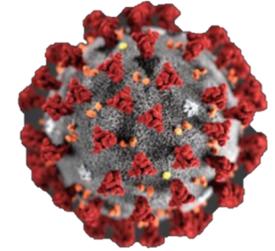


# New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 Weekly Call for School Partners



## 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”
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# New Resources Coming!

- NHSNA: Best Practices to Reduce COVID-19 Transmission in the School Setting
- NH DPHS School Toolkit
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document
  - Screening, exclusion, and testing “algorithm” (flow chart)
  - Considerations for learning models relative to levels of COVID-19 community transmission and school impact

# Additional Guidance on Exclusion and Testing of Symptomatic Students or Staff

- Any student or staff with any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 should be sent home and the parent/guardians should be instructed to contact the child's healthcare provider for COVID-19 testing
- The person can be allowed to return to school when one of the following three conditions are met:
  1. Approved COVID-19 testing is negative, and person's symptoms are improving and is fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications. Approved tests include:
    - PCR-based test (molecular test)
    - Quidel Sofia antigen testing is conducted within 5 days of symptom onset
  2. Person has met CDC criteria for [discontinuation of isolation](#)
  3. Healthcare provider documents a chronic/stable condition that accounts for the symptoms, and there are not any new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19
    - We recommend this be addressed in a student's school medical record prior to the start of school

# Last Week: Quarantine of Teachers Guidance

- 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 proposed 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

# Clarification: Quarantine of Teachers Guidance

- This applies for essential staff/teachers, and only in situations where the decision is to either close school (due to staff shortages), or allow staff with low-risk travel histories back to school with appropriate screening, social distancing, and masking precautions
- This is consistent with the approach public health has taken with other essential businesses/employees
- The guidance is intended to allow for teachers to conduct necessary personal/family business (e.g., bringing children to college)
- This is not intended to allow staff to travel for vacations before school – any necessary travel should be of limited duration, public crowds settings should be avoided, face coverings should be used
- Recommend that school districts develop travel policies and require employees to quarantine after travel if they are not critical to school operations

# Last Week: 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
- 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

# Directed to Other Existing Guidance

- 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>

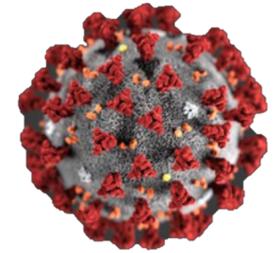
# Clarification: Official Sports Guidance

- All re-open guidance is developed with multiple stakeholder input, including the Re-Open Task Force, Public Health, and the Governor's office
- Sports guidance was discussed with the NHIAA (through the Task Force and Governor's office) but not directly by public health
- [Amateur & Youth Sports](#) guidance does not specify (or single out) which : sports are allowed to open which are not
- All sports are allowed to operate in some capacity but need to follow State guidance; for example
  - Sports should be “planned and implemented to maintain a minimum of 6 feet of distance” when possible
  - In circumstances where closer contact may occur, staff and athletes “must wear cloth face coverings/masks when possible”

# Clarification: Official Sports Guidance

- It will be difficult for some sports to function normally while trying to maintain physical distance and use cloth face coverings
- Some sports may need to focus more on socially distanced physical training, skill building, drills, etc.
- School districts and athletics directors may need to get creative for how to conduct some sports and competitions
- Close contact and physical contact sports are higher risk, but they are not prohibited

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