

COVID Protocols

September 15, 2021

The resurgence of a more widely transmissible COVID-19 delta variant leads to the maintenance of certain COVID protocols as outlined below to start the 2021-2022 school year. The status of the virus will be reviewed every two weeks to determine any appropriate modifications to the protocols outlined below.

Face Covering

The district will adhere to the School Committee Policy regarding Face Coverings EBCFA which indicates that face masks will be required indoors at all schools and on school transportation.

[Face Covering Policy](#)

Physical Distancing

Classrooms will space students 3' when possible. Students at lunch will have space between them and their peers. Outdoor eating will be provided as much as possible.

Hygiene Protocols

Handwashing and the use of sanitizer will continue to be promoted and practiced regularly.

Cohorting and Assigned Seating

Elementary classrooms will be considered a cohort and seats will be assigned in each classroom. Inside of the school building, students will remain with their classmates throughout the school day as much as is possible. This year buses will be at full capacity

and students on a school bus will be assigned seats to allow for contact tracing should it be needed.

Screening

Staff and students will utilize an electronic form daily in Aspen to report any COVID symptoms and determine whether to stay home in alignment with [CDC](#) guidelines. Even mild symptoms should be screened in. Any staff or student demonstrating symptoms must refrain from attending the school setting. Any staff or student with such symptoms at school will leave school immediately upon the onset of the symptoms. All symptomatic individuals will require a PCR test.

Quarantine and Illness

Should a student or staff receive a positive COVID-19 test, the Concord Health Director, and Public Health Nurse will be immediately contacted. They will determine close contacts in cooperation with the family and/or school staff. Close contacts will be contacted as a part of the contact tracing process, all coordinated through the Public Health Nurse and schools. Individuals testing positive will quarantine for 10 days. Vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic. Unvaccinated close contacts will quarantine for 7 days. The entire classroom will quarantine in the event of a positive case in the elementary schools.

Individual students will receive asynchronous work during the time they are absent from school. Teachers will prioritize concepts and the workload.

If an entire elementary class is quarantined as a result of school transmission, remote learning instruction will be provided in the morning as it was during the 2020-2021 school year. Individual devices will be available at each elementary school when needed.

Test and Stay

Test and Stay program as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). **This program is available to students who are identified as**

close contacts as a result of a COVID exposure in school only. It is important to note that the program is not available to those identified as close contacts outside of school.

Key components of the Test and Stay program as outlined by DESE:

- Available to those not exempt from quarantine (i.e. fully vaccinated)
- Duration of Test and Stay: 7 days from the date of exposure
- Return to School: Close contacts can remain in school and do not have to quarantine, as long as they
 - Are asymptomatic
 - Wear masks in school at all times, other than when eating or drinking. When these individuals cannot be masked (i.e. when eating or drinking) they should maintain 3 feet of distance from other individuals to the extent feasible.
 - Take a rapid antigen test (e.g. BinaxNow) on each school day and receive a negative result. When the 7 days from the date of exposure includes weekends or holidays, individuals should quarantine on weekends, and if they remain asymptomatic, upon return to school be tested immediately. If the individual remains negative, they can stay in school.
 - Conduct active monitoring for symptoms through day 14, and self-isolate at home if symptoms develop.

Pool Testing

The District will participate in the DESE sponsored asymptomatic pooled testing program. All staff and students are highly encouraged to participate.

Travel

The Districts will follow MDPH and CDC guidance:
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel>

Testing is not required after travel.

Transportation

Masks

All staff and students on the school bus, regardless of age, are required to wear masks at all times inside the school bus. Exemptions for students due to medical and/or behavioral reasons and associated protocols are further described later in this document.

Ventilation

Windows will be kept open at all times on school buses during operation, unless not possible due to extreme weather conditions.

Seat assignments

Students will be assigned to a particular seat.

Sanitation and Training

The buses will be thoroughly cleaned daily.

Cleaning Protocols

We will continue our 2020-2021 COVID cleaning practices:

Common Spaces and Restrooms

- Common spaces, including high touch areas (i.e. railings and door handles). will be wiped down multiple times throughout the day with disinfectant .
- Disinfectant wipes will be located in conference rooms and office areas for employees to use.
- Where possible, we will eliminate high touch areas by propping open doors or installing foot door openers.
- Elevator use will continue to be limited to authorized people only. Hand sanitizer will be installed in elevators.

Classrooms

- Wall mounted hand sanitizers will be wall mounted in every classroom.

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- Hand sanitizer buckets will be placed in every classroom for students and teachers to wipe down their areas after every classroom change.
 - Custodians will perform a daily deep clean of every classroom using backpack electrostatic sprayers.

Use of Outdoor Space

Tents will be available at every school with lunch being the primary purpose. Teachers and others are encouraged to utilize the beautiful outdoor environments at any time as appropriate.

Community Access to Facilities

The buildings will be available to community groups when students are not present. The districts will grant permission to organizations who agree to abide by our COVID protocols, including mask wearing and group size.

Visitors

Parents will have access to the main office, principal's office, and nurse's office on an as needed basis. No classroom volunteers are allowed. Parent IEP meetings and teacher conferences will be held remotely.

Large Group Events

Indoor large group events will be held virtually. Outdoor events will be considered on a case by case basis with the expectation that they can run with little or no restrictions.

Extracurriculars and Athletics

Outdoor athletics will run without restriction. We will continue to work with the health officials as to protocols for indoor athletics.

The music program may conduct indoor playing of woodwind and brass instruments as well as singing. Specific protocols are under development.

Wind instrument and vocal performances will be allowed inside so long as participants are masked and spaced 3' apart.

Per MIAA and DESE, indoor sports will be masked at least through October 1, 2021.

Field Trips

Student field trips will be reinstated upon approval of the principal and superintendent to a setting in accordance with School Committee policy where District COVID protocols can be applied.