

Response to Covid

Paul School

Wakefield, NH

Approved, August 17, 2021

UPDATED September 22,, 2021

March 13, 2020, marked the start of events that placed children and their families in jeopardy of lost jobs, health was at risk and isolation put learning and emotional well-being in a compromised position.

Now, nearly 18 months later, much has been learned about the coronavirus and our response to it. As preparations are made for the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the top priority of the Paul School is to keep students and staff safe while being physically present in the school building. The following plan outlines a multi-layered approach to protecting students and staff that reflects the level of infection in our community and county. It is recognized that there continues to be various levels of individual risk and the school will make every effort to accommodate need and help where needed.

In July, 2021, a survey was conducted regarding the level of comfort that families and staff had about covid and school precautions. Below are the results of the highest percentage of responses:

Question	STAFF	FAMILIES
	Percentage	Percentage
For Staff: Mask wearing optional in all places	90.5%	N/A
For Students: Mask wearing optional in all places	81%	54.2%
No special distancing anywhere on school grounds	57.1%	68.3%
Breakfast should be served in the cafeteria	58.5%	67.5%
Lunch served in cafeteria	80.5%	83.3%
I'd like my child to attend school in person	N/A	99.2%
Provide extra support to students struggling emotionally	76.3%	68.5%
Staff would like more professional development regarding students needing emotional support	57.9%	N/A
Restore usual access to the building for visitors and volunteers	59.5%	62.4%

The School Board, Administration, Families, Teachers, Staff, Teachers' Union, Paraeducators' Union, and the bus drivers have all had input into this plan. Although Emergency Order #89 states that all education partners, public and private, are to comply with the DHHS

requirements and the CDC requires a few federal regulations, the decisions made about the Paul School plan comes from those involved with the school.

This document will be amended if there is a change in the number of covid cases in the town and/or county. The CDC's Community Transmission and Community Characteristics will help guide decisions about the levels of protection to use.

Table 1. Level of mitigation needed by level of community transmission and community characteristics

Level of Community Transmission	Community characteristics and description	Level of mitigation
Substantial, uncontrolled transmission	Large scale, uncontrolled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)	Shelter in place
Substantial, controlled transmission	Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)	Significant mitigation
Minimal to moderate community transmission	Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases	Moderate mitigation
No to minimal community transmission	Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting	Low mitigation

K-12 schools are not considered “high risk” locations but we at the Paul School are committed to keeping our students in school, where there is support and encouragement. Communication to all constituents will be timely as we make our way through this pandemic.

THE PROTOCOLS

Let's start with [General Hygiene](#)

1. **Beginning Thursday (Sept. 16),** Masks will be required to be worn in the building. However, they may be removed when seated, socially distanced of at least three feet or are eating. Masks are optional outside. This will be in effect through Friday, September 24th at which point masks may return to optional pending a decrease in cases by that date within our school.

This means that when a student is in the hallway, entering the building, in the front office, etc., a mask is required. When in a classroom, seated and 3' from others, the mask is optional.

This will be in effect until next Friday, the 24th to determine if mask wearing helps to control the number of positive cases that have happened these past few weeks. Informational updates will be made after the 24th.

2. Hand sanitizing will take place throughout the day at specified times.
3. We will continue to teach how to cover coughs and sneezes.
4. Students/staff will stay mindful of distancing when possible.
5. Classroom furniture will be placed in a pre-covid format with a goal of providing 3' distancing.
6. Sharing of materials will be minimized.
7. Classrooms will be disinfected nightly.

What Happens When Someone Is Not Feeling Well?

Response to [Illness/Symptoms](#) has been updated by the NH DPHS. What does that mean for your family?



Last year, there was an extensive list of ailments that required a ten-day quarantine. The NH Department of Public Health has narrowed that list to two types of potential infections - viral or respiratory:

- A **viral infection** would show symptoms of fever, chills, loss of taste and smell, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, sore throat, runny nose/congestion, cough and body aches.
- A **respiratory viral** infection would include sinus congestion, a sore throat, a runny nose and a cough.

If someone is feeling ill with these symptoms, it is important to stay home--this is good practice pre- and post-covid. Anyone showing symptoms of being ill with a viral or respiratory infection, will be sent to the nurse's office for evaluation, will wear a mask, will be kept separate and will be sent home. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4 or greater will be dismissed.

When can someone return who was showing symptoms of a viral or respiratory infection?

1. The person receives a COVID-19 test that is negative, **AND**
2. The person is fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours; **AND**
3. Improved symptoms.

If Untested -

1. Home for 10 days from onset of symptoms **AND**
2. The person is fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours; **AND**
3. Improved symptoms.

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE, YOU MUST CALL THE SCHOOL NURSE AT 522-8891.

It is very important that parents/guardians provide documentation to the school nurse regarding known/chronic/predictable symptoms.

