

Approved Inter-Lakes School District

COVID-19

Mitigation & Response Plan for 2021 – 2022

Includes Summer Learning 2021

Meets ESSER Requirement - *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service – Approved Inter-Lakes School Board – June 15, 2021*

Guiding Principles

In-Person School Day Learning Prioritized

- Preserving in-person learning during the school day is prioritized.

Nimble Plan – Will Change & Evolve Over Time

- The School District does not have the ability to predict the future, therefore, every aspect of this Plan can and most likely will change as more information becomes available and more is known.
- Families should have back up plans in place in the event there is a need to shift to remote learning and/or a closure.

Mitigation Steps Based on Community Transmission Levels

- It is beyond the School District's ability to prevent anyone in our community from getting COVID-19; however, steps can be taken to mitigate the risks while at school and work; these steps will depend on level of community transmission.

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Sources for Data & Guidance on COVID-19

- **Data Source** – Center for Disease Control and Prevention Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19.
 - <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home>
- **Guidance** from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, New Hampshire Department of Education, CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics will be used to inform decisions regarding school operations related to COVID-19.
- **County Level** – Inter-Lakes Elementary School & Inter-Lakes Middle High School will align with Belknap County for Level of Community Transmission; Sandwich Central School will align with Carroll County for Level of Community Transmission.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

| Indicator | Low Transmission Blue | Moderate Transmission Yellow | Substantial Transmission Orange | High Transmission Red |
|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ² | 0-9 Carroll < 10 6/05/21 – 6/11/21 | 10-49 Belknap = 29.36 6/05/21 – 6/11/21 | 50-99 | ≥100 |
| Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³ | <5.0% Belknap = 2.01% Carroll = 0.94% 6/5/21 – 6/11/21 | 5.0%-7.9% | 8.0%-9.9% | ≥10.0% |

¹If the two indicators suggest different levels, the actions corresponding to the higher threshold should be chosen. County-level data on total new cases in the past 7 days and test percent positivity are available on the County View tab in [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#).

Mitigation Recommendations

IMPORTANT NOTE

These recommendations are based on current data and trends. If approved, it should be noted that if data and trends indicate a need to increase mitigation efforts, then the School District will respond accordingly. This may need to be done quickly and without time for School Board action; if required the Superintendent has the authority to make such adjustments.

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Pathways for Learning

- **Inter-Lakes School District will be fully opened and in person for the 2021 – 2022 school year**, just as the school was open for 2020 - 2021 school year. Classes will be delivered in person and for full school days; the high school option of remote for part of the day is not planned for the school year; additionally, middle school core classes are planned to be yearlong versus the trimester schedule used throughout the 2020 – 2021 school year. The school day schedule will be like that at the start of the 2019 – 2020 school year. As noted earlier, if needed, adjustments to the schedule may be made.
- **Virtual Option for the Middle & High School Levels** - As access to the vaccine is available to children 12 and up, the School District will not offer an Inter-Lakes School District Virtual Pathway for the middle and high school levels. Middle and high school students may enroll in VLACS. Students who enroll in VLACS will still receive special education and related services from the School District, if eligible. Connections with our Families are critically important, if VLACS is the option you want to explore or access, please connect with your child's Guidance Counselor – we want to be a resource and help assist in your choice and with support.

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Pathways for Learning

- **Virtual Options for the Elementary Level** - It is recognized that some families may be waiting for their children to gain access to the vaccine before returning to in person learning. As children under 12 do not have access at this stage, an Inter-Lakes School District Virtual Learning Pathway will be offered for the Elementary Level only. Based on current information, two multi-age classes (k – 3) and (4 – 6) will be offered. Once the vaccine is available for this age group, a transition plan with Virtual Pathway families will be developed to transition at an appropriate time to in person learning. If the desire is to be virtual for the entire school year, VLACS may be the most appropriate option.

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Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities

- **Full play/participation anticipated unless transmission levels change and adjustments are needed.** Adjustments will be made with the approval of the School Board, however, in the event a temporary decision needs to be made prior to a School Board meeting, the Superintendent working with the Principal and Athletic Director (with respect to Athletics) has the authority to make and implement such temporary decisions.
- Protocols for play/participation will follow “industry standards”, such as NHIAA, however, decisions on play/participation will be made at the local level based on transmission levels.

