out COVID, students will be sent home to be tested. This decision is made by nurses and is final.

6. Any person with new or unexplained symptoms of covid-19 WILL BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL"
*So if your child gets covid they receive no education for 2 weeks of any kind? If that is a typo or not the intent of the district, it should be edited. Kids are going to test positive. And there should be a plan to educate these children in some way. Test scores are low, graduation rates are high. There in itself is concerning. Let's not make it worse.

As stated in the plan "Any student with even mild symptoms of COVID-19 must **stay home and get tested for COVID-19**. Test results must be shared with the school nurse or school principal."

Approved tests include:

- A PCR-based molecular test
- Antigen testing conducted within an appropriate number of days since symptom onset (these are the rapid tests that can be found in drugstores and completed at home).

7. The plan states if there is no/minimal covid transmission within SRSD towns or the schools, there will be no mask and/or social distancing requirements. So with this plan are we opening as "normal"?

As the plan states, we are opening with masks recommended in buildings, and required on buses per Federal guidelines. Social distancing is still in place, as stated in the "Classrooms & Instructional Spaces" section on page 2.

8. The proposal says masks are "recommended" nowhere does it say masks are "required"but says there will be mask breaks and no masks with low ratesso are masks a parent/kid choice?

The plan has since been clarified. "For all staff and students: masks are recommended. Mask breaks for those wearing masks will be at various points during the day, including lunch and recess."

9. The word “recommended” is confusing - and leaves it too open ended as I am sure you can see.....can we get the masks ruling clarity on the proposal? To be clear/open.....I am for the kids in school 5 days a week with or without masks; just think the Gary area on the term recommended needs to be clearly stated....especially for some parents :)

Masks are recommended. Depending on transmission rates in the community and/or school, they may become required. The decision grids explain this further and a graphic is located on the last page of this document.

10. What’s the difference between a “Household Contact” and a “Non-Household Contact”?

Household contact is any individual who lives and sleeps in the same indoor space as another person diagnosed with COVID-19 , leading to close contact and potential **repeated exposure** to the person with COVID-19. This includes situations where there may be temporary but prolonged exposure such as sleepover events, shared camp, cabins, vacation rentals, dorm living scenarios, etc.
Non-Household Contact are individuals you don’t share the same indoor space with for prolonged periods of time (which causes repeated exposure).

11. Who is responsible for measuring your newly defined community transmission positivity and new cases #'s and what's their data source? Where and how will they be published since they would be custom to our district and not publicly reported?

We will be using the data collected by school nurses combined with the data posted to the DHHS dashboard: <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard>
The district will maintain an ongoing spreadsheet that will be posted to our website (similar to the spreadsheet used last year).

12. Why average new infections over 14 days instead of 7 as the CDC does?

This is how the NH DHHS reports the data, it’s what we have access to, and what we’ll be using combined with the real time data tracked by our nurses.

13. Why not including the towns and states for staff & teachers since that is actually inclusive of our school community?

The larger population in our schools (our students) come from the three sending towns, and will have a bigger impact on our operations.

14. If the answer is it's only within Rockingham county, why not use publicly reported #'s and community transmission category by the CDC? This would be simpler and more transparent since it's publicly reported.

We will use data from the DHHS Dashboard: <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard>

15. Plus one other - why are you proposing removing both masks and distancing as precautions together? The NH DOE toolkit from 8/11/21 on page 6 states that maximum physical distance should be maintained if not masking.

Social distancing is still in place, as stated in the "Classrooms & Instructional Spaces" section on page 2. Ventilation is also being increased in the buildings through various means.

16. Will the mask policy apply to band in the same manner? If masks are optional in class will there be any additional protection for high risk activities inside such as band and chorus?

We will work collaboratively with our music teachers to determine the best practice for band and Chorus. We have not met with them yet.

17. If we start mask-optional, can that change if the virus changes?

Yes, masking can change based on transmission rates. The Decision Grids page of the plan shows how that can happen.

18. There is no remote option anymore, so what support will be given to kids who need to quarantine?

Students will receive work to complete at home, posted to SeeSaw or Google Classroom. Teachers will look over the work when it is complete and/or turned in. Tests or other assignments will be made up when they return to class.

