

# MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT

COVID-19 AND SCHOOL OPERATIONS  
UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATION

October 28, 2020

## CONSIDERATIONS IMPACTING RECOMMENDATION

- LEVEL OF COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION
- LEVEL OF IN-SCHOOL TRANSMISSION
- STAFF AVAILABILITY

# COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION IN MERRIMACK

AS OF  
OCTOBER 28, 2020

MINIMAL

SOURCE  
NH DHHS

CRITERIA	Level of Community Transmission	Level of Community Transmission	Level of Community Transmission
	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
COVID-19 PCR positivity as a 7 day average	<5%	5-10%	>10%
Number of new infections per 100,000 population over 14 days	<50	50-100	>100
Number of new hospitalizations per 100,000 people over the prior 14 days	<10	10-20	>20

IN-SCHOOL  
TRANSMISSION  
ACROSS  
ALL SCHOOLS

AS OF  
OCTOBER 28, 2020

LOW\*\*

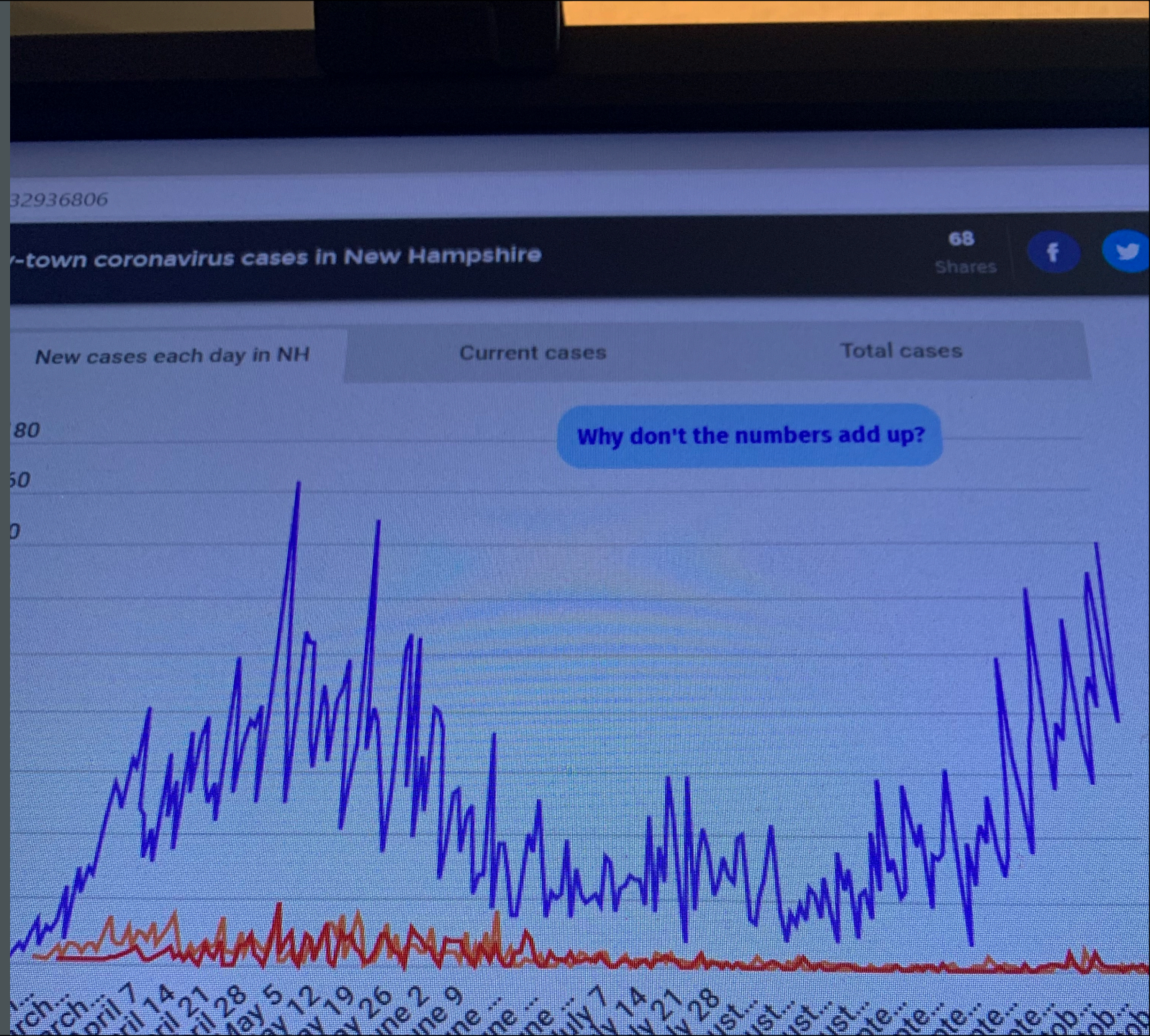
CRITERIA	Level of School Impact <b>LOW</b>	Level of School Impact <b>MEDIUM</b>	Level of School Impact <b>HIGH</b>
Transmission within the school facility	Zero or sporadic cases with no evidence of transmission within the school setting	One cluster* in the school <small>*3 or more individuals confirmed with COVID-19 who are part of a related group who had the potential to transmit through close contact</small>	Two or more unrelated clusters in the school with onset (based on symptom onset dates) within 14 days of each other
Student absenteeism due to illness	<15%	15-30%	>30%
Staff capacity to conduct classes and school operations	Normal**	Strained	Critical



