

FAQ for Gilford School District as of 8/14/2020

The Leadership Team has answered questions from staff and parents in this document. We realize this may generate more questions.

Teaching and Learning

- NHAHPERD: [Health & Physical Education Return to School 2020](#)
 - NHAEA: [Visual Arts Education Return to School 2020](#)
 - NHMEC: [NH Music Education Return to School 2020](#)
 - NHDOE: [Guidelines for Opening Schools](#)
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- What can be done to alleviate student anxiety about returning to school? We will use the Choose Love program and we will try to address concerns when student meetings occur during the opening week of school.
 - Are there certain activities that teachers should avoid due to social distancing? No guest speakers. Students and teachers can work with one another with their masks on. No field trips on a bus in the first trimester. If students are sharing materials they should be using gloves. Student materials should be sanitized after usage.
 - Will teachers be expected to stay at the front of their classrooms? No. Teachers can stay at the front of the classroom but with everyone in a mask it is fine for teachers to circulate and provide one to one support in the classroom.
 - Will students be allowed to work in groups? Yes. With masks on and no sharing of supplies.
 - How will students get access to their texts and school supplies? In the first four days we will distribute chromebooks and textbooks. There will also be access to the library circulation. This process will be different than in the past.
 - When will Alma be ready? August 18th there is a train the trainer session. There will be a training session for staff at the beginning of the school year.
 - How much training will teachers receive during the first week of school? There will be a variety of PD offerings from ALMA, Google Classroom/ Meet, Remote Learning, Wellness, Choose Love and Mental Health.
 - Sanitation of PE equipment, who, how often, etc? Equipment should be sanitized after use by students and teachers. Areas will be disinfected daily by the second shift custodial staff.

Remote Learning

- Can a teacher video their lessons for the remote students and answer questions as needed? Or does the remote teachers use that video as instruction and do the answer session? Yes a teacher can video their lesson and share with students / remote teachers.
- Will I be asked to remote teach and teach in person? If you are teaching in person you may be asked to teach remotely as one of your preps. Teachers will not be asked to teach a full load/day in person and teach remotely.

Remote Learning - transition

- In the buildings we are to the point that we cannot cover all the classes; MS 10, elementary 10, HS 10 classroom teachers
- Take one day to transition
- Schedule would be the same for all students and classrooms
 - Attendance taken
 - Google meet each day
 - 20-30 minutes of group instruction
 - Class work - 1:1 support
 - Exit ticket at end of the class - last 5-10 minutes
- Assignments named the same in google classroom
 - Consistent look from teacher to teacher
- Connect all students and parents to google classroom at the beginning of the school year

Screening Protocol

All employees and students will self screen, at home daily, prior to being admitted to the building. Temperatures will need to be taken and be recorded. If a person has over a 100.0 F temperature they will need to stay home. A screening checklist will be provided for each family.

- All employees and students will answer 6 questions:
- A. Are you experiencing any of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or runny nose?
- B. Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours?
- C. Have you been in close contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or who is under investigation for COVID-19?
- D. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
- E. Have you experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?
- F. Have you traveled in the prior 14 days outside of New England (VT, ME, MA, CT, RI)?

Building/Classroom

- Can things go on the walls in the classrooms? Yes. We would like to have classrooms look like traditional classrooms. We will be using disinfecting sprayers each night and if there is paper on the wall it will curl the edges of the paper. We would suggest laminating all material to be placed on the walls.
- What are teachers allowed to bring to school? No rugs or outside furniture. No community food. Individually wrapped food packages will be allowed.
- All water fountains are shut off. Water bottle filling stations are in operation in all buildings.
- Is ventilation the same in all HS rooms? Yes. The settings are all the same. Different units provide fresh air to different parts of the buildings. All duct work has been

inspected.

- Is the ventilation adequate, particularly in interior rooms? Yes.
- Will students have plexiglass dividers around their desks? No. We are looking into the cost, per school board request. There will be some one to one spaces where we have plexiglass dividers.
- Will the desks in the classrooms have to change? Please see NHDOE guidelines, page 18. NHDOE: [Guidelines for Opening Schools](#)
- Can we use trapezoid shaped tables? Depending on the size and shape of the room and room capacity.
- Will teachers be expected to move from room to room? Possibly. In order to have proper social distancing, smaller class sizes may switch to different rooms to accommodate larger class sizes.
- Who will be allowed into the school building? Staff and students. Limited visitors (contractors). Parents by appointment. No volunteers.

Students in the School Building

- What do after school activities look like? After school activities will be available. The activities may look different.
- Can students stay after school? Yes, as long as students are attending for academic or co-curricular purposes. All social distancing protocols must be followed.

