



Path to Reopening 2020-21

New Milford Public Schools

DRAFT July 24, 2020

Please note that all plans and items included in this document are subject to change based on requirements and/or advice from the Governor of Connecticut, the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the New Milford Health Department

New Milford Public Schools

Path to Reopening 2020-21

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) created a document entitled [ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together](#) addressing the reopening of schools in-person, which current positive containment efforts indicate can be successfully achieved based upon current data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the operating model (schedule), but districts should be prepared to modify plans as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time after the current period of disruption is critical. **The plan indicated districts should plan to have all students, in all schools, return to schoolhouses for full-time instruction at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year, so long as public health data continues to support this model.** This model will be supported with more intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment, and class cancellation plans. However, given the uncertainty of planning for reopening a month from now, schools must be prepared to modify their reopening models to support a partial reopening if public health data changes.



As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in the document are grounded in six guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of all students and staff;
2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return into the classroom full time starting in the fall;
3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators, and staff; and
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to physical safety and social-emotional well-being for students when they are not in school.

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Path to Reopening: Fall of 2020



In planning for the reopening of the New Milford Public Schools, it has been essential to envision the safest environment and the highest quality instruction for the school community. Based on guidelines provided to school districts from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the State of Connecticut, the **New Milford Public Schools are currently planning for a “full, safe, and appropriate” reopening of all our schools in the fall of 2020.**

A “full” reopening refers to the desire to have all students and all staff return in the fall for a full-length traditional day of school with necessary modifications given the pandemic.

A “safe” reopening refers to adherence to expectations and guidelines from the State of Connecticut, the CDC, local health officials (New Milford Health Department) and other sources that will be in place to ensure that the schools’ environments support learning during this time of COVID-19.

An “appropriate” reopening refers to high standards of academic achievement, along with social and emotional support, that are expected to be in place for all schools and all students.

A central belief in reopening is that the children of New Milford need to be connected in person once again to our schools’ academics, activities, arts, and athletics led in person by their teachers, coaches, and mentors. As the schools reopen in the fall, the plan is to phase in all aspects of school life in the safest and most appropriate manner.

In order to reopen, the **New Milford Public Schools Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Advisory Team** has been reviewing the reopening guidelines from the State of Connecticut and providing feedback regarding expectations for the district to assist each of our schools in their efforts to plan for the fall of 2020. This document, *Path to Reopening 2020-21*, is a draft and a means to communicate with the stakeholders the initial plans of New Milford Public Schools in response to the expectations from the State regarding the reopening of schools. This document will allow us to discuss the plans with stakeholders in order to gather additional feedback.

As the New Milford Public Schools value the contributions and suggestions of parents, caregivers, families, and students in the decision-making process, the **Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Advisory Team** will continue to play an active role in the reopening process in order to build trust and credibility for the plans that are to be implemented. Parents and community members are invited to give regular feedback and suggestions concerning the plans to reopen and the phase-in of all aspects of school life.

Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Advisory Team

The **New Milford Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Advisory Team** was formed to address focus areas related to planning for the reopening of school in anticipation of the guidelines from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) which were released on June 25, 2020 in *ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*.

The focus areas of the Envisioning Advisory Team included stakeholders in the following areas: Facilities, Health and Wellness, Instruction, Operations and Human Resources, and Technology. Each focus area advisory team met to discuss issues specific to their area. Once the guidelines from the CSDE were shared in June, the teams began to discuss how to address issues at the district level while providing for school-specific planning at the building-level by **School Reopening Committees**.

The section of this document entitled **Guidelines for Reopening** aligns the required and recommended guidelines from the CSDE with the Envisioning Advisory Teams areas of focus. The Guidelines are meant to be shared with staff, families, and community members in order to provide clarity for the contents of the *Path to Reopening 2020-21*. Any requirements or length of time for the various protocols in the Guidelines will be adjusted based on expectations from the State of Connecticut and local health officials (New Milford Health Department).

Included in the CSDE guidelines is a requirement for each district to have a **COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison**. This designated person will be responsible for engaging with students, parents, faculty, staff, and administrators to answer questions or concerns about health and safety requirements regarding COVID-19 concerns (e.g., school nurse). All school staff and families should know and have the contact information for the designee.

New Milford Public Schools COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison:

Ms. Alisha DiCorpo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, dicorpoa@newmilfordps.org

School COVID-19 Liaisons

New Milford High School:	Mr. Greg Shugrue, shugrueg@newmilfordps.org
Schaghticoke Middle School:	Dr. Chris Longo, longoc@newmilfordps.org
Sarah Noble Intermediate School:	Mrs. Anne Bilko, bilkoa@newmilfordps.org
Hill and Plain Elementary School:	Mr. Eric Williams, williamse@newmilfordps.org
Northville Elementary School:	Mrs. Gwen Gallagher, gallagherg@newmilfordps.org

Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Team Members





INSTRUCTION	HEALTH AND WELLNESS	FACILITIES
<p>Alisha DiCorpo, Chair Assistant Superintendent</p> <p>Team Members Joshua Abel, NMHS Student Carrie Allen, HPS/NES Instructional Coach Anne Bilko, SNIS Principal Karen Bosco, SMS Data Coach Jane Danish, SNIS Guidance Kate DeBarber, HPS Teacher Claudia DeMoura, NMHS Guidance Kim Foss, SMS Teacher Gwen Gallagher, NES Principal Nicole Heering, HPS Intervention Meredith Jaskolka, NES Intervention Colleen Jewell, NMHS EL Coordinator Diane Johnson, SNIS Teacher Michele Lamorte, Special Education Paraeducator Jen Livingstone, SNIS Teacher Christy Martin, Adult Ed Facilitator Brian McCauley, BOE Member Lisa Morlock, SNIS Instructional Coach Lynn Nissenbaum, NES Psychologist Roseann Petruso, Parent Jill Ross, NMHS Teacher Heliott Sanchez, HPS Guidance Greg Shugrue, NMHS Principal Betsy Stewart, SMS Instructional Coach Jill Strub, SMS Guidance Megan Sylvester, NES/HPS Literacy Instructional Coach</p>	<p>Laura Olson, Chair Director of Special Services and Pupil Personnel</p> <p>Team Members Joshua Abel, NMHS Student Jobi Bieluch, NMHS Nurse Anne Bilko, SNIS Principal Mike Crespan, Town of New Milford Health Director Jane Danish, SNIS Counselor Connor Delpha, NMHS Student PJ Farquharson, NES Nurse Gwen Gallagher, NES Principal Tara Gee, SNIS Teacher Trish Gernert, Behaviorist Dr. Evan Hack, Medical Advisor Kathleen Hamilton, SMS Social Worker Beth Heller, SMS Counselor Tara Jugler, SMS Social Worker Megan Lago, SNIS Teacher Danette Lambiase, NMHS Counselor Mandi MacDonald, Parent Pam Mickewich, MS Psychologist Virginia Mooney, NES Teacher Lynn Nissenbaum, NES Psychologist Helliott Sanchez, HPS Counselor Cyndi Steele-Pucci, Behaviorist Betsey Thibodeau, SNIS Nurse</p>	<p>Kevin Munrett, Chair Director of Facilities</p> <p>Team Members Pete Bass, Mayor Angela Chastain, BOE Member Kim Foss, SMS Teacher Carrie Kelly, Paraeducator Bob Lambert, JIMO Mandi MacDonald, Parent Eric Williams, HPS Principal</p>
	<p>TECHNOLOGY</p> <p>Brandon Rush, Chair Director of Technology</p> <p>Team Members Cynthia Bonnell, SNIS Teacher Susan Brofford - NES Teacher Elizabeth Curtis, NMHS Assistant Principal Joe Failla, BOE Member Kim Foss, SMS Teacher Chris Longo, SMS Principal Jennifer Morrison - SMS Teacher Jill Ross, NMHS Teacher Lynn Sheeran - HPS Teacher Pat Silverman, CO Admin. Assistant Barbara Zulkeski - Database Admin</p>	<p>OPERATIONS AND HUMAN RESOURCES</p> <p>Anthony Giovannone, Chair Director of Fiscal Services</p> <p>Ellamae Baldelli, Chair Director of Human Resources</p> <p>Team Members Tori Backer, SMS Special Education Teacher Cathy Calabrese, NES/SMS Assistant Principal Jennifer Chmielewski, SNIS Assistant Principal Jean Ficke, SMS SPED teacher Wendy Faulenbach, BOE Member Nicole Gregory, NES Teacher Doranne Koval, NES Teacher Virginia Landgrebe, NMHS Teacher Kim Lavalley, SMS Secretary Chris Longo, SMS Principal Maria Lopes, SMS Teacher Debra McGuire, SNIS Teacher Karen Rivero, SNIS Teacher Karen Strobino, Food Services Staff Sandra Sullivan, Director of Nutrition and Food Services Jeff Woods, All-Star Transportation</p> <p>COVID-19 COMPLIANCE</p> <p>Alisha DiCorpo Assistant Superintendent Health & Safety Liaison</p>

