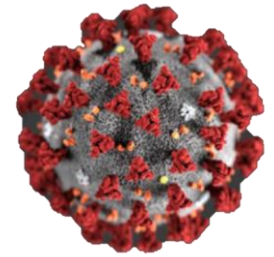


New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Call for School Partners



Agenda:

- Opening Remarks – Dr. Ben Chan, Dr. Elizabeth Talbot, Dr. Beth Daly
- Q&A – To ask a question, use the Q&A feature in Zoom
 - Hover over bottom of Zoom screen to find “Q&A”
 - This is a public call, be careful about what you share (no confidential/sensitive information)
 - Ask general questions, individual consultation should be directed to the Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at 603-271-4496 (ask for a public health staff members)

Last Week Discussion

- Symptom and risk factor screening and exclusion of students from school
- Testing students for COVID-19
- Public health contact tracing
- Isolation and quarantine
- Modes of transmission and ventilation
 - New: WHO has some good [messaging and guidance](#) on building ventilation

Follow-up From Last Week

- Request for an “algorithm” to assist with processes for screening, exclusion, testing, and isolation & quarantine
- Request for metrics for when to consider moving between different learning models (in-person vs. hybrid vs. temporary remote vs. full remote learning)
- Questions about quarantine of teachers who travel outside of New England, and whether quarantine of siblings of a student being tested for COVID-19 is recommended (while test is pending)

Follow-up: Screening K-12 Students

- CDC has issued [guidance on screening K-12 students](#) for symptoms of COVID-19
- NH DPHS continues to recommend that parents/guardians conduct temperature, symptom, and risk factor screening on students daily before entry to school
- We also recommend that schools look to develop a secondary redundant, simplified process for identifying symptomatic students before/as they enter classrooms (not necessarily temperature checking)
- We continue to recommend any students/staff, even with mild symptoms, be excluded from school and tested
- We are working to evaluate and try and address issues with long testing turn-around-times

Follow-up # 1: Quarantine of Teachers

- General NH DPHS travel guidance:
<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/employee-travel-guidance.pdf>
- Requiring teachers to quarantine for 14 days after travel outside of New England at the start of school may be prohibitory to re-opening school.
- Therefore, we propose that for the start of school teachers who traveled may be allowed back to school if the following apply:
 - Travel outside of NE was by private car/transportation
 - Teacher wears a cloth face covering/mask while working at the school facility (for at least 14 days after travel if not part of normal school requirement)
 - There was no close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19
 - Teacher passes other symptom screening questions and temperature checks daily

Follow-up # 2: Quarantine of Siblings

- Reminder: any person who is symptomatic (and ideally being tested), or who has been in close contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19 needs to be isolated/quarantined.
- Siblings of students who are being tested for COVID-19 (either due to symptoms or exposure) generally do NOT need to quarantine
- However, public health may recommend siblings and other close household contacts quarantine while awaiting test results on a case-by-case basis taking into account factors such as:
 - Symptoms and risk factors of the person being tested (i.e., what is the likelihood of COVID-19)
 - Current levels of community transmission
 - Whether the sibling contact is in a student in a class of vulnerable individuals

Topic: Physical Distancing Recommendations

- Maximize physical distance between students
- Students should be spaced at least 3 feet apart
- Ideal/goal distance is still 6 feet apart (“preferred”)
- Physical distancing needs to be implemented with other protective measures (layers of protection) – in situations where students are within 3-6 feet of other students, it becomes more important for schools to look at implementing cloth face coverings (see [CDC guidance](#))

Topic: Physical Distancing Recommendations

- Rationale for NH Recommendations:
 - NH guidance is consistent with [American Academy of Pediatrics Guidance for School Re-Entry](#) and with guidance released by many other states
 - An [analysis in The Lancet](#) (systematic review of the literature) found that physical distancing of at least one meter was effective and “associated with a large reduction in infection”
 - Greater distances are probably more effective at preventing spread of COVID-19, but the additional benefit of increasing separation from 3 ft to 6 ft is unclear
 - Need for flexibility: many schools are not able to separate students by 6 feet and maintain full in-person learning
 - The benefits of in-person learning likely outweigh potential increased risk, especially when other layers of protection were implemented
 - We believe the current levels of community transmission allow for this flexibility (take away for PH: we need to define better categories for levels of community transmission and risk)

