

COVID-19 Response Team Meeting Minutes
February 11, 2022

Members Present: Sue Rubbe, Grace Hannon (nursing student), Kelly Avery, Jacqui McGettigan, Fire Chief Steve Heath, Police Chief Will Ulwick, Trish Temperino

Absent with Notice: Tim Paquette

1. **Review of January 24, 2022 minutes:** No changes noted
2. **Review Confirmed Case Tool:** The COVID-19 Response Team reviewed the Confirmed Case Tool. Nineteen positive cases were included. Mrs. Rubbe informed the Team that DHHS no longer requires schools to report individual cases, clusters or outbreaks. (see below for additional information)
3. **Decision Making Tool:** The COVID-19 Response Team reviewed local and county data
4. **DHHS Reporting Changes:** DHHS has changed it's reporting practices and schools are now reporting an aggregate number of new cases at the end of each week. The COVID-19 Response Team discussed the option of also moving to a weekly aggregate reporting system. After some discussion, the decision was made to continue reporting on the announcements and the COVID-19 Dashboard. It was noted that we recently informed parents of the change from daily reporting correspondence to reporting using the daily announcements and that we should continue with our current practice.
5. **COVID 10 Booster Shots Update:** The booster shots are now available for those 12 years old and older, but the individual eligibility is based on the timing of the original booster series. Students are considered up to date on their vaccines based on the following:
 - They are eligible and have received their booster shot
 - They are not yet eligible and have therefore currently received the required number of vaccines

It should be noted that anyone (adult or student) who is eligible for a booster, but has not yet received the booster is NOT considered up to date on their vaccine status. This will affect quarantine/isolation protocols following close household contact exposure to COVID-19 or their positive case of COVID-19.
6. **DHHS Toolkit**—The DHHS School Toolkit has been retired and replaced with a three page document “Responding to COVID-19 in Schools” which outlines current COVID-19 procedures in schools. The COVID-19 Response Team will review this document at their next meeting.
7. **Next Meeting**—The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqui McGettigan

**COVID-19 Decision Making Tool
Ashland Elementary School**

Current Mitigation Response Level as of January 24, 2021	Blue—Low transmission	Yellow—Moderate Transmission	Orange-- Substantial Transmission	Red High Transmission
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Date: February 11, 2022

Local & Statewide COVID - 19 Data Review

Active Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in School	4
Active Cluster of Cases in School	Both clusters have been closed because DHHS is no longer managing clusters.
Active Outbreak of Cases in School	Outbreak has been closed because DHHS is no longer managing outbreaks.
Number of Pending Known COVID-19 Tests	1
Number of Quarantines	1
Number of Isolations	2
Number of Active Cases in Ashland Last Week	29 Active cases as of 1/21/2022
Number of Active Cases in Ashland	9 Active Cases as of 2/8/2022
Grafton County Transmission Level	High Community Transmission/RED
Data Summary	Only one student tested positive this week. We are seeing a drop in positive cases.

Decision Point:
Does the data review warrant a change in response level?
No—all in agreement

Attendance Are staff absences impacting the ability to effectively supervise students? Are staff absences impacting the ability to effectively provide learning opportunities? Are student absences impacting the ability to learn effectively?	
Staff	Getting Better
Students	No
Decision Point: Does the data/information on absences warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	
Cleaning Supplies	
Status of availability of materials & staff to clean for the next two weeks	Good
Status of availability of materials & staff to clean for the next 2 weeks (or 4 weeks out)	Good
Disposable Masks, Gloves, Disposable Shields/Drapes	Good
Decision Point: Do the current conditions for cleaning warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	
Mitigation Efforts	
Face Coverings	Yes
Physical Distancing	Yes with reminders
Hand Washing	Yes
Limited Illness at School	Yes
Decision Point: Does the level of compliance with mitigation efforts warrant a change in response level? No—all in agreement	

Mitigation Response Level based on transmission levels in the community and the county