School Reopening Committee Members





 Hill and Plain Elementary	 Northville Elementary	 Sarah Noble Intermediate	 Schaghticoke Middle School	 New Milford High School
Eric Williams, Principal Kerri Adakonis, Assistant Principal Leanne Buckley, Music Teacher Cindy Gallagher, School Nurse Nicole Heering, Interventionist Jessica Kelly, 1 st Grade Teacher Kathy Kullgren, 2 nd Grade Teacher Jane Loorman, EXCEL Special Education Teacher Melissa Nihan, Kindergarten Teacher Anthony Nocera, PE Teacher Lynn Sheeran, Media Specialist Danielle Torzilli, Parent	Gwen Gallagher, Principal Cathy Calabrese, Assistant Principal Carrie Allen, Coach Gail Burger, Preschool Teacher Doreen Cherniske, Parent Gina Fabiano, Food Services PJ Farquharson, Nurse Melissa Healy, Special Education Flo Hottes, Custodian Meredith Jaskolka, Interventionist Virginia Mooney, 1 st Grade Teacher Julianne Morin, Social Worker Lynn Nissenbaum, Psychologist Gretchen Rondini, Kindergarten Carol Schroedel, Paraeducator Megan Sylvester, Coach Kim Valzania, Secretary Connie Williams, 2 nd Grade Teacher	Anne Bilko, Principal Jen Chmielewski, Assistant Principal Jen Meyers, Assistant Principal Deb Clark, Supv. of SPED Jen Amodeo, Art Teacher Cindy Bonnell, 4 th Grade Teacher Jane Danish, Guidance Counselor Tara Gee, 4 th Grade Teacher Stacey Haleks, 4 th Grade teacher Sarah Herring, SPED Teacher Susan Holland, 5 th Grade Teacher Diane Johnson, 5 th Grade Teacher Michelle Klee, 5 th Grade Teacher Meg Lago, 3 rd Grade Teacher Jen Livinstone, 3 rd Grade Teacher Heather O'Loughlin, 3 rd Grade Teacher Bonnie Krasselt, Parent Crystal O'Sullivan, Parent Eileen Shields, Parent	Chris Longo, Principal Cathy Calabrese, Assistant Principal Barbara Nanassy, Assistant Principal Sasha Salem, Assistant Principal Tammy Bass, Paraeducator Kaitlyn Cirella, ELA Teacher Jean Ficke, Special Education Teacher Kim Foss, Science Teacher Darryl Gregory, Band Director /Teacher Robert Hibbard Unified Arts Department Head Robyn Hicks, Team Leader, ELA Teacher Tara Jugler, Social worker Kim Lavallee, Secretary Theresa McGuinness, Math Department Head Tammy McInerney, Parent Jennifer Morrison, Technology Teacher Rebecca Rosen, Music Teacher Betsy Stewart, Instructional Coach Adrienne Williams, Nurse	Greg Shugrue, Principal Elizabeth Curtis, Assistant Principal Kevin Best, Assistant Principal Linda Scoarlick, Assistant Principal Keith Lipinsky, Athletic Director Tracy Menzies, Supervisor of Special Education Sue Andrews, Social Studies Department Chair Jason Arnauckas, Health/PE Department Chair Jeff Bronn, English Department Chair Darcy Campbell, Special Education Department Chair Jane Cornelis, Principals Secretary Sarah DelMastro, Science Department Chair Carrie Kelly, Paraprofessional Danette Lambiase, Head of Guidance Joseph Perlman, Math Department Chair Janice Perrone, Head of Practical Arts Department School Nurse Crystal O'Sullivan, Parent Jessica Ward, World Language Department Chair

New Milford Public Schools Priorities




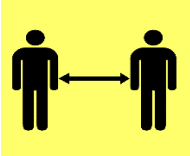


The New Milford Public Schools and the Envisioning the 2020-21 School Year Advisory Team have identified priority areas that must be in place to reopen, including: (1) the safety of the students and staff; (2) the development of appropriate educational opportunities; (3) the awareness of social and emotional well-being of students, families, and staff; and (4) the expectation that all children will achieve.

	Safety of Students and Staff Our schools will be prepared to reinforce healthy practices among our staff and students, take preventative actions to prevent the spread of all respiratory illnesses, and prepare for any potential cases or increased transmission of COVID-19.
	Development of Appropriate Educational Opportunities Our schools will reopen with instructional schedules and model options that are flexible and based on current transmission levels, understanding that we may start the school year with one model, and as new information becomes available about health and safety, may transition to different models.
	Awareness of Social and Emotional Well-Being Our schools will reopen knowing that the COVID-19 pandemic has created different types of traumatic experiences and high levels of stress for many of our staff, students, and families. The pandemic has shown the importance of social/emotional well-being for all. In addition, there is a growing body of research proving that social/emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to academic success.
	Expected Achievement Our schools will consider and solidify a systematic cycle of assessments, including initial screenings and formative and summative assessments, in order to inform instruction and gauge student learning. We will work to analyze individual student data to identify shifts and changes in instruction to meet students' needs and implement intervention strategies.

State of Connecticut Guidelines & Expectations




	COHORTING: Emphasize grouping students by the same class/group of students and teacher (into a cohort) so each team functions independently as much as possible. Consider this methodology by grade levels. Placing students in cohorts is strongly encouraged for grades K-8 and encouraged where feasible for grades 9-12.		TRANSPORTATION: Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) should plan for buses to operate close to capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and operators to wear face coverings . Plans must be developed to activate increased social distancing protocols based upon community spread.
	SOCIAL DISTANCING & FACILITIES: Review building space and reconfigure available classroom space , such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, to maximize social distancing, consistent with public health guidelines in place at that time.		FACE COVERINGS: All staff and students will be expected to wear a protective face covering or face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, except for certain exceptions including when teachers are providing instruction.

New Milford Public Schools Expectations

	<p>Stay home if feeling ill. Students, teachers, and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.</p>
	<p>Morning health check by parents required. In order to prevent transmission among the school population, check every morning to ensure temperature is below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID-19 outlined by public health officials.</p> <p>Teachers and staff are expected to self-screen before leaving for school. Parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school.</p>
	<p>Face coverings or masks required. Students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions or disabilities who cannot wear the mask. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.</p> <p>Teachers and staff must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. Teachers will be allowed to remove masks during direct instruction with permission and greater social distancing. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for teachers and staff.</p>
	<p>Social distancing required. Students must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school. Sharing of school supplies and materials will not be allowed.</p> <p>Teachers and staff must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible.</p>
	<p>Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing expected. Students, teachers, and staff must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.</p>
	<p>Students may not change buses. Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day. Face coverings or masks should be in place prior to entering the bus.</p> <p>Parents are strongly urged to drive their children to school each day.</p>

