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
  o Hover over bottom of Zoom screen to find “Q&A”
  o This is a public call, be careful about what you share (no confidential/sensitive information)
  o 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)
Holiday Next Wednesday (11/11): Veteran’s Day

No School Partner Call Next Week!

Next Call With Schools Will Be On Wednesday 11/18 at 3:30 pm
Overview of Topics to Discuss

1. Epidemiology update

2. Considerations for transitioning between school instructional models

3. Limiting the number of people in “close contact” in school settings & identifying close contacts

4. Travel within the U.S. during the COVID-19 pandemic
Tracking the Pandemic

Data “Interactive Analytics” Dashboard

www.nh.gov/covid19
Number of New Cases of COVID-19 in NH

Daily Trends for Cases by Report Date

https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm#dash
Average Number of Daily New Cases in NH By Report Week, 3/2 – 11/1
Number of New Hospitalizations for COVID-19 in NH

Daily Trends for Hospitalizations

Stay at Home
Stay at Home 2.0
Safer at Home

https://www.nh.gov/covid19/dashboard/overview.htm#dash
Daily Hospital Census for COVID-19 in NH
Considerations for Transitioning Between School Instructional Models

NH DPHS Guidance:
# Instructional Model Decision Matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of School Impact</th>
<th>Level of Community Transmission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Minimal: In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Minimal: In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>Minimal: Hybrid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intended Use of the Decision Matrix

• Schools will make decisions throughout the school year based on what is happening in their communities and local schools

• This is intended to serve as a guide for schools to highlight what metrics we suggest schools/SAUs monitor to inform decisions

• Ultimately decisions on school instructional models is up to the local SAUs and school boards based on local resources and capacity (e.g., space and staffing), ability to implement layers of protection, and risk tolerance of the local community

• If you relax restrictions in one area (e.g., decreased social distancing due to bringing in more students), then look to offset any potential increased risk in other ways (mask use in classrooms, minimizing group activities, assigned seating, cohorting, etc.)
Additional Comments on Applying Guidance

• SAUs can choose to deviate from the decision matrix

• If a school is already in full in-person learning when their community level of transmission hits “substantial”, as long as the school is at “low” impact, they can reasonably hold course

• If a school is in full remote learning, if their community level of transmission is “moderate” or “substantial”, you can consider transitioning back to some form of in-person learning (hybrid, possibly full in-person)

• These are guidelines, but the real-life decisions will be made based on local situation and context, and ability to implement layers of protection
Limiting Close Contacts and New Hampshire Grades K-12

“Back-to-School” Guidance
Review: Transmission of COVID-19

- People of any age can become infected and spread COVID-19
- Symptomatic and asymptomatic persons can spread COVID-19
- SARS-CoV-2 is primarily transmitted through respiratory droplets requiring close contact (within 6 feet for 10 min or longer)
- Aerosol/airborne transmission is possible in certain circumstances (e.g., aerosol generating procedures, singing, etc.) but is not the main mode of transmission
- Surface/fomite transmission remains a theoretical risk
- Cloth face coverings decrease dispersion of a person’s respiratory droplets and serve as an important means of controlling spread
Layers of Protection (Community Mitigation)

- Exclude (& test) people with new or unexplained symptoms
- Social/physical distancing
- Cloth face coverings/masks
- Hand hygiene
- Cohort students/staff
- Limit group sizes
- Limit number of people in close contact
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection
- Isolation (symptomatic) & quarantine (exposed)
Layers of Protection (Community Mitigation)

- Exclude (& test) people with new or unexplained symptoms
- Social/physical distancing
- Cloth face coverings/masks
- Hand hygiene
- Cohort students/staff
- Limit group sizes & avoid crowds
- **Limit number of people in close contact**
- Frequent cleaning and disinfection
- Isolation (symptomatic) & quarantine (exposed)
Limit the Number of People in Close Contact:

*Classroom Arrangement & Function*

- Individual seats/desks (no group seating)
- Everybody facing forward
- Maximize physical distance (do not go below 3 feet of separation)
- Have consistent assigned seating (can change from one classroom to another, but within a classroom should be kept constant)
- Take attendance every day
- Avoid group activities
- If group activities need to occur:
  - Limit group sizes to a few students & maintain physical distance
  - Maintain consistent group assignments throughout the school session
  - Put students in groups who normally have assigned seating next to each other
- Avoid singing within a classroom unless there is sufficient space (8-10 feet of separation) and everybody is masked
- Minimize the amount of time spent in hallway transitions, maintain efficient one-way flow
Public Health Contact Investigations

• Any person with COVID-19 should be reported immediately to public health by calling: 603-271-4496