If someone presents with viral/respiratory symptoms during school, and it is unclear (or undocumented in the person's medical record) if the symptoms are new or unexplained, then they will be excluded until they have met the return to school criteria **or** a healthcare provider can document a chronic/stable condition that accounts for the symptoms that are not new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19.

When will a student/staff member be required to **Quarantine?**

1. Anyone who is unvaccinated living with a family member with COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days after being exposed.
2. If you test positive and have symptoms of Covid, you must stay home until at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first started **AND** at least 24 hours have passed since you had a fever (without using fever-reducing medications) **AND** your symptoms are improving.
3. If you have a positive test but have no symptoms, you must stay home until 10 days have passed since the date of collection of your positive test, assuming you don't develop symptoms. If you develop symptoms, then follow the instructions above.



**QUARANTINE
COVID-19**

Are there times when someone **would not** need to quarantine?

of note* The NH Department of Public Health is no longer requiring contact tracing for positive cases in schools. However, families may have a higher level of comfort knowing if their child was in close contact. While not required, families will be notified if their child was a close contact. Additionally, administration from Paul

School will notify families when a positive case has been reported in a classroom but no one will be excluded from school as a result. Families should self-monitor for symptoms as a precaution.

A positive case identified in someone's home will not require a 10 day quarantine for household members if:

- A staff member or student tested positive in the past 90 days. However, they should self-monitor for new or unexplained symptoms.
- Those who are 14 days beyond the second dose of Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or receipt of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., 14 days after full vaccination)--considered "fully vaccinated".

Instruction

1. Paul School is prepared to meet students where they are in their learning and address those lost opportunities as the school year begins. Combined with a sensitivity to the social and emotional needs that have arisen, instruction will be approached in a multi-faceted way. Reading and math programs will be examined, grade level standards will be aligned, benchmark assessments will take place three times a year to monitor growth, targeted interventions will be provided and professional development will be offered to staff.
2. We will utilize Google Classroom and/or Dojo as the sole platform for managing teaching and learning at all grade levels.
 - a. Teachers will utilize Google Classroom to provide remote instruction (e.g. videos/resources) and assignments to students from their class who are engaged in temporary remote learning.
3. Field trips and school events that involve large crowds will be reviewed on a case by case basis to ensure that they can occur in the safest manner possible.
4. Barring an emergency order from the Governor's Office, all decisions to resort to a platform other than in-person instruction will be made in collaboration with the school board, school nursing professionals, school administration, and representatives of school personnel. These decisions will be further informed by the NH Division of Public Health, NH Department of Education, the Office of the Governor, and local public health officers.

Remote Instruction

1. Paul School will not be offering a remote learning option on a long-term basis. Those who may wish to learn remotely should contact the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS).
2. Students in grades 3-8 who are generally in-person but in temporary quarantine will engage in remote learning under the supervision of a teacher at times that work for the student. Assignments will be found on Google Classroom and those who are not experiencing symptoms but are in quarantine, are expected to complete assignments and turn them in upon their return. Teachers can be contacted via Google Classroom or email with any questions.

3. Students in grades K-2 who are generally in-person but in temporary quarantine will receive a packet of work. Materials can be picked up or mailed and completed if the child is not experiencing symptoms.

Meals/Food/Recess

1. Students will eat breakfast in the cafeteria.
2. All grades, except Kindergarten, will eat lunch in the cafeteria.
3. All meals for the 2021-22 school year will be free of charge.
4. Homemade food may be brought in for special occasions.
5. All students will sanitize (or wash) hands before and after lunch. Tables will be washed before and after eating by students with sanitizing materials.
6. Students will not be required to wear masks at recess/outdoors, but will be taught to be socially responsible/distant (as part of the PBIS program). All students and staff will sanitize their hands upon re-entering the school.



Transportation

1. Bus routes and schedules will be communicated via email and the SAU 101 website.
2. Students will have assigned seats.
3. Students will not be limited in their seating. The buses will continue to be cleaned and disinfected thoroughly between runs.
4. When possible, families are encouraged to pick up and drop off their children.

of note* Regardless of the mask policy at school, passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in CDC's Order (per federal guidelines, US Department of Transportation, 2021).



Distancing

1. Student desks will be placed at a 3' distance from each other in the classroom.
2. As a layer of protection, students and staff will be encouraged to keep at 3' distance when possible.

Staff

1. In the event that a staff member must quarantine while his or her students remain in the building, a substitute teacher will supervise students. If the teacher is healthy and in quarantine, the teacher will utilize Google Classroom/Dojo to provide instruction remotely to the students in the building (under the supervision of a sub).

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2. If the teacher is sick or caring for a sick family member and is unable to provide remote instruction, the teacher will provide sub plans and the substitute will carry out the instruction for students.
 3. Staff who are out for covid related reasons will use administrative leave time. This must be approved by the building principal.