Monitoring COVID-19

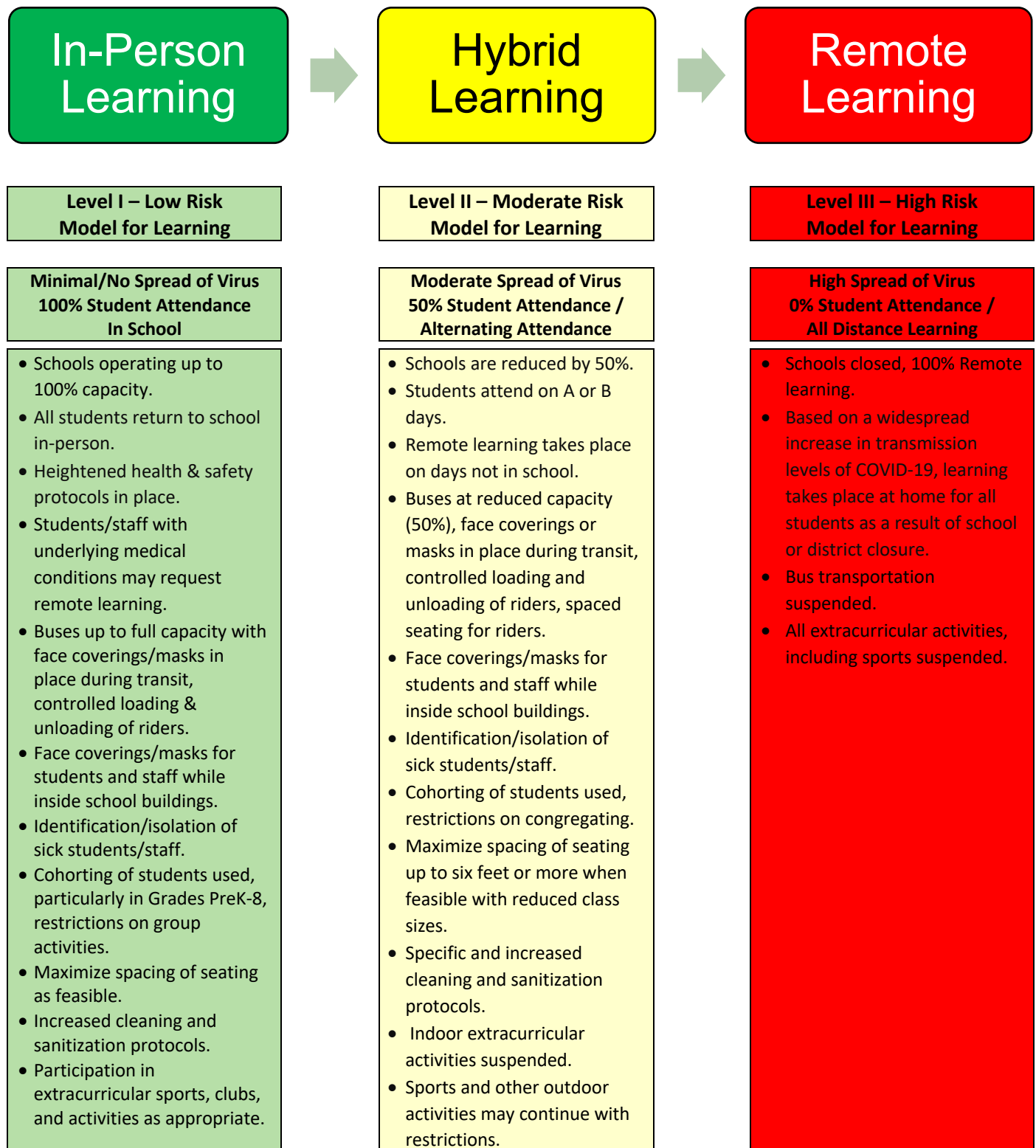
Based on the expectations from the State, New Milford Public Schools will plan to follow a traditional schedule of school while monitoring the level of transmission of COVID-19 with the assistance of the New Milford Health Department. Decisions to move from In-Person Learning to Hybrid Learning to Remote Learning will be based on the level of COVID-19 spread in the schools, community, or the state. Ideally, the town of New Milford will remain in the “green” level with little or no community transmission. School schedules and/or protocols may be adjusted if the community enters a “yellow” level with minimal or moderate community transmission. If there is a substantial surge in local cases, based on guidance from the State of Connecticut and/or the New Milford Health Department, the district will likely revert to a Remote Learning Model. **In addition – and although the district recognizes that despite any and all safeguards and precautions it is impossible to ensure that there will be no transmission of COVID-19 within the schools or school-sponsored activities – at the outset of the school year, or at times during the school year, the district may decide it appropriate to implement the Hybrid Learning model on a school-by-school basis.**

		
LITTLE OR NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Minimal/No spread of Virus (or virus contained)	MINIMAL OR MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Moderate Spread of Virus (requires possible adjusted schedule and adjusted transportation)	SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine)
Instruction is 100% in-person	Instruction is 100% In-Person or a possible 50/50% Hybrid	Instruction is 100% Remote Learning
Daily attendance rates monitored	Daily attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials	Attendance for Remote Learning is monitored based on participation from home
Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene	Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene	Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices
Prevention measures in place	Heightened prevention measures in place	Strict prevention measures in place for essential personnel
Social distancing in place	Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events	Quarantine measures in place
Group gatherings/events limited; all events require approval	Group gatherings/events postponed	All group gatherings/events cancelled
Remain prepared for Remote Learning while learning is In-Person at school	Active Preparation for Remote Learning and/or short-term school dismissals resulting in possible Remote Learning for two-week periods	Continued enagagment in Remote Learning during extended school dismissals and/or closures for long periods
Cleaning and disinfecting in place	Intensified cleaning and sanitizing in place	Classroom and buildings sanitized and shut down
Regular communication with local health officials	Coordination of closure with local health officials	Order of closure from local health officials and/or Executive Order for closure from Governor's Office

Note: All plans are subject to change/adjustments as appropriate.

New Milford Public Schools Continuum for Learning

All New Milford Public Schools are committed to following all guidelines and expectations of the State and maintaining health standards in accordance with the New Milford Health Department.



Fall 2020 NMPS Model for Learning

In-Person
Learning



Hybrid
Learning



Remote Learning

IN-PERSON LEARNING

STUDENTS ATTEND EVERY DAY. Traditional schedule with Health & Safety Expectations. Cohorting of students used in Grades PreK-8, restrictions on group activities.

Although the State and District goal is to return with full in-person learning, NMPS would prefer to begin the 2020-21 school year with the Hybrid Model (see page 12) for grades 9-12 due to the challenges of cohorting.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Students and teachers attend every day with all State guidelines and expectations in place. Classroom learning and instructional activities are adjusted to provide the safest environment.				

REMOTE LEARNING PARALLEL TRACK

Some students learn at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons *with support from the school*. This track aids in a return to school at the appropriate point after illness, quarantine, or when families decide to re-enter. In order to smoothly re-enter school after an extended time out and begin participating in the traditional schedule, it is strongly encouraged for students and parents to engage in the Remote Learning provided by the district under the supervision of a teacher, or some other plan approved by the Principal of the school. As another option, the State of Connecticut has designed a Remote Learning Hub (<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub>) for students who do not return right away. Students on this track will be allowed to enter school at any point in time. **One-week notice must be given prior to returning to In-Person Learning. Parents must communicate with the Principal if their child will be participating in Remote Learning at any point throughout the school year if we are having In-Person Learning.**

Students and parents engage in Remote Learning with materials and support from the school with a teacher. Classroom learning and instructional activities may also be shared through contact with the State's Remote Learning Hub.

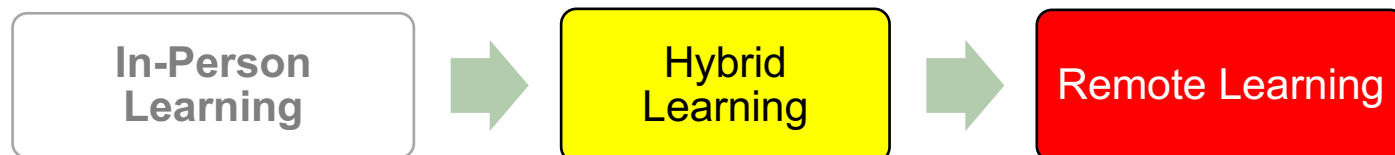
HOME SCHOOLING TRACK

Some parents choose to provide home-based instruction *with no support from the school*.

Students may participate in **Home Schooling**, in which the parent chooses all instructional materials and is solely responsible for student learning. This model is typically a personal choice made by parents and may be appropriate for families who do not wish to continue with computer-based learning at home or those who do not feel the Remote Learning model provided by the State of Connecticut to be an appropriate model for their child. This model does not necessarily prepare students for a return to school without possible gaps in learning. Parents who wish to keep their students out of school for an extended portion of the year or the entire year may consider this model.

Students and parents engage in learning with no materials or support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are developed by the parent.

Alternate Level Models for Learning



HYBRID LEARNING: REDUCED SCHOOL POPULATIONS

As a result of a surge in COVID-19, smaller groups of students are returned to school (alternating of 50% of students). Alternate school schedules that could be used if the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials place limits on student access to schools/buses due to surge of COVID 19 are listed below. When students are not in school, they are working at home with materials provided from the teacher and school.

Although the State and District goal is to return with full in-person learning, NMPS would prefer to begin the 2020-21 school year with the Hybrid Model for grades 9-12 due to the challenges of cohorting.

A-B DAYS (Students go to school on alternate days)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Student Group A 50% of Students in school	Student Group A 50% of Students in school	A & B Groups Remote Learning with Teachers	Student Group B 50% of Students in school	Student Group B 50% of Students in school

- Students will attend a full day following the school schedule in-person based on their assigned cohort.
- When students are in school during the hybrid model as well as during remote learning, students are expected to continue with online learning in the virtual environment following their schedule with the assignments within the Google Classrooms in which they are assigned.
- Wednesday's will be all remote learning for both cohorts of students. Teachers will have time on Wednesday to take part in professional learning, plan for instruction, attend faculty meetings and will hold office hours for students (TBD). This will allow the opportunity for deep cleaning in between cohorts of student days.
- Curriculum will be adjusted by coaches and teacher teams as we move from in person learning to the hybrid model and with remote learning to ensure that all students are receiving exposure to grade level content.