Recommended Decision Date: February 11, 2022

Anticipated Recommended Response Level for Next Week

Orange + with additional new mitigation practices

Anticipated Recommended Response Level for Next Four Weeks

TBD

CONFIRMED CASE(S) COVID-19 TOOL

Date: February 11, 2022

School Confirmed Case of COVID-19	Ashland Elementary
Number of Confirmed Cases	19 Confirmed cases from January 25, 2022 to February 10, 2022
Has DHHS identified this as an outbreak?	Two clusters/one outbreak were identified by DHHS NOTE: DHHS no longer requires reporting of individual cases, clusters or outbreaks.
Has DHHS identified this as a cluster?	Two clusters/one outbreak were identified by DHHS NOTE: DHHS no longer requires reporting of individual cases, clusters or outbreaks
Description of Confirmed COVID-19	Team Caring—1 Student Team Honesty--0 Team Integrity—3 Students Team Respect—5 Students; 1 Staff Member Middle Team—7 Students Other Staff--2
Has DHHS made contact with the Confirmed COVID-19 Case(s)?	Unknown
Have close contacts been identified by the School? Close contacts include anyone who was unmasked and closer than three feet for 10 minutes or more.	No longer contacting close contacts
Has the School interviewed the confirmed case to review close contacts?	No longer contacting close contacts
Have close contacts been contacted by the School?	Information now included in Daily Announcements
Have close contacts been contacted by DHHS?	N/A

Has DHHS identified the source of infection?	N/A
Has the school identified who might have been in the same area as the confirmed case, however, not be considered close contact?	Yes, all families have been encouraged to watch for symptoms
Has the school contacted individuals who might have been in the same area as the confirmed case, although not considered close contact?	Yes, all families have been encouraged to watch for symptoms
Are there School Activities/School Athletics/School Events that had contact with the confirmed case(s)?	No
Are there any known overlaps between school buildings within the School District?	No
Are there any known overlaps with respect to school transportation in the School District?	We are no longer tracking transportation close contacts
Are there any staffing concerns as a result of the confirmed case(s)?	No
Have the areas identified as being used by the confirmed case(s) been cleaned and are ready for use?	Yes
Upcoming School Activities/Athletics/Events	N/A





Summary of Most Recent State/Local Data	9 Active cases in Ashland as of 2/8/2022
Current Mitigation Response Level	ORANGE Plus
DHHS Recommendation	Nothing additional
Recommended Mitigation Response Level	ORANGE
Recommendations Relative to School Activities/Athletics/Events	None