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Transportation

- Same as school year 2020 – 2021 will be evaluated at COVID Team meetings to determine if any adjustments need to be made.
- School transportation provides many challenges ranging from congregating at the bus stop to increasing contact with others on the school bus. **Mask wearing will be based on the highest transmission level for the School District versus at the School level.**
- If families are able to transport their children to school or carpool, these may be the best options to mitigate risk; however, it is recognized that for a multitude of reasons these options will not work for all families.

Parents/guardians will be required to sign up in advance for school transportation this year. Additionally, special requests for transportation may not be able to be accommodated this year. This includes transportation to aftercare programs. Precedence needs to be given to transportation from home to school and school to home. The reason for this is that ridership on the school bus must be limited and great efforts will be made to adjust bus routes to accommodate this priority, which may not allow for other riders who are not assigned to that bus route.

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Transportation

- The School District will be striving to keep each bus with two (2) students per row; some opportunities based on family travelers may afford increasing that number.
- School buses will be loaded with riders going towards the rear of the bus upon entry and will unload from the front of the bus to exit. This is to try and limit (not eliminate) crossing over of riders.
- Parents/guardians will be responsible for mitigation steps at bus stops.
- School buses will be treated with Zoono and will be cleaned on a daily basis. Information on Zoono can be found in Appendix D of the 2020 – 2021 Opening Plan.
- Use of masks on school transportation will be dependent on level of community transmission for COVID-19.

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Health Protocols

- The School District will adhere to the current guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

Health Screening

- The use of a health assessment screener will be dependent on the level of virus in our area. If the level is “blue” there is no health screening, if the level is “yellow” individuals will be asked to self screen at home prior to arrival, if the level is “orange” or “red”, the School District will implement a required completed daily health screening for all staff and students prior to arrival at school.

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Mitigation Responses

Levels are Based on CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

| STRATEGY | BLUE | YELLOW | ORANGE | RED |
|--------------------------|-------|--|--------|-------|
| Mask Bus | NO | YES NO (updated 6/20 per new updates from NHDHSS) | YES | YES |
| Mask Indoors | NO | NO | YES | YES |
| Mask Outdoors | NO | NO | YES | YES |
| Physical Distance | NO | INDOORS ONLY* | YES* | YES* |
| Cleaning | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| Handwashing | YES** | YES** | YES** | YES** |

*Group work is part of our instructional practices; when working in groups physical distancing is not always possible or instructionally appropriate.

**Principals will make sure schedules are built that provide time for handwashing throughout the day; including time before/after snack and lunch

Mitigation Responses

Levels are Based on CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

| STRATEGY | BLUE | YELLOW | ORANGE | RED |
|---|--------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| Respiratory Hygiene | YES | YES | YES | YES |
| Daily Health Assessment Prior to Arrival | NONE | SELF MONITOR | SCHOOL COLLECTED | SCHOOL COLLECTED |
| Desk Shields | NO | NO | YES | YES |
| Class Cohorts | NO | NO | YES | YES |
| Illness | If ill, stay home. | | | |

Mitigation Responses

Levels are Based on CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

| STRATEGY | BLUE | YELLOW | ORANGE | RED |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Athletics/ Co-Curricular Activities | Normal Participation Follow Protocols from Appropriate Professional Associations such as NHIAA | Normal Participation Follow Protocols from Appropriate Professional Associations such as NHIAA | COVID Team Evaluates Level of Risk and Makes a Recommendation to the School Board for the School Board's Consideration. In the event a temporary decision needs to be made prior to a School Board meeting, the Superintendent working with the Principal and Athletic Director (with respect to Athletics) has the authority to make and implement such temporary decisions. | COVID Team Evaluates Level of Risk and Makes a Recommendation to the School Board for the School Board's Consideration. In the event a temporary decision needs to be made prior to a School Board meeting, the Superintendent working with the Principal and Athletic Director (with respect to Athletics) has the authority to make and implement such temporary decisions. |
| Field Trips | Principal/Superintendent Evaluate Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determine Approval | Principal/Superintendent Evaluate Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determine Approval | Local Only with Principal/Superintendent Evaluating Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determining Approval | Local Only with Principal/Superintendent Evaluating Level of Risk for Proposed Trip and Determining Approval |
| Cafeteria***/Library | OPEN | OPEN | OPEN WITH PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES | EVALUATE IF NEED TO SHIFT TO CLASSROOMS |

***Principals will evaluate if offering some small group options for lunch is possible in addition to the full cafeteria.