Students in need of further services/accommodations because of IEPs or 504s will be made on an individual basis through the IEP/504 team process. Families would work with their case manager and the building level Special Education Coordinator to determine which services and accommodations would be provided remotely, if applicable.

19. Thanks again for the continuous hard work on these issues! I am curious if students will be able to eat in the cafeteria this year?

Lunches will have social distancing in the cafeteria. Students will have distanced/designated seating.

20. Also, would social distancing and assigned seating be able to loosen up if masks WERE required? I personally would prefer my child wear a mask if it meant that they were able to have a more "normal" experience, work in groups with their peers, etc.

A minimum of 3 feet distancing would still be required for students who have not been vaccinated.

21. As like any parent in this district I fully want all 3 of my children in school full time. Last year I did keep them remote for a good portion of the school year, but they do need to be in school. With the new Delta Variant of Covid on the rise, HOW are we going to Safely keep these kids in school? We know that not everyone chose to get vaccinated which is there on choice.

The Delta variant has proven to be a spoiler for all the things we had hoped for in this new school year. We have done our best to incorporate DHHS guidance with local transmission rate data in developing our plan. Please review the plan as well as the other answers in this FAQ document. Our Plan is congruent with the recommendations of the New Hampshire Department of Education recommendations.

22. Starting the year off in Masks would make the best sense because everything is back on the rise, everyone is/was traveling for summer and it is just safer. To get these kids in school to have an Education have them wear a mask. If desks have shields around them, they can take them off. These are the things we need to be thinking about, how can they sit at their desk without a mask on?

Masks are recommended. Depending on transmission rates in the community and/or school, they may become required. The decision grids explain this further.

23. If we are going to have 'Masks as recommend' how many parents are actually going to send their kids in with masks? If they don't send them in with mask, I can guarantee they are not going to want a phone call that their child need to have a Covid test because they may have been expose. The expectations need to be very clear if you choose not to send your kids to school without masks. What does that mean for exposure? What will quarantine look like? Will kids need masks while switching classes in the hallways? Even though Teachers are vaccinated, if they have symptoms are they going to be sent home to be tested?


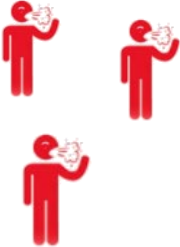
Health testing and isolation will still be in place this year, especially for students under the age of 12 who may have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We are relying on our school community to work with us to help our students have as normal a year as possible as we navigate the third year with this virus.

24. Where are the guidelines from DHHS located online?



They can be found here: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/school-childcare-toolkit-2021-2022.pdf>

When will our students be REQUIRED to mask?

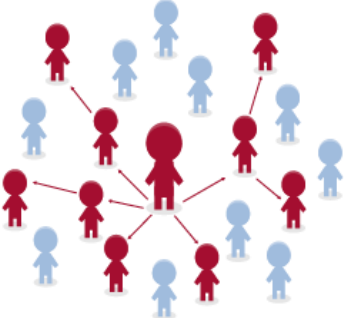
Situation A: A sleepover or party before a long weekend

<p>Sleepover or Party</p> 	<p>No School</p>	<p>No School</p>	<p>No School</p> 	<p>School Day</p> <p>Students in class are not required to mask because infected individuals have not been back to school.</p>
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Situation B: A sleepover or party WITHOUT a long weekend

<p>Sleepover or Party</p> 	<p>No School</p>	<p>No School</p>	<p>School Day</p> 	<p>School Day</p> <p>Students in class will be required to mask for 2 weeks because infected individuals have been back to school and exposed peers.</p>
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Situation C: Grade Level or Wider Transmission

	<p>If a grade level is having transmission between and among individuals, that grade level would need to mask for two weeks.</p> <p>If a school is experiencing transmission between and among individuals, the school would mask for a period in addition to increased cleaning.</p> <p>If the district is experiencing an outbreak with widespread transmission, students will be asked to wear masks while the outbreak is assessed.</p>
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