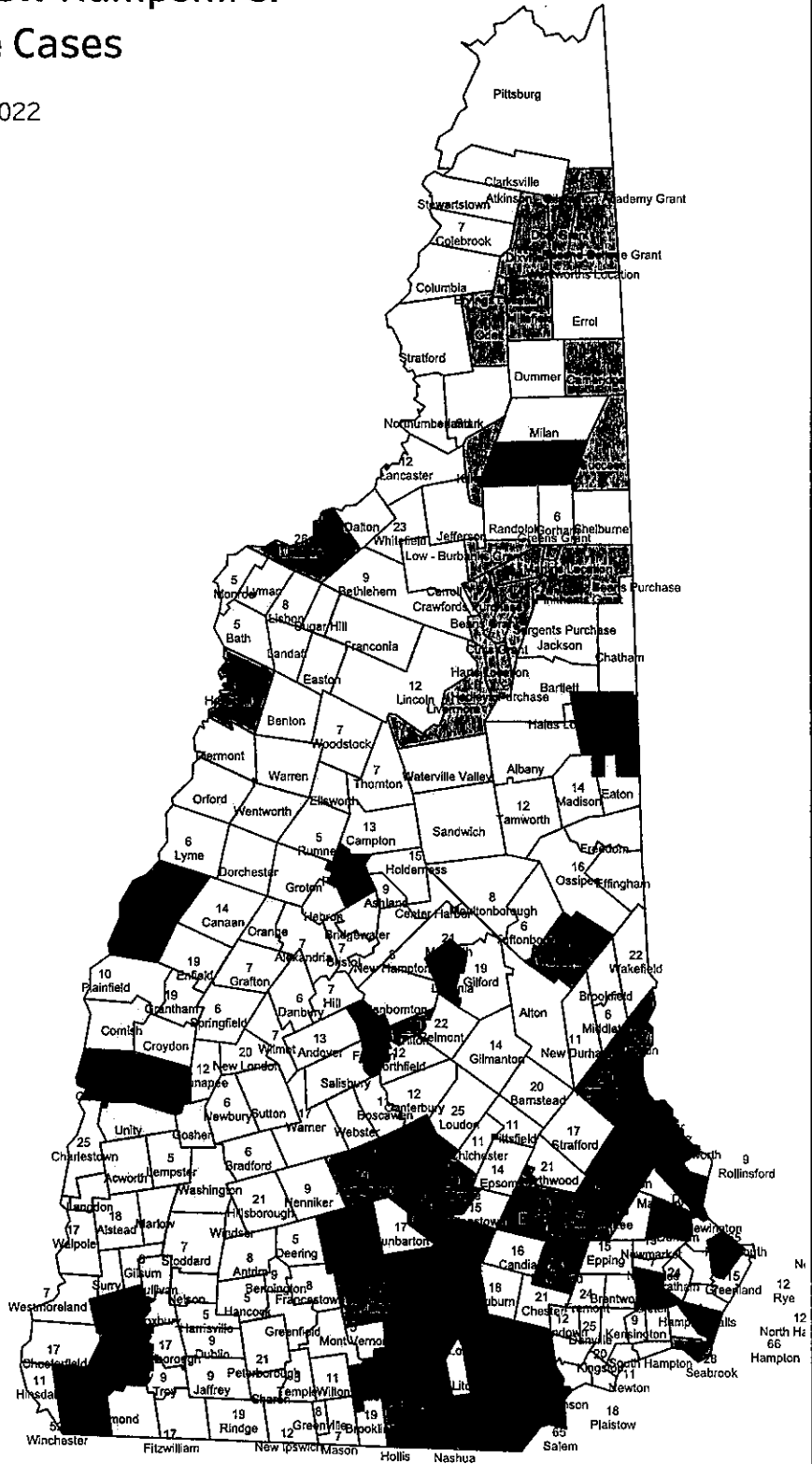
COVID-19 in New Hampshire: Active Cases

2/8/2022

Active Cases:
5818

Total Unknowns:
0

-  0 Cumulative Active Cases
 -  Data not available for areas with less than a population of 100. Town metrics not available for ICU, Hospitalization, or Death data.
 -  For towns with metric counts between 1-4, data limited to protect the privacy of individuals.
- Lower to Higher
- 



Data as of: 2/9/2022



- Remember to visit our school website at www.aesk8.org to learn all about AES!!
- Starting November 1st until April 1st, all students will be required to carry a dry non-marking pair of sneakers with them on gym days for Physical Education. This includes students who have flex time during the day.

Date	New Active Case Information for 2/9/2022	Total Current Active Cases as of 2/9/2022	Total Clusters as of 2/9/2022	Total Outbreaks as of 2/9/2022
2/10/2022	0	6	Middle Tier 0 Team Respect	1

NEW: GYM WALKWAY: Effective immediately the walkway by the Gymnasium is closed indefinitely due to safety concerns with falling snow and ice. Please use the safe path by the Tri-County Cap building.

COVID LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSITION: SUBSTANTIAL-ORANGE Refer to Mitigation Response Chart on the AES website.

MENTAL HEALTH WEBINAR: The next session of the Ten-Part Mental Health Webinar series will take place on February 22nd. Information containing the Zoom link will be sent to families via email later this month.

DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER: Please make sure your student(s) are dressed appropriately for the weather. We at AES spend as much time as possible outside and with the colder weather upon us, it is important that your student(s) are dressed appropriately for the weather conditions.

ABSENCE / TARDY / EARLY DISMISSAL/ DISMISSAL CHANGES: Please call 968-7622 or email Ms. Johnson and Mrs. McGettigan if your child will be absent from school, tardy, will be dismissed early or has different dismissal plans. All students who arrive after the homeroom bell are required to check in with Mrs. Johnson to receive their LATE pass. Dismissal Changes should be communicated to Ms. Johnson djohnson@aes8.org AND Mrs. McGettigan jmcgettigan@aes8.org no later than 12:00 pm.