Daily Schedule

- Will there still be LEAD time? If so, when? Yes. We are hoping to start this a few weeks into the year with the possibility of expanding based on teacher feedback. We are also hoping to put LEAD block first and fifth blocks so that the students that do not need this block can leave during that time to decrease the number of people in the building.
- How will students enter/exit the building? More entry points will be open in the mornings. There will be no congregating in hallways.
- How will students move class to class? All students will travel on the right side of the hallways while teachers monitor on the left side. All hallways will be one directional in the high school.
- How will lunch work? The cafeteria, library, other various rooms, and outside areas will have limited seating. Students on campus will use social distancing while going through the lunch line and other sitting areas will be used as previously mentioned.
- Students attending remotely will order meals via a google form located on the district website. They will order for the entire week. Breakfast and lunch will be available for pick up @ the Middle School. Monday pick up will include Tuesday meals, Wednesday pick up will include Thursday & Friday meals.
- Breakfast will be provided at all three schools. MS and HS will eat breakfast in the cafeteria. Elementary students will eat all meals in their classrooms.

Quarantine Related to Travel

- Can you clarify the travel/quarantine requirements for staff? If you travel outside of New England (VT, ME, MA, CT, RI), you will need to quarantine for 14 days. [DHHS employee travel guidance](#)

- [Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

HR Related

- How does something like quarantine time affect our sick/personal days? Families First Coronavirus Response Act - (FFCRA)

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-employee-paid-leave>

FAQ on sick leave

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions#12>

Need to Care for Child

If the employee requests to work from home because they need to care for a child whose school or place of care is closed (or child care provider is unavailable) for reasons related to COVID-19, such requests should be addressed in one of the following two ways:

- Districts can, but are not required to, make flexible work arrangements with individuals who request to telework because of childcare needs, such arrangements could include assignment to a COVID-19 School-Reopening: Employee Requests for Leave and/or Reasonable Accommodations
- Work-from-home position or a reduced work schedule (reduced work schedules should be implemented as partial leave under (b) and part flexible work arrangement). To the extent districts engage in these discussions with unionized staff, they should review applicable collective bargaining agreements and involve the union to avoid allegations of direct dealing;
- Districts that are not offering flexible work arrangements to such employees should initiate a discussion about the employee's entitlement to take continuous leave under the Emergency Paid Sick Leave and/or Emergency Family and Medical Expansion Act provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, each of which are outlined more fully below. The district should also review an applicable collective bargaining agreement/employer handbook to determine if there is additional paid or unpaid leave (personal leave, PTO, sabbatical) that would be available for this purpose.

Will we do another survey at the end of the first trimester for those employees that may have changes in circumstances with their own children going remote after trying in-person learning etc? We will work with staff throughout the school year to follow all employment guidelines.

What accommodations will we make for staff to be able to check in on their own children who are remote learning during the day? During breaks in your instructional day you will have opportunities to check in with your child.

Hallways

- Do teachers have to be in the hall during change of classes (MS/HS)? Yes, it is the expectation to supervise students in the hallway during the change of classes.

Masks

- Face coverings/Masks - cloth face coverings must be worn
 - [CDC Guidelines on masks](#)
- Can I walk around the classroom and work with students?
 - Yes, both students and staff should be wearing a face covering/mask
- How will students be trained on how to wear and handle the mask? This should happen in the first week of school. [How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering](#)
- What do mask breaks look like? During natural break time in the day. During instructional transitional times. Every period MS/HS we will provide a mask break. Mask breaks can happen in the classrooms if we can provide six feet of social distancing. Mask breaks can also happen outside, in gymnasiums, in the auditorium, in libraries and other large spaces in our buildings.
- How/when are mask breaks provided? 5-10 minutes every hour at all levels. While in an individual office or classroom by yourself you do not have to wear a face mask, unless you would like to.
- How are we to deal with noncompliance over masks? This will be handled on an individual basis. Teachers may redirect and remind. If it is a problem the administration will handle and have a parent meeting. This cannot become an ongoing issue as we expect administrators will be substituting at different times.
- Exceptions to wearing a mask will be doctor driven. We will require a doctor's note to make these exceptions.
- Where do they go if they didn't bring one in? There will be a supply of masks at the front desk for students and staff. Each nurse will have masks to hand out to students and staff that have forgotten or need a new one.

Gloves

- Should staff wear gloves? When exchanging papers, working with learners, holding hands of a student.
 - Here is the [CDC guidelines on gloves](#).