REMOTE LEARNING Short Term Closure (2-5 days, 2 weeks, etc.) or Long-Term Closure

Students and parents engage in Remote Learning with materials and support from the school. Classroom learning and instructional activities are shared through contact with the teacher. The Remote Learning model will be a blend of synchronous and asynchronous learning that follows the students In-Person schedule.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remote Learning 100% of Students	Remote Learning 100% of Students	Remote Learning Teacher PD & Prep	Remote Learning 100% of Students	Remote Learning 100% of Students

Special Education and Related Services

The New Milford Public Schools recognizes the unique and challenging demands that reopening may present for students with disabilities. To address the complexities of returning to school for our students who receive special education and related services, the district is committed to developing hybrid programs which meet their individual needs.

As you may be aware, there has been no waiver of requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) for provision of a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment. We treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first.

If our students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, we will facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, which include present levels of functioning, developmental levels, as well as your input.

Due to these uncertain times, we anticipate and encourage your flexibility with these guidelines for our special education programming. We are planning to implement the standards and public health strategies such as proper hygiene, social distancing, and cleaning/sanitizing.

We plan to communicate with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist special populations and special education students in their return to the school building. The use of social stories, visual cues, and other appropriate developmental strategies will be used to reinforce these new concepts and protocols.

Our related service staff will identify students who have had the most difficulty accessing remote learning opportunities and prioritize instructional access and mental health support to the greatest extent possible.

The NMPS is committed to ensuring that our students with disabilities are afforded opportunities to individualized programming which aligns to their strengths, weakness, and unique learner characteristics. Further guidance will be forthcoming and will be shared as it is released. See current special education guidance on the CSDE website.

Guidelines for Reopening

Each school will be responsible for making sure the approved Reopening Plan is implemented as part of each building's reopening procedure. The guidelines on the following pages provide guidance for the District Envisioning Team and School Reopening Committees. Guideline items are categorized as follows:

	Item is required by the State of Connecticut and the New Milford Public Schools.
	Item is noted and/or recommended by the State but required by New Milford Public Schools.

Guidelines: Health & Wellness

Health Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	Conditions for reopening have been confirmed by the State of Connecticut and/or New Milford Health Department.
2	Planning guidelines for reopening have been issued by the State of Connecticut and New Milford Public Schools plans have been developed and approved at the local level under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.
	The State of Connecticut and State Department of Education have issued guidelines on which school reopening plans are to be based.
	The New Milford reopening plan, <i>Path to Reopening 2020-21</i> , has been developed in consultation with the Town of New Milford.
3	The Nursing Coordinator and the Director of Facilities have confirmed that there is adequate protective equipment in place for reopening.
	There is protective equipment (including masks) for students in the classrooms and throughout the facilities.
	There are sufficient supplies that include hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and paper towels.
4	The Superintendent of Schools has established a procedure should there be COVID-19 cases in the schools or in the community that could possibly impact the schools.
	The Superintendent and Principals have updated the New Milford Pandemic Response Plan that includes procedures for a case or cases of COVID-19. This procedure includes communication to the local health officials (New Milford Health Department) when a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has possibly exposed others at the school.
	The Principals and Director of Facilities have procedures for an isolation room in the school for (1) students or staff who are exhibiting symptoms associated with COVID-19, and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the local health officials.
	The Superintendent of Schools has a procedure for the closure of schools for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases, and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the New Milford Health Department.
	The Superintendent has the authority to limit access to public school grounds and school buildings during school closures or elevated levels of transmission in the area.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Nutrition and Food Services and the Director of Fiscal Services and Operations, the schools are able to provide for continuity of meal service, if necessary.
5	The Nursing Coordinator and Principals have organized a screening procedure for students at home and to the extent possible, at school.

	Passive Screening: Parents are instructed to screen students before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Parents are asked to keep students at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID 19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: Schools will screen students as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit). Students will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Students may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test. NOTE: Screening procedures for all children are not required at the point of entry to the school. However, school staff will observe students throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the school nurse. NOTE: Temperature checks for all children at the point of entry will not be included due to the high likelihood of potential false positive and false negative results but will be available in the school under the supervision of the school nurse.
	In screening students who appear ill, only the nurse shall use a thermometer requiring a touch method (under the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.). Caution will be taken by the nurse, including wearing gloves, eye protection, and a mask.
	Students with a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees are not permitted in the school. Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	The school nurse will monitor screening information/data of students while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in students and staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	Building Administrators will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands while at school.
	Building Administrators will oversee that upon entry to school, large gatherings are avoided. Students will proceed directly to classrooms or small group designated areas.
6	The Nursing Coordinator and Principals have organized a screening of staff at home and to the extent possible, at school.
	Passive Screening: Teachers and staff are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Teachers and staff are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Teachers and staff with a temperature greater than 100.0 degrees are not permitted in the school. Teachers and staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	The school nurse will monitor screening information/data of teachers and staff while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	Building Administrators will oversee procedures for all teachers and staff to sanitize hands while at school.
7	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic students.

	Students who are symptomatic while entering school or who become symptomatic during the school day will be separated from others in the supervised isolation room by the school nurse.
	Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to continue to wear mask and wait in a supervised, isolated room which others do not enter until the student can be transported home.
	If more than one student is in the isolation room, physical distancing will be maintained.
	The school nurse will have a plan for triaging students in the health office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related.
	The school nurse will advise parents of sick students that students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html) Students will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of students at school. Local testing site information will be shared with families. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of students once made available by parents, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a student has been present in school and has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent of Schools who will notify the local health officials (New Milford Health Department) immediately. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
	Each school has a response team coordinated by the Principal with designated responsibilities including monitoring of attendance, symptoms, and screening; communications to families; overseeing cleaning procedures; and responding to suspected confirmed cases.
8	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic teachers and staff.
	Adults who are symptomatic while entering school or who become symptomatic during the school day will be sent home and advised to seek medical care.
	The school nurse will advise adults not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html) Teachers and staff will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of staff and volunteers at school. Local testing site information will be shared with staff. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of teachers and staff, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a teacher or staff member who has been present in school has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent of Schools who will notify the local health officials (New Milford Health Department) immediately. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a teacher or staff member is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with privacy expectations and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
9	Outside visitors and groups will have very limited or no access to schools during the school day.
	Access to the buildings by visitors/parents will be extremely limited and only for specific educational purposes.
	Each school will post a "No Visitors Policy" that includes the following wording: "Visitors will not be permitted into school facilities unless scheduled to enter, or required by law, or otherwise required by a student's Individualized Educational Plan."
	Passive Screening: Visitors/parents with prior approval to enter the building are instructed to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent COVID-19. Visitors/parents are to stay at home if they are feeling sick,

	have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: Schools will screen visitors/parents with prior approval to enter the building as they enter school consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures are below 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit). Visitors/parents will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Visitors/parents may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
	Each school's Main Office will maintain a log for those visitors allowed into the building. The log will include name, contact phone number, and arrival/departure time of each individual.
	Principals and office staff will organize parent pick up/drop off procedures for students, which will be modified at each building. The use of a face mask will be required of all parents who are picking up or dropping off students during the school day and are required to enter the school office in the process. Pick up in the afternoon will be modified to ensure that parents have limited or no access to the interior of the school building.
	The Superintendent of Schools will review all requests for use of the schools – before and after school. There will be limited access to outside organizations' use of school sites and schools' resources after school hours.
	The Director of Facilities will ensure that external community organizations (including those that sponsor before- or after-school childcare) that are allowed use of the facilities also follow the school's health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of local health officials (New Milford Health Department).
	There are procedures at each school site developed by Principals and the custodial staff for accepting deliveries in a safe manner.