Mitigation Responses

Levels are Based on CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19

| STRATEGY | BLUE | YELLOW | ORANGE | RED |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--|--|--|
| Arrival/Dismissal | NORMAL | IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES | IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES | IMPLEMENT PHYSICAL DISTANCING MEASURES |
| Visitors | OPEN | OPEN | LIMITED HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ENTRY | LIMITED HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIOR TO ENTRY |
| Facility Use by Outside Organizations | YES | YES | NO | NO |

Exceptions Mask Use

- It should be noted that due to developmental and health needs, some members of our school community may not be able to utilize face coverings. A decision to exempt someone from use of a face covering will be made in the case of students through the special education or 504 process with appropriate documentation to support exemption. In the case of an employee, the employee will work with the Human Resource Director to provide appropriate documentation to support such an exemption.
- Individuals may choose to wear a mask at any point masks are not required

CASES of COVID-19

Cases of COVID-19

- The School will remain in session unless a closure is recommended by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. It is recognized that there may be unique circumstances and in such a case the Superintendent has the authority to act as the Superintendent sees fit.

Contact Tracing

- The School District will adhere to the current guidance from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

CASES of COVID-19

Communication COVID-19 Cases

- The School District's COVID-19 Dashboard will be maintained.
- Parents/Guardian's of close contacts will be notified by phone call; individuals who have shared classroom space will also be notified by phone call.
- Parents/Guardians may opt to signup for communication regarding cases of COVID-19 in the School District.
- The use of the School District Alert System for the whole School District will only be used if there is a need for a closure, adjusted schedule or other significant need.

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Cleaning

The priority for cleaning is to keep occupants in a healthy environment with the risk of illness mitigated through cleaning and disinfecting efforts. Therefore, cleaning and disinfecting certain elements during the day will be increased with the full return of learners and staff. Vital Oxide has been selected as the chosen disinfectant for the School District. At full strength, Vital Oxide is a hospital/institutional grade disinfectant that has a triple zero health hazard rating. A zero is interpreted in this scale as “minimal.” Vital Oxide is also effective at a 1:9 dilution rate, which makes Vital Oxide a great sanitizer that is rated safe for all ages within our school buildings. Information on Vital Oxide can be found in Appendix C of the 2020 – 2021 Opening Plan. Each space will be cleaned daily by the custodial staff following guidelines from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. High use elements like door handles, switches, and bathrooms will have additional cleanings throughout the day. The custodial staff will do deep cleaning and disinfecting at night, which has been incorporated into our existing cleaning schedule. In order to add layers of mitigation throughout the course of the day, students and staff will need to assume responsibility for maintaining and sanitizing their general work spaces. It is recognized that developmentally students will range in their levels of independence with this responsibility; however, it is a critical skill and one that is necessary to be incorporated into our teaching at this time.

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Classroom Cleaning Materials and Personal Protective Equipment

Each classroom will have a container supplied with paper masks, tissues, cleaning supplies, and gloves; custodial staff will ensure that this container remains stocked.

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Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning (HVAC)

Even the most robust HVAC system cannot control all airflows and completely prevent dissemination of an infectious aerosol or disease transmission by droplets or aerosols. An HVAC system's impact will depend on source location, strength of the source, distribution of the released aerosol, droplet size, air distribution, temperature, relative humidity, and filtration. Furthermore, there are multiple modes and circumstances under which disease transmission occurs. Thus, strategies for prevention and risk mitigation require collaboration of building mechanicals and human behavior. All of our school facilities have filtered mechanical ventilation. The Inter-Lakes School District filters with the highest MERV rated filters that the existing individual units can be paired with. The ventilation schedule and HVAC systems will be set to provide 100% outdoor filtered air exchanges as often as mechanically possible. This will provide the most dilution of the air in any given space, increasing our mitigation efforts to the fullest capabilities of these systems. *Upgrades to our current HVAC systems are prioritized in the use of our ARP ESSER III Funds.*

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Classroom Setups

- Each learner will have their own desk and materials. If community transmission is “blue”, then desks may be arranged in groups within the classroom and materials may be shared. If community transmission increases to “yellow”, the mitigation step of physical distancing will be implemented which includes spacing desks at a minimum of three (3) feet apart and limiting the sharing of materials. During the 2020 – 2021 school year, additional classroom furnishings were removed to provide space for physical distancing. These furnishings will need to remain out of classrooms for the 2021 – 2022 school year (or at least at this stage), so that the use of physical distancing can be easily incorporated, if needed. Note: Group work is part of our instructional practices; when working in groups physical distancing is not always possible or instructionally appropriate.
- Time Outdoors – A benefit of the 2020 – 2021 school year was prioritization of time outdoors; this will continue in the 2021 – 2022 school year and hopefully, beyond as there are immense wellness benefits of time outside.