Drama / Performing Arts

- Fall production - small, short performances, limited number of participants (HS)
- Spring production - possible musical (HS/MS)
- 4th grade spring production - chorus
- Outdoor production and band/chorus instruction
- Small group band instruction - recording to share
- Small group Chorus instruction - may be virtual performance
- Tape off every other row in the auditorium for social distancing
- Instrument mask
- Masks will be worn when singing

Athletics

- Wear mask as spectator in gym and outside - gatherings of more than 100 per Governor's mandate.
- Visiting team spectators in doors guaranteed 2-3 rows for family
- Tape off rows of bleachers - every other row for social distancing (signage) and to limit spectators in the gym to half capacity.
- 3-6 feet social distance both indoors and at outside games. (signage)
- Each athlete will receive 4 tickets for indoor sporting events (consideration)
- Sports related equipment to be sanitized daily per recommendations of NFHS and NHIAA.
- Mask wearing mandatory in locker rooms.
- Sports specific guidelines through the NFHS adhered to for the upcoming season for each sport designed to help mitigate the spread of COVID19.
- Social distancing encouraged during practice as much as possible.
- Regular activities such as the end of game handshakes, fist bumps, high fives are prohibited.
- Masks for athletes on the sidelines.
- Social distancing (3-6 feet) on the sidelines by athletes not in the game.
- No communal water allowed. Athletes need to supply their own water.
- School officials will screen athletes and coaches for COVID19 symptoms prior to games.
- Events such as end of season jv tournaments, jamborees and other large scale events will be avoided.
- Coaches will have completed a "COVID" course similar to concussion certification prior to the start of their season.
- First aid kits contain PPE in addition to typical items.
- Regional schedules (30 miles travel) are being developed in all sports to mitigate negative circumstances of travel, keeping student athletes closer to home and to help alleviate anticipated transportation struggles.
- NHIAA will hold an "open" tournament at the conclusion of the fall season for each sport in each division. This means that the required number of games played, games against divisional opponents for example will be waived. At the conclusion of the season all teams will be eligible for postseason play within their division.
- If we are pushed back from game play at the NHIAA level we will hope to continue with social distance on campus programming with our athletes to include: sport specific skill development, fitness and conditioning and team building and mindfulness practices.

Scenarios

- A person in classroom / office area has symptoms:
 - Provide written documentation of negative PCR or antigen test result (in accordance with NH DPHS guidance) AND person is fever-free, without fever-reducing medication, for at least 24 hours and other symptoms are improving (per routine school policy),
 - If symptoms are new and testing is not conducted, treat the individual as a suspected COVID-19 infection and allow return to school after CDC criteria are

met for removal from home isolation. Currently requires 10 days since onset of symptoms, and when symptoms improved and fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, and district return to school protocols are met

- [Disposition of Non-Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19](#)
- A person has been in close contact with a confirmed case in the last 14 days:
 - Report to NH DHHS
 - Exclude from school
 - Advise to contact health care provider for PCR or antigen test
 - School nurse or COVID coordinator will monitor absence line list and timeline for return to school
 - Advise individual to follow NH DHHS guidance: Refer to Coronavirus Disease Self-Quarantine Guide [DHHS self quarantine](#)
 - Individual must self-quarantine for 14 days from last exposure, and provide medical or public health documentation that quarantine has been met
 - Individual cannot test out of 14-day self-quarantine in NH
- A person has been in close contact with a suspected case in the last 14 days:
 - Exclude from school
 - Siblings of students who are undergoing testing for mild non-specific symptoms do not need to be excluded
 - Siblings of students who are undergoing testing for highly suspect symptoms should be excluded from school
 - School nurse or covid coordinator will monitor absence line list and timeline for return to school
 - Consult with NH DPHS, if needed
 - Refer to Coronavirus Disease Self-Quarantine Guide (NH DPHS) [Self quarantine guide](#)
 - If person suspected of COVID-19 undergoes PCR or antigen testing (in accordance with NH DPHS guidance) and result is negative, individual in close contact may return to school
 - If suspected case is not tested, then student in close contact should self-quarantine for 14 days from last day of exposure to the individual, unless otherwise specified by NH DHHS
- Someone is found to have COVID-19:
 - Advise person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 to isolate at home and contact health care provider
 - Persons suspected of COVID-19 should be directed to get PCR or antigen tested for COVID-19 (in accordance with NH DPHS guidance)
 - Consult with NH DPHS for guidance
 - NH DPHS will work with school nurse or identified point of contact at the school to determine close contacts and decide who will need to self-quarantine

- NH DPHS will work with schools to notify and inform parents/guardians, students, and other staff of any exposures to people confirmed to have COVID-19
- Inform building administration
- Follow facility cleaning and disinfection recommendations from CDC.
- Refer to Coronavirus Disease Self-Isolation Guide (NHDPHS) [DHHS self isolation guidance](#)
- Refer to Coronavirus Disease Self-Quarantine Guide (NHDPHS) [DHHS self quarantine](#)
- Individual with COVID-19 can return to school after CDC criteria are met, and provides medical or public health documentation that self isolation requirement has been met [Disposition of Non-Hospitalized Patients with COVID-19](#)
- A follow-up negative test is not required for return to school

Decision making metrics to review:

[NH Department of Health and Human Services Dashboard](#)

[Harvard Global Health Institute Dashboard](#)