Reporting

1. The school nurse and/or principal will immediately report any person suspected or confirmed with COVID-19 to DHHS by calling 603-271-4496.

Nursing

1. The nurse's office is stocked with masks, gloves, and other safety materials.
2. Anyone entering the nurse's office must wear a mask. Masks will be available in the nurse's office.
3. Social distancing will be in effect in the nurse office. (CDC)
 - a. Only two students at a time will be seen.

Social/Emotional Support

1. Paul School will continue to:
 - a. utilize PBIS to model, explicitly teach, and reinforce expectations on a regular basis.
 - b. incorporate best practices for building a positive environment in the classroom (ex, greeting each child as they enter the building/classroom, speaking to students low and slow, giving four compliments to one redirection, validate).
2. The Student Support Team (SST) will provide information to families and establish a Google Classroom for parents to use to gain up-to-date info.
3. Practices that enhance support and encouragement will be reinforced throughout the day in all classes. Teachers will create opportunities that allow students to practice these skills.
4. Special considerations are warranted for students with pre-existing anxiety, depression, and other mental health conditions; children with a prior history of trauma or loss; children with autism spectrum disorder; and students in early education who may be particularly sensitive to disruptions in routine and caregivers.
5. Students facing other challenges, such as poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness, and those subjected to ongoing inequities may benefit from additional support and assistance.
6. We will provide continued staff professional development on trauma informed teaching throughout the school year.

Visitors/Volunteers/Meetings

1. Visitors will be screened using a questionnaire as provided by the CDC/DHHS and have their temperature checked. Anyone with a temp of 100.4 or greater will be immediately dismissed from the building.
 - a. Persons who have come in close contact with someone who has been infected will be immediately dismissed from the building.
 - b. Persons with symptoms of COVID-19 indicated on the screening questionnaire will be immediately dismissed from the building.
2. Substitute Teachers will not be required to wear a mask.
3. All meetings including but not limited to IEP and 504 Team meetings, parent-teacher meetings, activity or athletic meetings, and others can be conducted in person or using an online format such as Zoom or Google Meets. All public meetings such as school board and school board committee meetings will take place in person only.

Sanitizing

1. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers will be installed in all classrooms and at entrances.
2. Students will need to wash/sanitize their hands before eating (snack too when possible).
3. When hand washing is not an option, hand sanitizer should be used instead.
4. Water fountains will be unavailable for any use, except the bottle filler function.
 - a. Students will need to utilize water bottles.
5. Surfaces will be cleaned daily within all spaces.
6. Hallways and common use areas will be regularly sprayed with disinfectant.
7. The school will be disinfected nightly.
8. In the event of a positive covid case in a classroom:
 - a. Areas used by the person who is sick will be closed off.
 - b. If possible, the children remaining in the classroom will be moved to another environment until cleaning protocols can be implemented.
 - c. If possible, wait up to 24 hours or as long as possible before cleaning or disinfection to allow respiratory droplets to settle before cleaning or disinfecting. (CDC)
 - d. Exterior doors and windows should be opened to increase air circulation in the areas.
 - e. Clean and disinfect all areas used by the sick person such as offices, bathrooms and common areas.

Looking Ahead

It is recognized that this virus, and the challenges it presents, is a moving target. As a proactive measure, benchmarks of increased positivity will help to determine when/how changes need to be made. In an effort to keep students, staff, and ultimately our families safe, the following will be used to respond to a changing environment:

A Model for Layering*

Level of Positivity - Carroll County

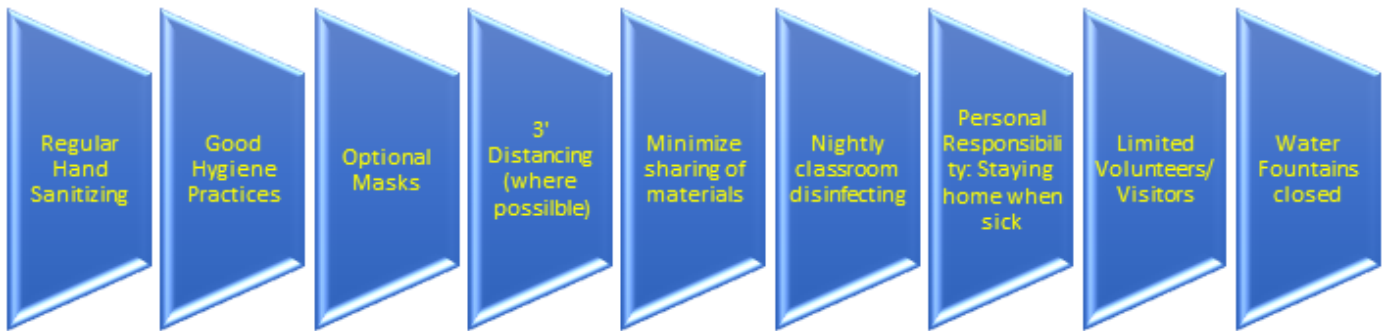
Minimal ≤ 7%	Moderate 7.1%-10%	Substantial ≥10.1%
Optional mask wearing	Optional mask wearing	Masks required inside
3' Distancing in classrooms	3' Distancing in classrooms	6' Distancing in classrooms
In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction	In-Person Instruction with possibility of remote option
Limited shared materials	Limited shared materials	Student assigned materials
Bus seats assigned	Bus seats assigned	Bus seating distanced
Visitors Covid Monitored. In-person meetings for IEP, 504, parent/teacher, etc.	Visitors limited to IEP, 504 meetings. Others remote	Visitors restricted. Meetings done remotely.
Meals in Cafeteria	Meals in Rooms	Meals in Rooms
Students travel to classes and IAs	Teachers travel to classes-student movement restricted	Teachers travel to classes-student movement restricted
Regular Hand Disinfecting	Regular Hand Disinfecting	Regular Hand Disinfecting
Nightly room disinfecting	Nightly room disinfecting	Nightly room disinfecting
Stay home when sick	Stay home when sick	Stay home when sick
Activities such as athletics, after school activities, large group gatherings, field trips, etc. will be examined on a case-by-case basis.		

* These guidelines will be used to determine the appropriate steps to take with changes in positivity.

In Conclusion:

This document provides guidance to respond to Covid in its current state as of August, 2021.

As we approach the start of the school year, the current layers of protection will be:



It is the responsibility of the school and district to maintain a careful watch on community transmission and the occurrence of outbreaks to determine what layers are necessary to respond to the virus. Changes to positivity and infection rates will dictate the steps that need to be taken to keep our school community safe.

References:

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/> American Academy of Pediatrics

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services Education Partner
FAQ COVID-19, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control -23- June 4, 2021

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

The mitigation steps have been recommended by the NH Public Health Department, the CDC and the Academy of American Pediatrics.

Exeter Region Cooperative School Board, August 3, 2021, Exeter, NH

Chronicle of Updates

Date	Original	Changed To	Reason
9-14-21 Page 3	<p>When can someone return who was showing symptoms of a viral or respiratory infection, were untested or who tested negative for Covid-19?: When....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person receives an approved COVID-19 test that is negative, AND the person's symptoms are improving. OR 2. The person is fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours; AND 3. Is symptom free for 24 hours--they may return to school <u>the following school day after the symptom free 24 hours.</u> 	<p>When can someone return who was showing symptoms of a viral or respiratory infection? were untested or who tested negative for Covid-19?: When....</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The person receives a COVID-19 test that is negative, AND the person's symptoms are improving. OR 5. The person is fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours; AND 6. Improved symptoms. they may return to school the following school day after the symptom free 24 hours. <p><u>Untested -</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. <u>Home for 10 days from onset of symptoms AND</u> 5. <u>The person is fever free without the use of fever reducing medication for 24 hours; AND</u> 6. <u>Improved symptoms.</u> <p><u>IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE, YOU MUST CALL THE SCHOOL NURSE AT 522-8891.</u></p>	Updated DHHS guidelines
9-14-21 Pg. 4	<p>The NH Department of Public Health is no longer requiring contact tracing for positive cases in schools. Administration from Paul School will notify families when a positive case has been reported in a classroom but no one will be excluded from school as a result. Families should self-monitor for symptoms as a precaution.</p>	<p>The NH Department of Public Health is no longer requiring contact tracing for positive cases in schools. However, families may have a higher level of comfort knowing if their child was in close contact. While not required, families will be notified if their child was a close contact. Additionally, administration from Paul School will notify families when a positive case has been reported in a classroom but no one will be excluded from school as a result. Families should self-monitor for symptoms as a precaution.</p>	Best practice for families

9-14-21 Pg. 3	Masks will be optional in all areas for all students and staff.	<p>Beginning Thursday (Sept. 16), Masks will be required to be worn in the building. However, they may be removed when seated, socially distanced of at least three feet or are eating. Masks are optional outside. This will be in effect through Friday, September 24th at which point masks may return to optional pending a decrease in cases by that date within our school.</p> <p>This means that when a student is in the hallway, entering the building, in the front office, etc., a mask is required. When in a classroom, seated and 3' from others, the mask is optional.</p> <p>This will be in effect until next Friday, the 24th to determine if mask wearing helps to control the number of positive cases that have happened these past few weeks. Informational updates will be made after the 24th.</p>	High number of positive cases
9-22-21 Pg. 4	Anyone who is unvaccinated living with a family member with COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14 days after being exposed.	Anyone who is unvaccinated living with a family member with COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 14 10 days after being exposed.	NH DHHS Guidelines