

# DRAFT-Northwood School District 2021-2022 Opening Plan v 1.0

## **Introduction and Guiding Goals:**

This plan was designed to support the health and safety of everyone in the Northwood School District while maximizing educational opportunities. While this plan outlines 5 phases of operating during a pandemic, at this time, for the 2021-2022 school year, the Northwood School District is planning on opening at Phase 5. We will have an in-person five days a week schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Recognizing the value and importance of in-person learning, the district will not be offering a remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. Families wishing to have students attend school remotely will need to enroll their children in an outside program, such as VLACS, or homeschool them.

This plan describes the guidelines and goals for ensuring a safe and productive in-person learning environment.

The Four Guiding Goals used in creating Northwood School Opening Plan are:

1. Ensure Healthy Classrooms - Following safe practices in classrooms
2. Ensure Healthy Buildings - Creating routines and practices to promote an overall healthy building
3. Ensure Healthy Policies - Building a culture of health, safety, and shared responsibility
4. Ensure Healthy Schedules - Moving between rooms and locations safely

This plan also considers the four goals developed by Dr. Chan, NH State Epidemiologist:

1. Maximize the in-person educational experience
2. Minimize the risk of COVID-19 to students and staff  
(<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/school-call-presentation-060221.pdf>)
3. Build in flexibility to allow multiple learning options and movement between models
4. Continue to provide important community and social supports to families

**The Instructional Phases** in the plan move from *Fully Remote to Fully In-School with minimal restrictions* and are briefly defined below.

Phase 1 - Fully Remote Instruction

Phase 2 - Hybrid Model with High Risk Students receiving some in school supports

Phase 3 - Blended Remote Option/Full-In Model with modifications to mitigation protocols

Phase 4 - Fully In School Instruction with further modifications to mitigation protocols

### **Phase 5 - Fully In-School with minimal to no restrictions**

- No enforced social distancing, recommendation is still 3 feet when appropriate
- No PPE required
- Personal hygiene encouraged
- School schedules as normal
- Classroom instruction with no restrictions
- Students will eat in the cafeteria
- Fully Remote Instruction moves to Homeschooling or VLACS options
- Continue increased disinfection procedures as necessary, increased hand washing/ sanitizing, and optional mask wearing.

### **Operational Guidelines:**

There is emerging evidence that COVID is contracted through airborne transmission as opposed to droplets or fomites. Therefore extra, intensive cleaning and shields are not as important now as when the 2020-21 plan was written. Vaccinations have also become widely available which has changed the response plan. (Note: We do not collect vaccination data related to Covid 19).

There are some virus mitigation steps that we will maintain as standard practice moving forward, such as social distancing when possible and appropriate, HVAC monitoring, use of higher-grade air filters, asking staff and students to stay home when symptomatic, and allowing the use of masks.

Operational guidelines for the start of the 2021-2022 School Year, based on the current information we have from the NH DHPS and CDC, are as follows:

- **Parent/Student Home Screenings:** All parents will screen their children daily at home for symptoms of COVID -19. If any of the following symptoms are present, parents will keep children home from school: fever or chills, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, cough, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting.
- **If your child is exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19:** Parents should screen their children for symptoms or risk factors daily before allowing the child to travel to school.
  - If your child is exhibiting symptoms consistent with Covid-19 at home, then please keep your child at home and we recommend you consult your doctor. Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nasal congestion or rhinorrhea, vomiting or diarrhea, and skin rashes.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/clinical-care-quick-reference.html>
  - If signs and symptoms begin while at school, the student (or staff member) may either undergo a test here at school or must be sent home as soon as possible using personal transportation.
  - Sick students and staff will be kept separate from well students and staff. Contact with school staff will be limited as much as reasonably possible, while ensuring the safety and supervision of the sick student(s) until they leave.
  - Students and staff with fever greater than 100°F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol).
  - Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of Covid 19 must have a negative test prior to returning to school.