Wellness Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	The Nursing Coordinator, School Nurses, and Principals will oversee high standards of hygiene (handwashing/sanitizing) and training for all in each school.
	Building Administrators will ensure, in accordance with CDC guidance, that handwashing/sanitizing includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing/sanitizing frequency guidance. • Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations. • The availability of fragrance-free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol). • Children under age nine use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
	The Nursing Coordinator and School Nurses will identify the training needs of staff related to health and safety protocols and work with the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Facilities who will oversee such training prior to the first day of classes.
	The Director of Human Resources and the Director of Facilities will plan in-person or online training that includes social distancing; cleaning protocols; and hygiene practices. Principals will ensure access for all students and staff, as well as for family members who are interested.
	Training will be provided to substitutes or others who may enter the school outside of the first day or typical calendar start.
	In coordination with the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Facilities an additional 1 to 2 people in each school to may be assigned to assist with training as needed.
	Principals and teachers will review guidance/training and post signage on proper handwashing techniques with students, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and students should dry hands thoroughly. • Wash/sanitize hands when: arriving and leaving home; arriving at and leaving school; after playing outside; after having close contact with others; after using shared surfaces or tools; before and after using restroom; after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing; and before and after eating and preparing foods.
	Principals and Teachers will ensure that students receive ongoing education in the expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. Students will be educated about how coronavirus is spread, and how preventative actions help avoid the spread (for example, that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keeps the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes).
	Building Administrators will assess the best approach to communicate wellness information for each age group, and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as scheduling frequent reminders to review the new policies and protocols. These practices include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • social distancing, • use of face coverings that completely cover the nose and mouth, • respiratory and cough etiquette, and • enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.
2	All school employees will assist in the expectation from the State of Connecticut that face coverings /masks are in place during the school day by all.
	The following communication will appear in school email, website, and social media: "For the safety of all students and all staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to schools require that all students must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus."
	The only exceptions for face coverings or masks are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance, face coverings and masks should not be required, per CDC Guidance. • For anyone who has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear a face covering, masks should not be required.
	For students, face coverings/masks may be removed while eating, drinking, during PE, or when students are outside, and effectively practicing social distancing. Exceptions may also be necessary for certain special education students or other special populations.
	For students who have trouble breathing or for other medical reasons, reasonable accommodations may include a face shield. <i>NOTE:</i> Face shields alone are not a sufficient alternative to the wearing of face masks, but rather both may be worn for additional protection.
	Parents will be responsible for providing students with face coverings or masks.
	Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.
	Principals will establish times for "Mask Breaks" that will be provided during the school day. Breaks will occur when students can practice social distancing and/or when they are outside.
	Staff members and visitors will wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth inside the schools and will be assigned all necessary PPE as required for their role.
	For teachers and staff, face coverings/masks may be removed while teaching if the following conditions are in place: Enhanced social distancing; remaining static behind a physical barrier of some sort; while eating, drinking, or when outside and effectively practicing social distancing.
	Face shields worn with face masks may also be used by staff who support students with special healthcare needs (who are not able to wear masks and who may need assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, eating, etc.).

	Staff working with students who are not wearing face coverings due to one of the exceptions and also cannot maintain social distancing will be provided increased protective equipment, including but not limited to medical-grade masks and disposable gowns.
	Schools will have disposable masks available for staff members.
	Staff members will receive guidance/training on proper use of PPE required for their role (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html).
	School nurses and any staff member engaged in symptom screening will be provided surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves
	Front office and food service employees will be provided face coverings or masks and disposable gloves.
	Custodial staff will be provided equipment and PPE for cleaning and disinfecting: (1) For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting will be provided. (2) Classified staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting will be equipped with proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.
	Visitors and those making deliveries to the school must wear face coverings or masks that completely cover the nose and mouth.
	Information will be given to staff, students and, parents on proper use, removal, and washing of face coverings (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html).
	Face masks are subject to district dress codes as set forth in Board Policy 5132 and should not include inappropriate images or text.
3	All school employees will assist in the expectation that Physical Distancing/Social distancing is maintained as much as possible.
	The school administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines at that time.
	Principals will be prepared to communicate and adjust the approach to social distancing if guidance from the CDC or DPH changes due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID-19 disease, including transmission.
	Each school will plan for the number of people who can be in all school spaces (library, cafeteria, gymnasium) based on maintaining reasonable social distancing prior to use by a classroom or group.
	Even with social distancing expectations in classrooms, school spaces, and hallways, students and staff members will wear face coverings/masks in school and on the bus.
	To the extent possible the schools will create student/teacher classroom cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Consistent teams/cohorts will minimize cross-contamination of student groups.
	Schools will have plans to minimize movement of students and staff as much as possible and reduce the number of students and staff who move at the same time.
	Traffic patterns in hallways or stairwells will be designed to promote social distancing during passing times. Strategies will include staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways or stairwells.
	Classroom seating shall be assigned to students at all times during the day. Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed.
	Schools will restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals to the extent possible. Materials include such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. Shared materials in a given school day will be cleaned and disinfected.
	Backpacks and/or laptop cases will be used at PreK-8 to discourage the use of lockers, as much as possible.

4	The Superintendent of Schools will oversee school activities/athletics, which may be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis.
	The school district will follow all CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) guidelines for middle school and high school sports after approval of such activities by the Superintendent of Schools. Athletic guidance and expectations will be provided in a separate document by the CIAC.
	After school clubs, activities, and events will be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. Approval will be based on the ability to meet the safety expectations of students and staff members involved.
	Recess time and use of playgrounds will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing. Recess time will be adjusted for specific classroom and/or cohorts.
	The Assistant Superintendent in conjunction with the Principals will work with the Physical Education teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> . In general, activities will be limited to those that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
	The Assistant Superintendent in conjunction with the Principals will work with the Art and Music teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> .
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Principals and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Assistant Superintendent and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper social distancing on transportation and at the site of the of field trip and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
5	The Nursing Coordinator and School Nurses will oversee and monitor changes and updates to the State of Connecticut Requirements for Immunizations and Health Assessments
	Immunizations: Guidance from the Department of Public Health from June 17, 2020 emphasizing the importance of protecting students by staying up to date on immunizations.
	Health Assessments: Guidance from the CSDE from June 26, 2020 outlining the requirements for Health Assessments prior to students enrolling in school.
*	If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID-19:
	The schools will determine the student and staff capacity of classrooms and school spaces based on state or local guidelines limiting existing class groups/sizes in every classroom.
	The classrooms will be arranged in a manner that minimizes face-to-face contact and increases the space between desks and/or providing barriers between children at tables. Desks/tables will be separated and turned to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other).
	Other spaces in the building may be used for instructional activities to allow for appropriate distancing including gyms, cafeterias, libraries, larger rooms, and outdoors.
	The schools may need to limit the number of students present in classrooms and/or limit the number of students physically reporting each day based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut.
	The <u>school schedule</u> may be adjusted to meet the needs of social distancing (in classrooms) based on adjusted guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If student numbers are to be limited, the schedule may result in A-B day (alternating days) for students: "Monday & Tuesday" or "Thursday & Friday". • Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of Remote Learning by all students.

Guidelines: Facilities & Operations

Policies and protocols related to Facilities and Operations will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and the school administration with the understanding that schools may need to react quickly to changing conditions. Given the possibility of changes in public health data, there may be an increase or a relaxation of restrictions throughout the school year to respond effectively to health concerns.

	Facility Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools
1	The Director of Facilities and Principals will ensure that schools meet <u>high cleanliness standards</u> prior to reopening and maintain a high level of cleanliness during the school year.
	The Director of Facilities will oversee the reopening for each school building that specifically addresses high standards of cleanliness for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.
	The Director of Facilities and Principals will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by the State of Connecticut and the CDC to staff and families.
	Building plans for disinfecting high touch surfaces will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Door handles • Handrails • Sink handles • Restroom surfaces • Instructional materials that cannot be supplied to a specific student • Playground equipment
	Frequently touched surfaces and other equipment will be cleaned throughout the day. Desks and classroom equipment should not be shared; however, those that are used will be cleaned between usage.
	Buildings will have a plan for disinfecting the following between uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desks that are shared during the day • Tables that are used throughout the day • Chairs that are shared during the day • Classroom/office items, such as phones, headsets, copy machines, etc.
	Schools will work to enable no-touch usage of items such as doors, trashcans, and bathroom fixtures, where possible. Where no-touch technologies are not available, doors will be propped open in accordance with fire and safety codes.
	Schools will maximize use of disposable towels in lieu of hand dryers, due to ventilation considerations. Where possible, schools will turn off and avoid use of hand dryers.
	As appropriate by age, schools will place a trashcan and paper towel roll by the bathroom door to allow students and staff to use in order to prevent the touching of door handle with hands.
	Principals will work with teachers to assess ways to minimize exposure from playground and fitness equipment use, including but not limited to ensuring only the team cohort uses it at the same time, hand washing before and after use or use of hand sanitizer, and disinfecting fitness equipment or other smaller outside equipment after each group of students' use.
	Bathrooms should be sanitized at least twice a day. Where possible, schools will consider designating separate bathrooms for different classes or establishing shifts for classes to use the bathroom and thus avoid mixing of classes.
	The Director of Facilities will use products that are approved for the State of Connecticut that are labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens, following label directions for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
	Cleaning logs will be used in each building to track cleaning frequency of areas including bathrooms.