LOBBY GUIDELINES: Masks **MUST** be worn when entering the lobby. The lobby is limited to 1 person (family) at a time. All others waiting to enter the lobby must social distance using the ramp.

STUDENT ITEM DROP OFF BIN: If you are dropping off an item for your student(s) (example: lunch box, sneakers, binder etc.) please leave the item labeled with your student(s) name in the labeled bin outside the visitor lobby. Staff will distribute your student(s) belongings throughout the day.

HOW TO NOTIFY THE SCHOOL WITH COVID RELATED QUESTIONS OR UPDATES: It is imperative that we receive up to the minute information if your student has either tested positive for COVID 19 or been a close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID 19. If you need to reach us after hours or on days when school is not in session, please leave a message on the school attendance line AND email all of the following people: Kelly Avery, kavery@aes8.org, Sue Rubbe, srubbe@aes8.org and Jacqui McGettigan jmcgettigan@aes8.org. We will be monitoring the attendance line and emails.

TABS FOR DIALYSIS: Please keep bringing in those aluminum tabs from beverage cans. The money raised helps children who are ill. Every tab counts!

Please note the daily menu is subject to change based on availability of product.

TODAY'S LUNCH: Choice A: Cheeseburger on a Bun **Choice B:** Fruit and Yogurt Parfait

Choice C: Ham and Cheese Lunchbox **Choice D:** Sun Butter and Jelly Sandwich

TOMORROW'S LUNCH: Choice A: Cheese or Pepperoni Pizza **Choice B:** Bacon and Cheese Garden Salad

Choice C: Ham and Cheese Lunchbox **Choice D:** Sun Butter and Jelly Sandwich

Remember you can check the menu at any time by visiting the Café Services website at :

<https://ashland.linqnutrition.com/Menus.aspx>

Responding to COVID-19 in K-12 Schools and Child Care Facilities February 7, 2022

Updates to this document are indicated in orange text.

Background

Please note: this guidance replaces previous publications of the State of NH Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) School and Child Care Toolkit for COVID-19.

This guidance is intended to update schools and child care programs about recommendations for COVID-19 case reporting to the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), and assist schools and child care facilities in responding to clusters or outbreaks of COVID-19. Multiple resources exist that K-12 school and child care programs can draw upon when making decisions about COVID-19 prevention measures including:

1. CDC guidance for K-12 schools and child care programs
2. American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidance for K-12 schools

Schools and child care agencies should follow NH requirements for isolation and quarantine (including this flowchart for deciding quarantine), and the reporting and contact tracing guidance found in this document (which may differ from CDC's guidance linked above).

Weekly Case and Cluster Reporting

Given the increasing use of at-home tests, tracking every COVID-19 infection is neither possible nor necessary for managing the COVID-19 pandemic within our communities and schools. Therefore, NH DHHS is no longer asking schools and childcare programs to report individual details for persons diagnosed with COVID-19 within a school or child care program.* This is consistent with a national transition away from universal case investigation and contact tracing to focus surveillance and public health efforts on preventing severe outcomes of COVID-19.

Infections will continue to be reported to the State, but instead of daily reports NH DHHS is implementing weekly aggregate reporting of all persons diagnosed with COVID-19 associated with a school[†], as allowed under NH State Statute RSA 141-C. Aggregate reporting is intended to dramatically decrease the burden of reporting and contact tracing on school staff, while maintaining State and local situational awareness of how COVID-19 is impacting facilities. Please report weekly aggregate data using this link at the end of each week, even if you have zero cases to report. Reporting will occur Friday morning or, if late, in order to be included in weekly public reporting, data must be submitted no later than 12pm on the following Monday.

NH DHHS is also no longer asking schools or child care programs to actively conduct contact tracing to identify clusters or outbreaks. Rather, if a large cluster or outbreak is suspected based on weekly aggregate reporting, or if a school/child care official is concerned about uncontrolled transmission within a facility, the school or child care program can contact NH DHHS to report the situation and seek advice on mitigating further spread of COVID-19.

