

Hooksett School District



COVID 19 – Response Plan 2021 - 2022

Revised on
February 15, 2022

As we look to the 2021-2022 school year, we continue our commitment to a safe and meaningful opening of school that aligns with CDC, state and local health guidelines and recommendations. **The Underhill, Memorial and Cawley schools will open for full-time in-person learning for all students on September 2, 2021.** From our experience this year, we recognize that in-person learning is the best way to provide services to our students to meet their educational needs as well as for staff and student mental health needs. This document outlines our plan for full in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year.

This opening plan was developed in part to satisfy federal COVID related grant requirements, and also to communicate with the Hooksett School community the expectations for the coming school year. The plan will be reviewed by the School Board every six months to ensure we are continuing to deliver the best practices/services for our school community.

The plan was developed from input by the SAU staff, school administration, teachers, school board and parents. The plan was reviewed at the August, 2021 Hooksett School Board meeting for comment and is posted on the district website with an optional survey for comments and suggestions. The survey is open to anyone in our community to take. Our website and school board meetings are open to the public as well.

When planning the best use of the ESSER II / III funds, the Hooksett School Board reviewed the proposal by the SAU in a public meeting in which the community was welcome to attend. Everyone in attendance was welcome to speak to the spending in public comment. The needs identified for ESSER funds include facility needs such as HVAC upgrades, and additional cleaning /disinfecting supplies and personnel; personnel, materials and professional development to identify and fill learning gaps; contracted intervention services; and supports for student and staff mental health.

Our top priority is the safety of everyone in our school buildings. We will continue to collaborate with the NH Department of Health and Human Services in regard to contact tracing, isolation and quarantine as needed. We have found that over the year some of our new procedures have served us well, and we will keep some of them in place as they have assisted us in becoming more efficient, focused and safe.

Screenings

Families and staff will not be asked to report daily screenings; however, both students and staff will be asked to stay home if they have COVID-19 symptoms. It is the responsibility of the family to ensure that students are well when they come to school. Staff and students who have symptoms should also contact their primary care physician for further instructions.

COVID-19 In School

If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the school Principal will notify the NH Department of Health and Human Services. Those who are considered household contacts will be asked to [“self-quarantine”](#) as determined by NHDHHS.

Bus Transportation

Students will continue to be assigned seating on the school buses. Buses will continue to be sanitized between all bus runs. Per [CDC Order](#) passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems. (For more information see [Frequently Asked Questions](#)). Masks will be provided for students who do not have their own.

Parents/Visitors/Volunteers

Visitors will be allowed into the Hooksett schools following protocols; all visitors must sign in upon entering and indicating that they have no signs or symptoms of COVID.

Lunches

Lunches will be served in the cafeteria as long as appropriate spacing can be maintained. We will continue to use the ordering system that will require students who would like to receive school lunch to order lunch in advance based on our provided menu, and that meal will be ready for them once in the cafeteria. This system will allow for better ordering and less food waste throughout the year. This system will still allow the use of the “My School Bucks” payment option.

Physical Activity

Recess is scheduled for students in grades K-5. Students may interact with other assigned cohorts during recess. Our physical education classes will take place in the gymnasium or outside as appropriate. Band and Chorus will resume as normal and may require social distancing as well as instrument shields for additional mitigation. Extracurricular activities will be returning in full, and we will look to Tri-County Athletics for any guidance in sport programs. All other activities will follow school protocols.

Classrooms

Student work stations will be spaced 3’ apart in all grade levels as appropriate. There may be a reduction of classroom furniture if necessary, to accommodate spacing of student workstations. Individual plexiglass dividers will be available in all classrooms for use at the discretion of the teacher. Our intent is to return to a more traditional classroom environment.

Facility Precautions

Frequent cleaning will occur in hallways and bathrooms throughout the day. Night time cleaning will be completed using normal cleaning practices along with spray disinfectant. Our HVAC system filters will be replaced more frequently to help promote clean air. When possible, windows will be opened to help with the circulation of fresh air.

Masks

Any person entering our facilities has the option to wear a mask at any time due to any concerns they may have. The district will provide disposable masks at the entrance of each building. Students and teachers are encouraged to wear a mask if they are feeling sick while at school until they leave the building.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

The Hooksett schools will have signs reminding students and staff of healthy practices such as coughing/sneezing into your elbow, frequently sanitizing/washing hands for at least 20 seconds and staying home when sick. Students and staff will sanitize hands (wash hands or use hand sanitizer) upon arrival to school, when changing location and before and after eating.

Remote Option

Any family that requires a remote option should contact the school principal who will assist them in contacting Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) for enrollment in Grades K-8. If a student is asked to self-quarantine, a remote learning option will be provided during their absence.

The Hooksett School District will continue to utilize NH Department of Health and Human Services for guidance on re-opening protocols, screening, travel, self-quarantine and self-isolation for staff and students, and any other related practices. Our procedures will continue to be updated based on the ever-evolving CDC and NHDHHS guidance; input from educators, students, families, and community partners; and learnings from our own implementation and that of others.

We hope that this plan provides you with information that helps to outline the Hooksett School District reopening in September, 2021. Additional information regarding the 2021-2022 school year will be available in August.

Please go to www.hooksett.sau15.net to comment on the 2021-2022 reopening plan.