

Procedure Type: School Health Related to: JLCG Title: Pandemic Procedure Summary	Effective Date: August 24, 2020 Approved by Devon Phillips, RN, CEN Revised Date: Revised by:
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Purpose: To provide clear guidelines for the management and prevention of spread of communicable disease in the school setting during a global pandemic with a focus on risk mitigation.

Procedure:

The following protocols will be considered during endemic or pandemic outbreaks, or as otherwise deemed necessary by the School Administrative Unit #7 (SAU #7). Due to the fluidity brought forth by urgent health related situations, frequent adjustments may be required. Therefore, the summary of protocols may be viewed as a collection of individual guidelines to be individually or wholly implemented when needed and individually or wholly redacted when no longer required. Ongoing guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services (NH DHHS) and New Hampshire Department of Education (NH DOE) will be routinely consulted when adopting and redacting requirements.

1. Face coverings

Face coverings have been shown to prevent the spread of illness by capturing droplets leaving the naso/oropharynx during activities such as speaking, coughing, and sneezing. When social distancing is not feasible, as manifested by a distance of greater than 6 feet between 2 people, face coverings will be required by all parties. Exceptions will be made on a case-by-case basis but are expected to be rare. Face coverings must be worn appropriately at all times to be effective. Face coverings should never be pulled below the nose, chin, or removed to speak. Hands should be sanitized before and after each mask adjustment and care taken to avoid touching the front of the mask at all times. Face coverings should be laundered each day.

As the primary route of transmission for COVID-19 is respiratory, masks/face coverings are among the most critical components of risk reduction. Face coverings help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people or surfaces when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. Masks should fully cover the mouth and nose (and fit snugly against the sides of your face) at all times unless drinking or eating. Cloth face coverings should have multiple layers of cloth - at a minimum 2ply. Bandannas (and other single ply materials) do not prevent transmission of Covid-19.

2. Social distancing and Cohorts

Social distancing of greater than 6 feet between any 2 persons is required whenever feasible. This distance provides a relative safe zone, as expelled droplets are not typically carried greater than 6 feet. Instructional time may necessitate closer contact between individuals in the learning environment. Due diligence is required in such instances to assure face coverings are being used appropriately and effectively.

Whenever possible, student groups should remain consistent to minimize potential exposures by avoiding cross contamination of groups. This process, known as cohorting, also facilitates contact tracing in the event of a confirmed case of illness in the building. To further facilitate contact tracing, assigned seating should be developed for each classroom and cohort. Whenever possible, teachers should switch classrooms instead of students to minimize the volume of people moving throughout the building.

3. Daily Health Screenings and Illness Monitoring

Daily screening of all parties requesting entrance into any SAU#7 buildings are required. Due to logistics and volume, students will be screened by a parent/guardian at home and results communicated to the School Nurse or designee as directed. Staff may independently conduct their health screening upon arrival and will also submit their results to the School Nurse or designee as directed.

Illness monitoring will continue throughout the school year as mandated by the NH DHHS and NH DOE. Reports will be submitted by each School Nurse or designee as required by the requesting organization. Illness monitoring will remain an anonymous method of data collection unless otherwise indicated per NH state law, at which time the identifying provider should report the illness per protocol/as directed by NH DHHS.

4. Enhanced Health Policies, Procedures and Protocols

School Health policies and procedures are reviewed on an annual basis by the School Health Coordinator and revised in conjunction with the Administrative Team and School Board as needed. In times of health-related crises, such as endemic and pandemic situations, the duties of the School Nurse are closely examined. Policies, procedures and protocols must support current guidelines from the medical community and provide clear guidance for School Health staff to follow whenever possible. Nursing judgement will be used accordingly as the nurse's scope of practice allows.

Traditional nursing visits are to be triaged and scheduled accordingly to avoid congregation of potentially infectious persons in the confines of the Health Office. All avoidable visits to the Health Office are strongly discouraged. Students who are ill should not enter the building. Students who are identified as potentially infectious during the school day must be immediately assisted to an isolation location and appropriate precautions implemented. Symptomatic staff should not enter the building and secure

coverage via phone, or if symptoms develop during the school day, leave immediately and contact the building Principal or designee to report their symptoms and absence.

Staff and students who are dismissed in accordance with the Communicable Disease Policy and/or supplemental procedure/current guidelines must meet the requirements therein prior to return to work/school. Medical clearance examinations may be required for suspicion of communicable diseases. Per NH state law and district policy, all pupils in grades Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and 9th grade shall have an up to date (within the previous 12 months) physical examination or exemption on file. Additionally, all pupils shall have an up to date immunization listing, appropriate for their age, or exemption, on file. These documents are required to be on file with the School Nurse or designee by November 1st.

Families opting to travel during a time of active endemic or pandemic illness may be subject to additional guidelines, including student and staff exclusion from school for the suspected period of contagion. Exclusion would begin on the date of return and extend through the suspected period of contagion at the time of travel. For example, in the instance of the COVID-19 pandemic, the suspected period of contagion is 14 days. Therefore, staff and students who travel outside of New England during the COVID-19 pandemic would be excluded from school for 14 days from the last date of travel.

Enhanced cleaning and sanitization schedules shall be implemented. High touch surfaces will be sanitized every 2 hours. Workstations will be sanitized in between use by staff and students whenever changeover of staff or students is required. Manipulatives and other items required for instructional purposes will be assigned and stored individually and cleaned after each use.

5. Other

The District reserves the right to implement any other policy, procedure, or protocol as needed in response to ensuring the safety of staff and students. This includes alteration from in-person learning to remote or hybrid options as health concerns require.

Parents/guardians, staff, and students should recognize that attending school during an endemic or pandemic situation is not entirely without risk. Families/staff uncomfortable with the potential risks associated with an in-person learning environment may seek alternative arrangements as warranted.