Report concerns by calling 603-271-4496 (after-hours, call 603-271-5300 and ask for the public health professional on-call to be paged). School and child care programs should designate a primary point of contact

(e.g., school nurse, director, principal or administrative staff) who is responsible for coordinating with the NH DHHS COVID-19 Congregate Setting Investigation (CSI) Unit. The facility primary point of contact will need to be prepared to communicate the following information:

- Total number of students scheduled to be at school (exclude remote learning)
 - Number of students with COVID-19
- Total number of staff scheduled at the school (exclude remote teaching)
 - Number of staff with COVID-19
- Date of disease onset for first recognized case
 - Presenting disease symptoms
- Hospitalization and/or death among cases, if known

If a cluster or outbreak is identified in your facility and you would like assistance from NH DHHS, a public health professional will assist your primary point of contact in controlling spread of disease. Every school or child care should be prepared to implement enhanced prevention strategies in response to an outbreak of COVID-19. In uncontrolled outbreak situations, NH DHHS will provide additional guidance to assist the facility as necessary.

Responding to People with Symptoms or a Diagnosis of COVID-19

Viral Testing Pending? ‡	Action:
Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic person <u>isolates</u> pending test result • HHCs can remain in school/work as long as they remain asymptomatic, but if the symptomatic person tests positive for COVID-19, then the HHCs who are not <u>up to date</u> on COVID-19 vaccination must <u>quarantine</u>
No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic person must remain on <u>isolation</u> until they have met criteria for release from <u>isolation</u> • HHCs who are not <u>up to date</u> on COVID-19 vaccination must <u>quarantine for 5 days starting after the last day of exposure</u>

‡ Appropriate COVID-19 viral testing includes molecular- (i.e., PCR) or antigen-based tests (antigen tests must be conducted within an appropriate time frame after symptom onset, as specified in manufacturer instructions). Antibody tests are not appropriate for diagnosing active infection.

Action Steps for School and Child Care Programs to Take for All Cases of COVID-19:

- Exclude students/staff with COVID-19 from facility for appropriate duration of isolation.
- Exclude persons with symptoms of COVID-19 from facility and instruct them to get tested, if needed, provide student and parent/guardian with “Letter to Providers Concerning COVID-19 Testing and Exclusion” to facilitate appropriate action and testing.
- Advise affected classroom/cohort of action items for persons who do not need to quarantine.
- Exclude quarantined household contacts (e.g., siblings who are unvaccinated or not up to date on receiving all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses).

Identifying and Responding to a Cluster or Outbreak

Additional Action Steps for Clusters or Outbreaks of COVID-19:

1. Review prevention strategies and consider implementing additional layers of prevention, or more closely monitor existing prevention strategies.
2. Notify NH DHHS when concerned with uncontrolled transmission within a facility. NH DHHS will assess information provided and provide additional support, if indicated.
3. Notify school community (e.g., affected classroom, team) of potential cluster or outbreak.
4. Advise affected classroom/cohort of action items for persons who do not need to quarantine.

Definition of Key Terms

Household contact	Any individual who lives and sleeps in the same indoor shared space as another person diagnosed with COVID-19 (either a temporary or permanent living arrangement), leading to close contact and potential repeated exposure to the person with COVID-19. This includes situations where there may be temporary but prolonged exposure such as occurs as sleep-over events, shared camp cabins, vacation rentals, etc.
K-12 school or child care associated case	COVID-19 case (confirmed or probable) who is a student, teacher, or staff member physically present in the school setting or participated in a school sanctioned extracurricular† activity <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Within 14 days prior to illness onset or a positive test result ORb. Within 10 days after illness onset or a positive test result
A cluster in the school or child care setting	Three or more individuals confirmed with COVID-19 who are part of a related group of individuals (e.g., classroom) who had the potential to transmit infections to each other through close contact
An outbreak in a school or child care setting	Two or more unrelated clusters in the school with onset (based on source case symptom onset date) within 14 days of each other

Additional Resources

[CDC K-12 School Parent FAQs](#)

[CDC K-12 Administrator FAQs](#)

[CDC COVID-19 Print Resources](#)

* The exception to this is when school staff (e.g., school nurses) are conducting point-of-care COVID-19 testing, then under federal regulations those test results still need to be reported to NH DHHS (see information here about options to report point-of-care tests).

† This includes persons who may or may not have been present in the facility while infectious.