Topic: Cloth Face Coverings/Masks

- Review CDC's guidance on the [Use of Cloth Face Coverings to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html)
- Who should NOT wear cloth face coverings: children < 2 years of age; or anyone who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance
- Cloth face coverings are intended to keep the wearer from spreading the virus to other people ("source control")
- Cloth face coverings are NOT personal protective equipment (PPE) – while they may offer some protection, they have not been evaluated for effectiveness as PPE
- Masks with exhaust valves are NOT ok to use

Cloth Face Coverings – General Recommendations

- Students should wear cloth face coverings in circumstances where physical distancing cannot be maintained
- Cloth face coverings should also be worn in circumstances where students/staff are at increased risk of coming into close contact with others (entering, exiting, transiting, engaged in classroom activities, seated on a bus, etc.)
- Use of cloth face coverings in classrooms is left to the decision of local school districts

Cloth Face Coverings – Classrooms

- Consider cloth face coverings in the context of other layers of protection and ability to social distance, cohort students, limit mixing between students, etc.
- Considerations for use of cloth face coverings:
 - Younger children (2 years of age or older) may have difficulty consistently and correctly wearing cloth face coverings
 - Work with younger children to get compliance
 - Older students can be expected to wear cloth face coverings more consistently

Is It Safe to Conduct Extra-Curricular Activities?

- Depends on the extra-curricular activity, location (e.g., indoors vs. outdoors), and ability to maintain physical distancing
- Recommended against physical contact sports on prior call
- Avoid high-risk crowded situations (e.g., locker rooms)
- Anything that requires forced breathing (e.g., playing a wind instrument) or vocal cord vibration (e.g., singing) may need additional precautions

Other Guidance That May Apply

- Amateur & Youth Sports:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/2020-05/guidance-amateur-youth-sports.pdf>

- Health & Fitness:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/2020-05/guidance-health-fitness.pdf>

- Community Arts & Music Education:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-arts-music-education.pdf>

- Performing Arts:

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/files/inline-documents/guidance-performing-arts-venues.pdf>

Topic: Special Education

- NH DOE has some guidance which may apply:
<https://www.education.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt326/files/files/inline-documents/summer-guidance.pdf>
- For people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing: Lip reading can be supported with clear face coverings, or face shields or Plexiglas barriers (especially if within 6 feet)
 - Face shields can be used to supplement/augment face mask use in certain circumstances, but face shields are not a replacement for face coverings/masks and not recommended for general use
- For students that have difficulty with oral secretions, may need more supportive care (feeding, physical contact, etc.):
 - Gowns can be considered if staff may be in contact with oral secretions
 - Have gloves on hand
 - Focus on good hand hygiene

Additional Questions & Answers

Regular call with schools every Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm

- Zoom link: <https://nh-dhhs.zoom.us/j/98062195081>
- Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
- Meeting ID: 980 6219 5081
- Passcode: 197445

Topic: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- See our Health Alert Network (HAN) guidance for PPE recommendations: [HAN, Update #18](#)
- For outpatient evaluations we recommend having available: gown, gloves, eye protection, surgical mask
- What about aerosol generating procedures on a symptomatic person?
 - Avoid aerosol generating procedures to the extent possible
 - If an aerosol generating procedure is performed, then an N95 or higher-level respirator is recommended
- The State is helping schools identify vendors for acquiring PPE supplies

How Should You Manage a Student/Staff Who Has Symptoms of COVID-19?

- Mask the symptomatic person (covering nose and mouth)
- Place the symptomatic person in a private room with the door closed if safe to do so (at a minimum they should be separated from others)
- Record the symptomatic person's temperature
- Perform a brief assessment of the person's complaints or symptoms
- Keep any assessment brief and stay at least 6 feet away, to the extent possible
- If in the same room as the person, the nurse should wear a **surgical face mask**. Also wear **eye protection** (goggles or face shield) if within 6 feet for brief periods of time, or if the person is unable to wear a face mask
- If prolonged close contact (within 6 feet of the person) is anticipated (including contact with the person's secretions/excretions), then wear all appropriate PPE: surgical face mask, disposable gown, gloves, and eye protection
- Send the symptomatic person home by private transportation