	<p>The Director of Facilities will ensure that the schools comply with DPH guidelines including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools during COVID-19 • Return to Service Guidance for Building Water Systems • Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems
2	The Director of Facilities and Principals will ensure that schools meet social distancing expectations by adjusting the set up in all classrooms.
	<p>The Director of Facilities will oversee a reopening plan for each building that specifically addresses social distancing for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximize social distancing between student workstations, achieving 6 feet if feasible (not required) when determining the classroom layout. Desks should face in the same direction rather than facing each other or students should sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart. • Where necessary, assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction in the school. • Maximize space between the teacher and students due to the risk of increased droplets from teachers during instruction. If a teacher removes face covering or mask during instruction, spacing should be increased beyond six feet. For teachers who stay seated, a physical barrier may be considered an option. • Floor markings throughout classrooms and the school may be included to illustrate social/physical distancing.
	The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure that classroom furniture besides desks is adjusted to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	Classroom bookcases, reading nooks, storage cabinets will be removed/repositioned to create the maximum amount of space between students.
	The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure that a dedicated medical isolation room has been identified in every school building.
3	School Administrators will ensure that schools restrict the shared use of materials.
	Principals will work to ensure that staff restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals (including such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies). Teachers will ensure that there is a procedure for disinfecting any electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids that must be shared during the same school day.
	Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized (such as shared stuffed animals in classrooms) will not be allowed in classrooms.
	Each student's belongings/school supplies will be separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, locker, or other designated area depending on the grade level and/specific course. Students will be encouraged to take home belongings each day to be cleaned. Belongings such as personal stuffed animals and other toys will be strongly discouraged.
4	The Director of Facilities will ensure that handwashing and sanitizing stations will be readily available.
	Each school will ensure that staff, students, and visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
5	The Director of Facilities and School Administrators will oversee a rapid response plan for suspected or confirmed cases of COVID-19.
	Each building will have a plan to close off areas used by any sick person and not reopen those areas before cleaning and disinfecting. The Director of Facilities will oversee the proper cleaning of any such area.

Operations Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	The Director of Human Resources in conjunction with the Director of Facilities and Nursing Coordinator will oversee staff training on the physical protection of the school community.
	<p>The schools will provide required staff training on the following as part of the reopening prior to the start of school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical distancing of staff and students • Symptom screening, including temperature checks • Proper use of protective equipment • The correct use of cloth face coverings/masks • Cough and sneeze etiquette • Keeping one's hands away from one's face • Frequent handwashing and proper technique • Confidentiality around health recording and reporting • Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention
2	Staff training on the mental health and wellness of students will be available throughout the year.
	<p>The schools will provide staff training on the following (in addition to Social/Emotional Learning expectations):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on trauma-informed practices and suicide prevention. • Confidentiality around health recording and reporting.
3	Signage will be posted in school that is highly visible as well as being accessible for students with disabilities.
	<p>The Director of Facilities and Principals will work together to ensure the distribution of information and regular communication about the actions school communities can take to stop the spread. Signs will be posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and provide instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing a cloth face coverings or masks. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html</p>

Food Service Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	The Director of Food Services will ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines and any additional guidelines introduced regarding child nutrition.
	The Director of Food Services will actively promote and determine eligibility for and make available free and reduced-price meals and snacks and free milk to all eligible students.
	The Director of Food Services will comply with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) regulations and policies (and any changes occurring) for school meals and milk including the meal pattern requirements.
	The Director of Food Services will ensure that the schools claim meals/milk provided to eligible students using accurate counting and claiming methods. Additionally, the number of free and reduced-price meals served and claimed for reimbursement must have adequate documentation on file to support the claim.
	The Director of Food Services will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited meal access including a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Director of Food Services will oversee PPE for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc.

2	Food service in each school will be designed to promote social distancing.
	The Director of Food Services working with Principals will determine the appropriate meal distribution method (Cafeteria Pick-up Model, Classroom Delivery Model, or a Hybrid Delivery Model) of meal service based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
	Each school will communicate age-appropriate and school-appropriate strategies to families about school meal service and options. Meal service communications will communicate social distancing requirements and include any additional school options as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • additional lunch waves to separate classroom cohorts; • staggering cafeteria use throughout the late morning/early afternoon; • increasing the number of meal service access points; • serving meals in cafeteria and then returning to classrooms or alternate locations; • serving meals in classrooms and alternate locations;
	The Principals will arrange for smaller lunch waves in each school. For all grades, more than one classroom cohort may be in the cafeteria with another cohort, but groups must remain separated from each other by a distance that is recommended to be at least 14 feet.
	School cafeteria and meal service plans will be adjusted based on level of concern of transmission.
	There will be no “share tables” or self-service buffets for food and condiments.
	Physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, at point of sale and other areas will be installed where maintaining physical distance of 6 feet is difficult.
	If meals are provided in classrooms or alternate locations, sufficient trash removal and cleaning will be in place.

Feeding Plan for Food and Nutrition Services Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	Phase 1 Students in School
	Adhere to guidance from the CSDE for all phases.
	Serve from the cafeteria line, social distancing (3 or 6 feet between students) with decals on the floor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPS: 2 lines • NES: 2 lines • SNIS: 3 lines • SMS: 3 lines • NMHS: 5 lines
	Students will wear masks and follow markings on the floor to create appropriate social distancing between them.
	Students will come through the breakfast and lunch line wearing their mask and lunch ID card on a lanyard or bracelet.
	ID cards will be read by the cashier with a handheld scanner for a contact free transaction process.
	Students will eat in the classroom or social distance in the cafeteria.
	Breakfast options served by the café staff would be several cold options.
	Lunch options served by café staff would be a hot lunch option along with several cold “grab and go” options.
	All food/trays/utensil items will be single serve or individually wrapped and disposable for sanitation purposes.
	Meal counting and claiming for State and Federal reporting must continue. Students going through the café line provides the most accuracy.

2	Phase 1 Students in School Alternate Scenario
	Feed students from an alternate location in the school.
	Lunch options would be limited.
	Per CSDE, "And Justice for All" posters must be displayed at all alternate feeding areas.
3	Phase 2 Hybrid Plan: 50/50 students in school at one time
	Students in school would follow the same procedure for breakfast and lunch as Phase 1.
	Students Remote Learning would pick up "grab and go" meals curbside.
4	Phase 3 Remote Learning
	One central location for breakfast and lunch pick up similar to spring 2020 'Grab & Go'

	Communications Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools
1	The Superintendent of Schools will oversee communications regarding planning and reopening.
	Families, staff, and the community will receive weekly updates via email, website, and social media during the school year directly from the Superintendent of Schools or Principals regarding the most up to date policies and protocols related to all considerations and aspects of this plan and future COVID-19 planning.
	Families, staff, and the community will be invited to monthly updates, discussions, input, and suggestions on reopening and the ongoing status of school.
	The building principals will meet with staff and parents once a month to garner input and engage stakeholders on the implementation of the plan.
	Changes to planning, changes in the status of the schools' schedules, and any school closures will be communicated directly from the Superintendents or designee to the school community.

Guidelines: Instruction

The Classroom Cohort Model will be used predominantly in Grades PreK-8. A Cohort is a stable group of students and educators with consistent members that stay together throughout the school day to help mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. It is still expected that students & individuals within the cohorts maintain as much physical distance as possible. The classroom cohort will spend as much of the day together as a group as possible with a single teacher or with teachers of different subject areas meeting the cohort in the cohort's assigned classroom(s).