• The school should assist in identifying people within the school system that have been in “close contact” to any person diagnosed with COVID-19
  – “Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 for a cumulative time of 10 minutes or longer during that person’s infectious period (which can occur over days)
  – Face masks and barriers are not taken into account when determining who is a close contact (ongoing national evaluation of effectiveness), although face masks will help prevent further spread, and prevent clusters and outbreaks within schools

• Public Health will reach out to the person with COVID-19 to obtain additional information about activities and close contacts within/outside of school

• Public health will reach out to close contacts for quarantine and testing
  – Testing, even if negative, does NOT allow a person to end quarantine early. Testing allows for early identification of infection to prevent further spread from persons who may be infected but are asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic
Assist in Identifying Close Contacts in School

- Any person sitting within 6 feet on either side, in-front, or in-back of a person with COVID-19 (for each classroom, including during lunch and snack)

- Any person participating in a small group activity where they were sitting or interacting within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19

- Persons part of a team or group that interacted with a person with COVID-19 during recess or physical education (i.e., uncontrolled physical activity) and meets criteria for “close contact”

- Any person in the same room (i.e., closed confined space) as the person with COVID-19 while they were singing or playing a wind instrument (regardless of physical distancing) – investigate on a case-by-case basis

- Any person participating in sporting events (training sessions, practices, games) with a person with COVID-19 – investigate on a case-by-case basis

- Any person in a classroom where students were allowed to mingle in an uncontrolled fashion and where a person with COVID-19 was present during their infectious period (entire classroom would potentially be identified as “close contacts”)

- Any persons seated within 6 feet of a person with COVID-19 on a bus or transportation vehicle
Travel within the U.S. During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Current DPHS Travel Guidance

NH’s Current Travel and Quarantine Guidance

• Any travel increases a person’s risk for getting infected and spreading COVID-19

• We discourage non-essential personal and business travel, especially on public transportation

• Avoid gathering in groups where close contact might occur (recommended regardless of any out-of-state travel)

• People traveling to/from areas outside the six New England states (ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT) need to quarantine for 14 days from last day of travel outside New England

• We are reviewing the current NH travel guidance

• Given the rapidly changing (worsening) epidemiology and with holiday’s approaching, guidance in NH and other states may change
Be Aware of Other States’ Travel Guidance

• States have different restrictions and requirements for out-of-state travelers, including:
  - Quarantine requirements for travelers from “high risk” areas
  - Restrictions on gatherings
  - Mask mandates
  - Testing requirements
  - Closure or restrictions on certain businesses
  - Curfew

• Many states are using the metric of “number of daily new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population” to define “high risk” areas
“High Risk” in Some States is Defined as ≥10 New Daily Cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 Population (Orange and Red Indicator Below)

- **COVID RISK LEVEL: GREEN**
  - LESS THAN ONE CASE PER 100,000 PEOPLE
  - ON TRACK FOR CONTAINMENT

- **COVID RISK LEVEL: YELLOW**
  - 1-9 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE
  - COMMUNITY SPREAD

- **COVID RISK LEVEL: ORANGE**
  - 10-24 CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE
  - ACCELERATED SPREAD

- **COVID RISK LEVEL: RED**
  - 25+ CASES PER 100,000 PEOPLE
  - TIPPING POINT

“High Risk”: ≥ 10 New Cases/100,000 People per day

https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/
Number of Daily New Cases per 100,000 Population (7-Day Rolling Average)

https://globalepidemics.org/key-metrics-for-covid-suppression/
NH’s Number of Daily New Cases per 100,000 Population is Approaching 10 Cases per Day

Many Other States’ Cut-Off for Travel Restrictions
CDC “Travel Planner” Web Portal Coming

Centralized communication platform for COVID-19 travel restrictions and policies enacted by state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

Summary of Travel Recommendations

• Don’t travel if you don’t have to, even in New England
• Avoid public transportation (planes, trains, buses, etc.)
• Avoid gathering in groups with people who are not already part of your immediate close household contacts
• Epidemiology and travel restrictions around the region and country are changing, and if you travel outside of NH, there is a good chance you will either:
  o Have restrictions applied on you in other states
  o Be subject to quarantine when you return to New Hampshire
• Monitor CDC’s and NH DPHS guidance/resources
Resuming Schools after Holiday Breaks

• Residential Schools: Follow re-opening guidance & testing strategies for bringing students/staff back on campus after holiday break where students will be leaving school and traveling

• Non-Residential Schools:
  o No recommendation for a school to go to remote learning after a holiday break
  o Students & staff who travel to higher risk areas will need to quarantine, as specified in travel guidance (currently defined as outside New England) – see daily screening questions implemented by schools and businesses
  o Staff who travel can be considered “essential workers” under travel guidance (see “exceptions to quarantine requirements”) and allowed to continue to work under additional restrictions
  o Schools should establish policies and set expectations (i.e., communicate) about travel and gatherings around holidays
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