

COVID-19 Response Team Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2021

Members Present:

Sue Rubbe, RN, Tim Paquette, Fire Chief Steve Heath, Kelly Avery, Lester Brent, Jacqui McGettigan

Absent with notice: Police Chief Will Ulwick, Trish Temperino

1. Review of decision making tool

The COVID-19 Response Team reviewed the current decision-making tool and recommended some changes that will align with the Mitigation Responses chart. Mrs. McGettigan will work to update the decision-making tool for review at the next meeting.

2. Start of the School Year Recommendations

The committee made the following recommendations, to be presented to the Superintendent of Schools for approval:

- Students and staff masked indoor with mask breaks
- Masks optional when outdoors
- Daily Health Assessment will be self-monitored regardless of transmission level
- Physical distancing of three feet (when possible), students masked
- Weekly assessment of area status by COVID-19 Response Team and decision made for upcoming week's mitigation response level
- COVID-19 Response Team decision will be communicated to families and staff through
 - The AES website
 - Daily Announcements
 - E-mail notification if the response level changes

3. Parent Letter

Mrs. Rubbe recommended that Mrs. Avery use the letter in the updated DHHS School Tool Kit to provide information and guidance to parents regarding how to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the school.

4. Transportation

Students will be masked until at least September 21, 2021 per TSA and NTBS mandates.

Mrs. Avery to speak with bus company and SAU office regarding number of students in seat and restriction regarding who can sit together.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui McGettigan

APPENDIX A: Sample Letter to Families at Start of School

DATE

Dear Families:

We are asking for your help to prevent COVID-19 from impacting our school community.

COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs, sneezes or sings. As a school community we ask for your support to take the following precaution to prevent the spread of the disease:

- Know the symptoms of the COVID-19:
 - Fever/chills (measured 100.4F)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Sore throat
 - Runny nose or nasal congestion
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- Please do not send your child to school if they have:
 - Any ***new or unexplained*** symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above); this includes even mild symptoms. Please report this to the school nurse.
 - Shared a household (temporarily or permanently) with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days.
 - International or cruise ship travel in the last 10 days
- Any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from school, and instructed to isolate at home and seek testing for COVID-19. Symptomatic students or staff can be allowed to return to school when one of the following two conditions is met:
 1. Person receives an FDA-approved COVID-19 test that is negative, **AND** the person's symptoms are improving and they are fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications. Approved tests include:
 - A PCR-based molecular test
 - Antigen testing conducted within an appropriate number of days since symptom onset
 2. Person has met CDC criteria for ending of home isolation (i.e., if person is not tested, they are managed assuming they have COVID-19).
- If a student has household (temporarily or permanently) contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 by PCR or antigen test in the prior 14 days or has an international or cruise ship travel-related risk, they are required to complete self-quarantine at home for 10 days from the last known exposure. More information on travel quarantine can be found [here](#).

Please also help us practice and promote that all students and staff:

- Get vaccinated, for those who are eligible.
- Frequently wash their hands. Hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, is the best way to reduce the spread of germs.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their elbow. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer after they discard of the tissue.
- Don't share personal items such as drinks, food or water bottles.

- Avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Children may worry about themselves, their family and friends getting sick with COVID-19. Tips for talking to children about COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>.

Our school works closely with the New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor the newest information about COVID-19.

To learn more about COVID-19, please check these trusted resources:

- New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services: <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/welcome>
- United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Thank you for your support and partnership to keep our school healthy this year!

Sincerely,

[School administrator's name and signature]