

# **Winnacunnet School District**

## **COVID-19 Mitigation & Response Plan**

### **2023 – 2024\***

Meets ESSER Requirement - *Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Service*

*\*reviewed 2-8-24*

#### **Guiding Principles**

##### **In-person school day prioritized**

- Preserving in-person learning is prioritized.

##### **Plan will change & evolve as needed**

- COVID-19 remains a dynamic situation. 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 SAU 21 will respond accordingly. Guidance from the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), NH Hampshire Department of Education, and CDC will be used to inform decisions regarding school operations related to COVID-19.
- Families should have back up plans in place in the event there is a closure at some point during the school year and/or if their child is excluded from school for quarantine or isolation.

##### **Mitigation steps based on COVID-19 community levels**

- It is beyond the School District's ability to prevent anyone in our community from acquiring COVID-19. However, steps can be taken to mitigate the risks while at school and work. These steps will depend on COVID-19 community levels.

# COVID-19

## Mitigation & Response Plan for 2023 – 2024

### Pathways for Learning

- **Winnacunnet High School will be fully open and in person.** Classes will be delivered in person and for full school days. If needed, adjustments to the schedule may be made.

### Transportation

- Masks are not currently required on buses.

### Health Screening

- Individuals are asked to self-screen at home prior to arrival at school and to stay home if ill and seek testing if displaying any of the [identified Covid symptoms](#).

# CASES of COVID-19

## Cases of COVID-19

- School will remain in session unless a closure is recommended by NH DHHS.
- Students and staff who develop new and unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded/tested in accordance with NH DHHS guidelines.

## Quarantine/Isolation

- The School District will adhere to the [current guidance from NH DHHS](#) including isolation and quarantine guidelines for people infected with COVID-19 and household contacts who are not up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccination.

## Communication regarding COVID-19 Cases

- If an outbreak is identified, school-based notification of positive cases will be provided.

# CDC Covid-19 Community Levels

## What Prevention Steps Should You Take Based on Your COVID-19 Community Level?

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters</li><li>• Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible</li><li>• Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19</li><li>• If you are immunocompromised or <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)</li><li>-Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you are immunocompromised or <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions (e.g., testing)</li><li>-Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)</li><li>-Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies</li></ul></li><li>• If you have household or social contact with someone at <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-consider self-testing to detect infection before contact</li><li>-consider wearing a mask when indoors with them</li></ul></li><li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters</li><li>• Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible</li><li>• Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear a well-fitting mask<sup>1</sup> indoors in public, regardless of vaccination status (including in K-12 schools and other indoor community settings)</li><li>• If you are immunocompromised or <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Wear a <a href="#">mask or respirator</a> that provides you with greater protection</li><li>-Consider avoiding non-essential indoor activities in public where you could be exposed</li><li>-Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to take other precautions (e.g., testing)</li><li>-Have a plan for rapid testing if needed (e.g., having home tests or access to testing)</li><li>-Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP, and monoclonal antibodies</li></ul></li><li>• If you have household or social contact with someone at <a href="#">high risk</a> for severe disease<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-consider self-testing to detect infection before contact</li><li>-consider wearing a mask when indoors with them</li></ul></li><li>• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters</li><li>• Maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces when possible</li><li>• Follow CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine, including getting tested if you are exposed to COVID-19 or have symptoms of COVID-19</li></ul>

## Mitigation Responses

### Levels are Based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

STRATEGY	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
<b>Mask Indoors/Bus</b>	Optional		Optional unless advised differently by NH DHHS
<b>Cleaning</b>	YES		
<b>Handwashing</b>	YES**		
<b>Respiratory Hygiene</b>	YES		
<b>Daily Health Assessment Prior to Arrival</b>	SELF MONITOR		
<b>Illness</b>	If ill, stay home.  Students and staff who develop new and unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded/tested in accordance with NH DHHS guidelines.		
<b>Athletics/ Co-Curricular Activities</b>	Normal participation following protocols from appropriate professional associations such as NHIAA		
<b>Field Trips/Travel</b>	Principal/Superintendent evaluate level of risk for proposed trip and determine approval. Board approval when required by policy.		
<b>Visitors</b>	YES	May be limited and/or masks required	
<b>Facility Use by Outside Organizations</b>	YES	May be limited to after school hours	

\*\*Principals will maintain schedules that provide time for handwashing throughout the day; including time before/after snack and lunch.

# Accommodations for Health & Safety Protocols

- The School District will make appropriate accommodations to health and safety protocols for students with disabilities. As needed, such accommodations will be developed through the established Special Education and 504 processes.
- Employees should meet with SAU 21's Human Resource personnel if requesting accommodations to health and safety protocols.

# COVID-19

## Mitigation & Response Plan for 2023 – 2024

### 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. The SAU 21 schools filter with the highest MERV rated filters that the existing individual HVAC 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.

### Cleaning

The priority for cleaning is to keep occupants in a healthy environment with the risk of illness mitigated through cleaning and disinfecting efforts. High use elements like door handles, switches, and bathrooms will receive additional attention. Classroom cleaning materials and Personal Protective Equipment will be available as needed.

### Asymptomatic Screening/Testing

This opportunity is contingent upon the availability of state/federal funding.

# Social Emotional Support for Students and Staff

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals differently and to different degrees. In an effort to support our school communities in the areas of social-emotional support, the following will be in place for the 2023-2024 school year:

- Social Emotional curriculum across districts (Responsive Classroom; Open Circle; Fly Five; Zones of Regulation; Choose Love)
- School Counselor SEL lessons for students and resources for staff members
- Specialists adhere to ongoing and regular communication with local mental health providers
- Focus on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS)
- Seacoast Care Team (Behavior Intervention Team)
- Social-Emotional building-level and SAU teams will also continue focus on staff emotional health
- Annual SEL PD day for all educators