Instructional Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	The instructional day and building schedules may be modified to meet the current health situation.
	The Superintendent of Schools will communicate to staff and families any class cancellation (or adjustment in schedule) and subsequent reopening in the event that the State cancels in-school classes for all or restricts attendance requiring employing the school's plan for a Hybrid Model.
	The Superintendent will base single closure, multiple school closure, or district closure using the most up-to-date information on specific cases in the community or in a school with the consultation of local health officials and the district medical supervisor.
	The Superintendent will notify the State Department of Education should a local decision be made to close under the guidance of local health officials and/or the district medical supervisor.
	Principals will review current instructional schedules in each school and make any modifications necessary to reopen and best meet the needs of students and staff members for a full return to school.
	Principals will be prepared to amend schedules as necessary due to increased transmission in the school and/or the community or as otherwise determined by the district. Alternate learning models will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50%/50% Hybrid Models for a moderate increase in transmission including A-B Student Cohorts of alternating days. • Remote Learning for a large increase in transmission.
	The Principals and teachers will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for an expedited shift to Remote Learning instruction during a required short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Principals and Technology department will proactively plan and be prepared at all times throughout the year for expedited technology access/support for a required period of Remote Learning including a short period (2-5 days) and a longer period (2 weeks) of closure.
	The Assistant Superintendent will consult and share resources for teaching in a Remote Learning environment that is both synchronous and asynchronous which can be found in the Plan to Reimagine CT Classrooms for Continuous Learning and the CT Remote Learning Hub .
	The Superintendent of Schools and Principals will review teacher rosters and develop a substitute plan and, along with the Board of Education, discuss stipends/changes in pay required to support the needs of the students and schools.
2	Principals will group students in Classroom Cohorts in Grades PreK-8 as much as possible.
	Classroom cohorts will be established and use the same classroom every day and for the most part utilize the same hallways, bathrooms, and other area of the school as much as possible. Cohorts will be assigned a team of teachers and support personnel.
	Principals and teachers will restrict the mixing of cohorts for the start of the school year as much as possible.
	Teachers will push into the cohort classroom as much as possible for academic courses and special courses including Art, Music, Library, & Technology resulting in teachers of specific content areas rotating through the building, instead of student groups. Physical Education classes will take place in the cohort classroom and/or outdoors to the greatest extent possible.
	Students in each cohort will have assigned seating in the cohort classroom as much as possible.

	Students in each cohort will have assigned materials in the cohort classroom as much as possible.
	Principals will create schedules as much as possible that stagger passing in halls by adjusting schedules to ensure students change rooms, if necessary, at different times.
3	All learning experiences will be reviewed in order to ensure safe and appropriate instructional practices.
	The Assistant Superintendent will oversee all learning experiences and any curricular modifications in order to provide an appropriate, high standard of learning for students and teachers.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited and require approval of the Principal, Assistant Superintendent, and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing, and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited and require approval of the Assistant Superintendent and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
4	Building Principals and Instructional Leaders will work with the Assistant Superintendent to identify learning gaps, learning barriers, and find innovative ways to meet the needs of children.
5	The State of Connecticut will develop a Remote Learning Model for learning at home due to medical concern, illness, quarantine, or other reasons.
	Principals will conduct a survey to find out which students will participate in In-Person Learning, State of Connecticut Remote Learning with school support, or Home Schooling without school support.
	The Assistant Superintendent will oversee school support for students in the Remote Learning Model: The CT Remote Learning Hub (https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Academic-Office/CT-Learning-Hub) will provide high quality, high impact resources from experts in the field for academic content, social/emotional health and well-being.
6	The schools will base assessment practices for 2020-21 on the Connecticut Department of Education model found in: <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together.</i>
7	The Director of Student Services and Pupil Personnel, Special Education Team Leaders, and Guidance Counselors will oversee programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs.
	The schools will oversee programming for the fall with the understanding that there has been no waiver of requirements under the IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE). Federal disability law allows for flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education services.
	The schools will treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students, including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under the IDEA and accommodation plans for eligible students under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, facilitate individualized and alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental levels, and student/parent input. Consider remote learning schedules if needed.
	Programming decisions will not be based on a student's disability category. However, the nature and/or severity of an individual student's specific disability may require unique considerations. Protocols should consider the student's developmental level and skills.
	Special Education Team Leaders and Guidance Counselors will communicate with families of students with a high level of need to develop transition plans to assist special population and special education students in their return to the school building.
	The Assistant Superintendent and Reading Specialists will work with EL students assuring the provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE).

8	The Assistant Superintendent will oversee the safe implementation of Physical Education Art, and Music courses and extracurricular activities.
	All educational programming in PE, Art, and Music will be expected to adhere to all CDC, state, and local guidelines related to social distancing and disinfecting areas & equipment.
	The Assistant Superintendent will work with teachers to plan for physical education, fine arts, and music curricula that consider the needs of all students, including focusing on activities, adaptations, and modifications of all education activities to ensure the full inclusion by all students.
	PE at all levels will focus as much as possible on activities, fitness, exercises, and sports that are teacher led but performed individually and focus on lifetime fitness, utilizing alternative environments, land-based activities, and individual sports/activities
	PE activities will assist as much as possible in the support of social-emotional learning.
	<p>Music and Art courses will strive to maintain current program of studies and course offerings, utilizing the following safety precautions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain proper spacing of at least 12 feet when students are singing or performing wind instruments by scheduling large ensembles in auditoriums, outdoors, cafeterias, gyms or other large spaces. Focus on maximizing distancing for instruments that require blowing or for singing, compared with string and percussion instruments. • Schedule large ensembles into smaller groups throughout the day. Shift curriculum focus to solo and small ensemble work and create virtual performance experiences and assessments. • Provide individual art supply kits for each student or plan for increased sanitization between all use. <p>Use on-line apps or platforms for student artwork (e.g. Google Classroom), video displays (e.g., ScreenCastify), and slides (e.g., Google Slides, PearDeck)</p>

Sample Classroom with approximately 70% of students attending for In-Person Learning Model

Hill and Plain Elementary






Schaghticoke Middle School



Guidelines: Social/Emotional Growth

Social/Emotional Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	The Assistant Superintendent, Director of Special Services and Pupil Personnel, and Principals will work with the School Reopening Committees to ensure the inclusion of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) to benefit the entire school community.
	Plan for experiences that ensure that the schools place adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Strategies will be identified to engage populations and specific students that have been disengaged.
2	The Superintendent will coordinate SEL activities prior to the reopening.
	Communicate to the school community that SEL is foundational to the holistic success of the school community and a necessary aspect of a highly functioning school community
	Seek the voices of perspectives of students, families, educators, and other adults to develop responsive transition plans.
	Assess the social and emotional support needed by the students during the initial reopening period as a result of the Remote Learning period. Encourage that all parties reflect on the students' ability to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the alternative learning contexts during Remote Learning.
	Provide professional development as available prior to the start of school. Share resources on SEL, including the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) publication, "Leveraging the Power of SEL".
3	Integrate SEL activities into to the reopening process.
	Consider how staff can coordinate to check-in regularly with a small group of students and families; and how counselors, social workers, school psychologists, and nurses can connect with students and families before schools reopen.
	Intentionally build structures that promote supportive adult-student relationships and a sense of belonging. Ensure every student has at least one caring adult at the school who checks in regularly with them and whom they can reach out to.
	Develop a plan in each school to provide non-academic-focused check-ins with students.
	Help staff with strategies to handle students' and/or families' varied understandings of physical distancing measures by school personnel.
	Coordinate with all staff the best ways to assist students who need additional support to physically distance or who may not be able to wear a mask due to a manifestation of their disability.
	Weave in opportunities for students to practice and reflect upon social and emotional competencies throughout the day.
	Assist staff in engaging students in developmentally appropriate conversations and lessons to discuss past, current, and future impacts of the pandemic on themselves, their families, their communities, and the broader world. Include discussions that will elevate racial consciousness as students were not present together in school during recent events in the U.S.
4	Integrate SEL practices into instructional planning.
	The New Milford Public Schools has established a district goal for 2020-21 that is based on the expectation that the "school community takes collective responsibility for the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional well-being and can demonstrate how each student is known, valued, and connected." (From the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Standards for Accreditation – Principle 1.3.).

Guidelines: Transportation

 <p>CONNECTICUT SAFE STATUS Vaccine available or effective treatments for COVID-19</p>	 <p>CONNECTICUT LOW STATUS Low transmission risk in the community of COVID-19</p>	 <p>CONNECTICUT MODERATE STATUS Moderate or more severe spread of COVID-19</p>
<p>Full Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate with no restrictions</p>	<p>Up to Full Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate up to full status with face coverings / mask requirements and loading and unloading restrictions</p> <p style="text-align: center;">★</p> <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <p>This is the status for the beginning of school.</p> </div>	<p>Limited Capacity on Bus Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, face coverings / mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions.</p> <p>Reduced Number of Students and seating based on strict social distancing guidelines</p>

Transportation Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools	
1	Transportation status will be determined by the State of Connecticut and/or DPH.
	<p>In the “low status” currently determined to be the status of Connecticut, student passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The passenger’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Passengers should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers walk by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading.</p>
	<p>If the state determines that we are in a “moderate status” student passenger density will be significantly reduced because schools will be employing a hybrid model of learning (A-B days) when in this status. Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members should be spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating. Passengers will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The rider’s face covering must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Students should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers pass by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading.</p>
2	Transportation to and from by parents/guardians will be encouraged.
	Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school to avoid possible exposure on the bus.
	Principals will conduct a survey to find out which students will be driven by parents at the start of the school year.
	Principals will assess if a staggered arrival and drop off of buses and cars will enhance safety protocols in place.