Guidance on what to do if you test positive for Covid 19 or have been exposed to Covid 19 is provided by the NH DPHS and can be found here: <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/>

- **Parents or Visitors in Buildings:** Visitors will be allowed into the school with the following protocol; all visitors must sign in upon entering indicating that they have no signs or symptoms of COVID.
- **Physical Activity:** Grade level recess schedules will be similar to pre-pandemic schedules and established so that students have the opportunity to be outside and stay active. Our physical education classes will have a similar practice in place which follows appropriate distancing when possible. Band and Chorus will resume as normal and may require social distancing as well as instrument shields for additional protection. Extracurricular activities will be returning in full, and we will look to the NHIAA for guidance for athletics programs. All other activities will follow school protocols.

- **Classrooms:** Staff will work on appropriate classroom layouts that allow for social distancing of three feet whenever possible, however, it may not always be practical, feasible, or conducive to the instructional methods at that time. Seating charts and other strategies to aid in contact tracing will continue to be utilized. Our hope is that classrooms will look more traditional as they were pre-COVID.
- **Hand Washing/Hygiene:** Students and staff are expected to wash hands frequently and use hand sanitizer if washing hands is not possible. This will be emphasized in our classrooms and after times such as lunch and recess. All classrooms and offices will have hand sanitizer available.
- **Facility Precautions:** Frequent cleaning will occur in hallways and bathrooms throughout the day. Our HVAC systems will be checked and filters will be replaced more frequently to help promote clean air. Night time cleaning will be completed using normal cleaning practices along with ionized hydrostatic disinfectant spray or UVC lights. When possible, windows will be opened to help with the circulation of fresh air.
- **Facilities Use:** Facility use restrictions will likely be lifted for outside organizations (e.g. Re creation Basketball, etc.). Regular requirements will remain in accordance with the facilities use [policy](#).
- **Masks:** Staff and students may elect to wear masks, but are not required to do so. The school will have masks available at each entrance. Masks will be required when students or staff are experiencing symptoms.
- **Social Distancing:** There will be no enforced social distancing. However, the recommendation is still to have students 3 feet apart when possible and appropriate. The majority of classroom activities will resume as normal. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria where students will be seated no more than 8 students per table.
- **Water Fountains and Bottle Filler fountains:** Water fountains will be utilized and cleaned regularly. Bottle filling stations will also be available. Parents are encouraged to send students to school with a refillable water bottle.
- **Remote Learning:** Using the tools and skills we have developed this past year, we will continue to use remote learning strategies when the need arises. These needs may include weather related building closures, statewide closure mandates, health reasons, etc. Proper notice of the use of remote learning days will be at least 24 hours.  
If there are multiple cases where students and/or staff need to quarantine or isolate, or if staff is not available to be in the building, it may be necessary to move a classroom, grade level, or student group, into the Full Remote instructional model for a short period of time. Such a move would not necessarily lead to a change in our school wide model, as a move under this situation would be in effect until the situation was either resolved or mitigated.
- **Bus Transportation protocols:** In addition to the typical safety measures in place when riding buses, the following additional safety precautions will be in place for the start of the 2021-2022 school year:
  - The bus company will follow a regular schedule to disinfect the school bus.
  - At least 4 windows on each bus will be opened to the first stop to facilitate air exchange (in both warm and cold weather, but not in heavy snow or driving rain) as necessary.
  - The bus drivers will assign seats to students and maintain seating charts to assist with contact tracing, if needed.
  - Masking will follow the transportation company's policy.

As in all aspects of the opening plan, bus ridership requirements are subject to change and will be discussed as part of any change in learning phases by transportation and school officials.

