

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #2

Ashland School District

Inter-Lakes School District

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April 16, 2021

Dear Ashland Elementary School Families,

I hope this correspondence finds you well enjoying today's spring snow! Below are some important updates that I want to share with you.

Updated Travel Guidance and Quarantine Guidance

Please note – health screening questions will reflect this change starting on Monday, April 19.

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has updated travel and quarantine guidance. At the most recent School Board meeting, the School Board voted to approve adopting this updated guidance. The new guidance is explained below:

- Domestic travel within the U.S. no longer requires quarantine upon return to NH (regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status), this includes domestic travel to U.S. territories
- People who travel internationally or on a cruise ship are still required to quarantine upon arrival to NH, unless diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 90 days or fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Everyone who chooses to travel, regardless of vaccination status or prior immunity, should wear a well-fitted, multi-layered face mask, physically distance (i.e., maintain at least 6 feet from other people), avoid large groups and gatherings, frequently sanitize hands, and self-monitor for symptoms
- Persons required to quarantine after international travel or travel on a cruise ship can choose to end quarantine after 7 days if
 - The person is asymptomatic, and
 - Has a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR-based test performed on a respiratory specimen that is collected on days 6-7 of quarantine
- Even though a person may not be required to quarantine after travel, providers should still recommend they seek testing for asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection 3-5 days after travel, per CDC guidance on travel during the COVID-19 pandemic (applies for both domestic and international travel).

Close Contact

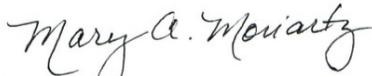
An additional change from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is that in a school setting with a controlled and monitored environment including correct face mask use by individuals in the class, in a case of exposure to COVID-19 three (3) feet will be used to determine close contacts who need to quarantine. There are nuances to each situation which will require an evaluation to determine if the radius from a close contact needs to extend beyond the three (3) feet to six (6) feet. The rationale for the change in guidance is that with more schools in person there is greater available evidence to support that with universal mask use there is low incidence of school transmission. This will also allow us to more confidently have certain activities take place at a three (3) foot distance versus maintaining a six (6) foot distance. My sincere hope, and I have no doubt yours as well, is that we are moving away from a need to contact trace.

Mask Use

AES will continue our mask wearing practices that we have had in place. This is a key layer of our mitigation efforts and is recommended by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Resources and American Academy of Pediatrics.

Please know our collective efforts are having a positive impact. Our learners are doing an incredible job adjusting to the changes and challenges this school year presents. Their resilience and ability to adapt has been outstanding. Thank you to our families for completing your daily health screenings, reinforcing of mitigation strategies including keeping your children home, if symptomatic – it has made and is making a difference. Be well, ***Ashland Elementary School!***

With gratitude and respect,



Mary A. Moriarty
Superintendent of Schools

MAM/mgm