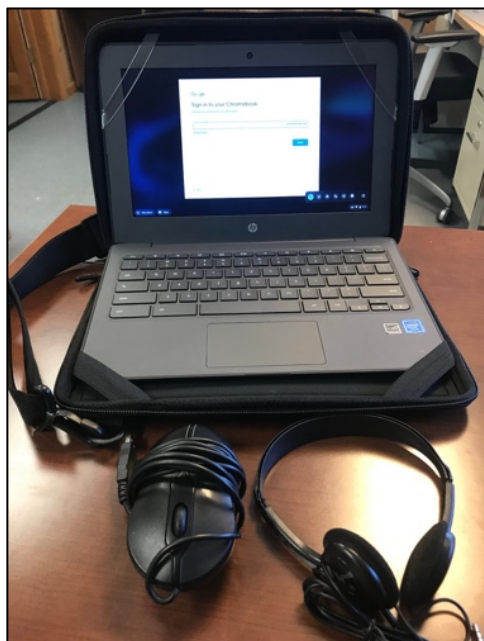
	Principals will plan vehicle flow and logistics particularly if there are more family transport vehicles.
	Principals will develop arrival/departure procedures that limit unnecessary entrance of parents and guardians into the building. Each school will allow for minimal contact of parents with school personnel and students while dropping off and/or picking up students during the day.
	There is a procedure at each school that allows for student drop off at the start of the day and student pick up at the end of the day without parents needing to enter the building.
3	Proper hygiene habits will be practiced on the bus.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to assist in social distancing at bus stops and during pick-up and drop-off.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to secure masks on students at bus stops prior to students entering the bus.
	Students will be required to wear a face covering or mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit.
	Seating arrangements will be adjusted on buses to prevent students from passing one another while loading/unloading as much as possible. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First students to load on bus sit in back, filling seats toward the front of bus (6-12) • Students in front unload first • Loading process at school based on route to promote limited passing in aisles • Assigned seats will be arranged for students in Grades K-5
4	Bus drivers will follow the expectations for school employees regarding health and screening.
	Drivers with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted to drive. Drivers will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
5	Bus monitors may be assigned to buses to encourage social distancing and the use of masks by students.

Guidelines: Technology



	Technology Expectations for Reopening the New Milford Public Schools
1	Access to technology will be 1-to-1 for all students PreK – 12 Grades PreK through 12 will have 24/7 access to a Chromebook.
2	The COVID-19 Operational fund will be used to purchase Chromebooks and Techpaks. Chromebook will include a Techpak: Case, bag, mouse, and headphone.
3	Technology will become “Mobile on the Moment”. Students must bring Chromebooks to and from school each day. Devices will be used at school and at home during periods of Hybrid and Remote Learning.
4	Access to technology will be provided to teachers, paraeducators, and related services providers. Chromebooks will be issued to staff.
5	Equitable and universal technology access will continue to be ensured. The district will guarantee that every student has access to digital technology and/or high-speed Wi-Fi.
6	Increased internet speed and additional wireless access The district’s internet connection will be increased to support the additional throughput. Additional wireless access points will be added where needed.



New Milford Public Schools CHROMEBOOKS FOR STUDENTS

Cases for students for easy transport – “Mobile on the Moment”



Pandemic Response Planning

Pandemic Response Expectations for Reopening New Milford Public Schools	
1	The New Milford Pandemic Response includes a tiered response for school attendance based on transmission in the community and/or in the school.
	Community transmission of COVID-19 will impact the schools' planning, operations, and instruction as indicated in the chart on page 9.
2	The New Milford Pandemic Response includes an immediate response for a confirmed diagnosis in the school.
	See <i>COVID-19 Cases in Schools</i> on page 35.
3	As part of the New Milford Pandemic Response, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to make immediate decisions for the safety of the students and staff.
	The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 until a documented negative COVID-19 test result or note from a healthcare provider clearing them to return to schools is provided.
	The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a duration that is appropriate given the situation.
	The Superintendent of Schools may suspend any activity or program at any time due to health and safety risks.
	The Superintendent of Schools may suspend in-person classes at any time due to health and safety risks.
4	There will be a coordinated effort among all schools to ensure that students and staff take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.
	The Superintendent and Principals will encourage all parties to stay home when sick or feeling sick; appropriately covering coughs and sneezes; practicing social distancing; cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces; and washing hands often with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.
5	Communication guidelines are established in each school according to the appropriate transmission tiers or an in-school case.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of a school's reopening and continuing safety efforts. The New Milford Public Schools website, newsletters, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the New Milford Health Department as materials become available. Information will be made available to parents and community members if one of the school buildings is designated or participates as a vaccination site.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily to weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of school. The New Milford Public Schools website, newsletters, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the New Milford Health Department as materials become available. As needed, update and share information on Distance Learning plan and procedures for school closure and moving to learning at home. If necessary, update and share information on moving to hybrid scheduling (50% of students) and procedures for any adjusted schedule. Students who are absent from school are called to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close communication is maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. • Provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The New Milford Public Schools website, newsletters, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the New Milford Health Department as materials become available. • As needed, update and share information on length of Remote Learning and procedures for school reopening. • If necessary, share information on possible return to school and outline procedures for moving to a hybrid scheduling (50% of students) and procedures for any adjusted schedule. • Students who are absent from online instruction are called to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. • Close communication is maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID-19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care. • Provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A confirmed case in the school building</u> results in immediate communication with local health officials (New Milford Health Department) resulting in a determination of length of closure. • Communication is immediate to all staff and families, as well as to local and state officials that a school or the school district is shutting down for a time period (to be determined). • The New Milford Public Schools website, newsletters, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the New Milford Health Department as materials become available. • Procedures for closure and reopening are shared with the staff and parents.

COVID-19 Cases in Schools



If a student, staff member, or visitor who has been present in school and has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent of Schools. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Superintendent of Schools notifies the New Milford Health Department immediately.

The New Milford Health Department will assess risk of further transmission in the school.

Decisions are made concerning:

- CONTACT TRACING
- CLOSURE
- CLEANING
- CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL

The decision to suspend or close a school (or the entire school district) will be made by the Superintendent or designee based on information and recommendation from local health officials. Board of Education members and town officials are notified of closure, as well as the State Department of Education.

Schools will likely implement a short-term closure (2-5 days) or longer regardless of community spread if an infected person has been in a school building. The CDC recommends dismissal of students and most staff for 2-5 days. This initial short-term dismissal allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school. This allows the Superintendent, in consultation with the local health officials, to determine appropriate next steps, including whether an extended dismissal duration is needed to stop or slow further spread of COVID-19.

All communications to the school community including staff and families are made through the Superintendent.

During school closures, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled.

A Confirmed Case in the School Building
Assess risk with local health officials.
Plan for short (2-5 days) or longer (10 days) closure
to clean, disinfect, and contact trace
in consultation with the New Milford Health Department.

Path to Reopening 2020-21: Resources

- ***Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*** - Connecticut State Department of Education
- ***Reopen Connecticut*** - Rules for operating Summer School during COVID 19 - State of Connecticut
- ***Preparing for a Safe Return to Classroom Learning*** - State of Connecticut
- ***Reopening Our Schools*** - East Hampton Public Schools, Paul K. Smith, Superintendent of Schools
- ***Back to School Planning*** – EdAdvance Regional Education Service Center
- ***Stronger Together*** - A Guidebook for the Safe Reopening of California's Public Schools - California Department of Education
- ***Georgia's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools*** – State of Georgia
- ***Back to School RI-*** Reopening RI: Health and Safety Guidance - State of Rhode Island
- ***Guidance on Required Safety Supplies for Reopening Schools*** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- ***Initial Fall School Reopening Guidance*** - Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- ***Preliminary Guidance for Phased Reopening of Pre-K to 12 Schools*** - State of Pennsylvania Department of Education
- **K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs** - FAQs for Administrators, Teachers, and Parents - CDC.gov/coronavirus
- **Recommendations for Protections and Procedures Regrading Education and Connecticut's Public Schools** – Connecticut Education Association, CEA
- **Leveraging the Power of Social and Emotional Learning** - Available at https://casel.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/CASEL_Leveraging-SEL-as-You-Prepare-to-Reopen-and-Renew.pdf

Path to Reopening 2020-21: Disclaimer

The guidance and plans provided in this document are based on current guidelines and requirements issued by the State Department of Education and the current input of local entities and public health officials. The COVID-19 public health emergency continues to be a rapidly evolving situation, and consequently, the guidelines, requirements and plans described herein may change as the legal and regulatory landscape and the public health trends continue to change.