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COVID Team

- The **COVID Team** established in 2020 – 2021 will continue to meet on a regular basis to determine if any adjustments need to be made. This Team includes Students, Parents, Parent/Physician, Teachers/School Nurses/Administrators, School Board Members and Community Volunteers. The purpose of this Team is to monitor the level of the virus in our area and to make recommendations on our local response and mitigation efforts. When possible, recommendations/adjustments will be brought to the School Board for action, however, in the interim, the Superintendent has the authority to act as needed.

Remote Learning Plan

- The School District utilizes **Schoology** as our **Learning Management System**; if the School District needs to shift to remote learning this established platform provides the necessary framework.
- **Elementary Level** – Classroom Teachers will send home at the start of the school year “remote learning” folders; the folders will be used for remote learning periods that are for a single day. If more than one day of remote learning is needed, School Principals will send out information for Families to collect materials and computer devices; lessons thereafter, will be through the use of Schoology. Additionally, in the event of a need to shift to remote learning, Principals will send out the schedule for learning for the remote period.
- **Middle/High School Levels** – Learners in grades 7 – 12 are expected to bring their devices to and from school daily. In the event of a need to shift to remote learning, learners will access learning through the use of Schoology. The Middle High Principal will send out the schedule for learning for the remote period.

Access to Food

- **ALL learners** in person and virtual will have access to free breakfast and lunch during the 2021 – 2022 school year.
- **Learners who are virtual** will have food available for pick up twice a week. Specific details on how virtual learners will sign up for food will be shared prior to the start of the school year.
- **Remote Learning** – in the event a school or the School District needs to shift to remote learning if:
 - Up to 2 days – food will not be distributed; Families in need may contact the School for assistance.
 - 3 or more days – Families signed up, will have food delivered; School Transportation will assist with the delivery of the food. A process for signup will be presented at the time of need.

Opportunities to Provide Feedback/Input

- Draft Plan posted on website and letter sent to Inter-Lakes Families – June 4, 2021
- Online Survey Open for Feedback – June 4, 2021 – June 15, 2021
- Feedback Sessions – June 7, 2021 (1 Session); June 9, 2021 (2 Sessions)
- Online Survey Updated Draft – Posted on website and letter sent to Inter-Lakes Families – June 14, 2021
- School Board Meetings – June 1, 2021 and June 15, 2021

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

- 48 Online Surveys Completed
 - 32 Describe as favorable of the Proposed Plan
 - 10 Describe no masks/less mask use; 3 indicated distinguish those vaccinated versus those not vaccinated
 - 2 Describe as wanting higher use of masks than proposed
 - 2 Describe supportive of Virtual Pathways; 1 for ALL grade levels
 - 1 Describe not enough distinction between “Orange” and “Red” levels; recommends no masks outdoors when “Orange”
 - 1 Describe concerns in Math/Science for upcoming 9th Grade Students
- Other Comments
 - Be specific about Athletics/Co-Curricular Activities; Concerns about requiring COVID-19 testing; try to make up for Field Experiences lost due to COVID-19; More flexibility for transportation; Close Contacts & Quarantine; Will people be notified about the level on a weekly basis?; Athletics – away games/mask use and will games be at full capacity in the fall?

Summary of Stakeholder Feedback

- June 7, 2021 Feedback Session (2 Parents; 5 Staff; SCS Principal; Superintendent)
 - Virtual Pathways – Helping to transition to in-person; Mr. Hillger will be working with Mr. Bryant, Dr. Downing and Mrs. Vieten to develop plans to assist.
 - More questions about what quarantine may look like next year without a Quarantine Teacher
- June 9, 2021 Feedback Session 1 (4 Parents; ILES Principal; Superintendent)
 - Concerns about masks and flu season – will this become the norm?
 - Communication appreciated – some folks might prefer shorter versions
 - Be honest and upfront that this is multi-stage; remind families to have backup plans for short notice and/or find solutions for short notice
- June 9, 2021 Feedback Session 2 (0 Parents; ILMHS Principal; Superintendent)