- **Moving between Instructional Phases:** The Superintendent and Building Administration will monitor and examine the situation and if necessary make recommendations at the regularly scheduled School Board meetings. The decision to change phases or further adapt our protocols will be made by the Superintendent and the Northwood School Board in consultation with the Building Administrators and school nurse. While the NH DPHS is our primary source for local Covid 19 information, the following factors will be used to inform the decision-making process:
  - State and/or National guidance (State Leadership, NHDPHS, CDC, DOE, etc.)
  - Level of Community Transmission (<https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map>)
  - Transmission within the school facility
  - School community confirmed positive COVID results
  - Ability to staff schools and safely supervise students

It is important to remember that this document is a dynamic plan that may change as local, state, and national trends fluctuate. The Northwood School District will consult the most updated guidance from the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services as well as other resources.

### **Resources:**

The School Administration and School Board along with the leadership team referred to many documents when developing this plan. In addition to looking at numerous school based plans, the following resources have been used to inform this plan:

- New Hampshire Grades K-12 Back-to-School Guidance, March 2021  
<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/sonh/k-12-back-to-school.pdf>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>
- DHHS COVID 19 Dashboard <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/schools.htm#dash>
- NH Division of Public Health Services <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/>
- Covid ActNow- New Hampshire: [https://covidactnow.org/us/new\\_hampshire-nh/?s=2021940](https://covidactnow.org/us/new_hampshire-nh/?s=2021940)
- Self Quarantine: [Quarantine Guide for Unvaccinated People Exposed to COVID-19 in their Household](#)

This plan reflects present guidance that may be expiring or evolving as we approach the 2021-2022 school year. **This plan will be revisited in August, prior to school opening for the 2021-22 school year.**

#### **Instructional Phases 1 - 4 explained in more detail:**

##### **Phase 1 - Fully Remote Instruction**

- Remote Instruction provided to all students
- Modifications (similar to last spring) made as applicable
- Instructional Staff will teach from the building whenever possible
- Some high risk students (e.g., special education students) may be allowed to receive services and tutoring 1-3 days a week in the school.
- Mask breaks would occur outside of the building or when students can be 6' apart and seated.

##### **Phase 2 - Hybrid Model with High Risk Students receiving some in school supports**

- Operate on an alternating day schedule with two cohorts in order to accommodate a 50% student population to ensure that we can manage proper social distancing, etc. Each cohort will be in school two days a week and remote the other three days. The school day and schedule may need to be adjusted to accommodate this alternative temporary reentry plan.
- Areas such as the gym and cafeteria may be altered to accommodate other uses (e.g., lunches, snack, etc.)
- Some students and staff who opt for fully remote instruction and learning will be accommodated.
- Mask breaks would occur outside of the building or when students can be 6' apart and seated.
- High Risk Students (e.g., special education students) will be allowed in the building to receive in school services and tutoring 1-3 days a week.

##### **Phase 3 - Blended Remote Option/Full-In Model**

- Open daily to all students while maintaining a remote learning option for those parents who wish to keep their children home. The remote option may be provided by our staff or an outside program such as VLACS.
- Recommend that our classrooms maintain a minimum 3 foot social distance. Some Social Distancing protocols will need to be relaxed due to scheduling and class sizes (hallways, bus, etc.).
- RA Schedules, lunches, and other logistics remain the same as the Hybrid phase.
- Alternate locations for lunches may need to be identified.
- Mask breaks would occur outside of the building or when students can be 6' apart and seated.
- Bus capacity may be limited.
- Options for fully remote instructional staff will need to be identified.

##### **Phase 4 - Fully-In School Instruction with modifications**

- PPE required
- RA Schedules, lunches, and other logistics would remain the same as the Hybrid phase.
- Mask breaks would occur outside of the building or when students can be 6' apart and seated.
- Bus capacity may be limited.

*There are significant logistical implications and changes that the school may implement in order to meet expectations for all phases, including:*

- Modification of the physical environment
- Changes in instructional model and practices
- Changes in classroom management practices
- Increased demands on staff members' time and workload
- Increased needs for professional development and training
- Changes in schedules and school calendar

- Changes to policies, procedures, and practices