STATE OF  
THE STATE

THE DATA  
CHALLENGE

FROM  
MARCH TO  
OCTOBER





SNAPSHOT

MERRIMACK  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AT THE MOMENT

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED POSITIVE CASES OF COVID-19  
AMONG STAFF SINCE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

2

TOTAL NUMBER OF CONFIRMED STUDENT POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES  
IN EACH SCHOOL BETWEEN 9/9/2020 AND 10/27/2020

- MES = 1 JMUES = 0
- RFS = 0 MMS = 2
- TFS = 0 MHS = 8
- AVERAGE DAILY STUDENT ABSENCES DUE TO ILLNESS BETWEEN  
SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 AND OCTOBER 23, 2020 ACROSS ALL SCHOOLS

1.6

RECOMMENDATION  
AS OF OCTOBER 28,  
2020

MAINTAIN CURRENT OPERATIONS

GREEN

HYBRID OPTION

FULLY REMOTE OPTION

ALLOWANCE TO SWITCH OPTION\*

\*PROCESS OUTLINED ON EACH SCHOOL'S WEBSITE

CRITERIA FOR  
POSSIBLE FUTURE  
SCHOOL OR  
DISTRICT CLOSING  
DUE TO COVID-19

- DATA\*
- SCENARIOS

\*PER NH DHHS



## SCENARIO I

RED

SUDDEN,  
UNPLANNED,  
NON-LINEAR  
UNPREDICTABLE

MULTIPLE CLOSE  
CONTACTS WITHIN A  
SCHOOL OR ACROSS  
SCHOOLS

- STUDENT OR STAFF MEMBER TESTS POSITIVE
- MULTIPLE CLOSE CONTACTS WITH CONFIRMED POSITIVE INDIVIDUAL WITHIN A SCHOOL
- CONTACT TRACING IS INCONCLUSIVE/INCOMPLETE/REVEALS WIDESPREAD CONTACT WITHIN A SCHOOL
- CONTACTS CANNOT BE ISOLATED AND/OR SEPARATED FROM POPULATION WITHIN A SCHOOL
- IMPACTS ON OTHER SCHOOLS DUE TO BEYOND SCHOOL CONTACTS (SPORTS, SIBLINGS ETC.)
- OTHER

## SCENARIO 2

### PURPLE

#### SUDDEN OR ANTICIPATED

STAFF/ADMINISTRATION  
CAPACITY TO CONDUCT  
CLASS AND SCHOOL  
OPERATIONS

- STAFF OR ADMINISTRATOR CHILD/FAMILY ILLNESS OR QUARANTINE DUE TO COVID-19 LOCALLY OR ELSEWHERE—FFCRA, FMLA, ADA
- MORE STUDENTS REQUESTING REMOTE INSTRUCTION THAN CURRENT STAFF DEPLOYMENT CAN ABSORB
- MORE STAFF REQUIRING REMOTE INSTRUCTION ASSIGNMENTS THAN CURRENT IN PERSON INSTRUCTION CAN ALLOW
- HIGH STAFF ABSENTEEISM/LACK OF SUBSTITUTES
- REGULAR FLU/COLD
- OTHER

BIGGEST FACTORS  
CONTRIBUTING TO  
SCHOOL OR  
DISTRICT NEED TO  
TRANSITION TO RED  
OR PURPLE PHASE

- TRAVEL OUTSIDE NEW ENGLAND
  - HOLIDAY TRAVEL IN PARTICULAR
- ATTENDANCE AT LARGE GATHERINGS
- COLD AND FLU SEASON
- SELF-DIAGNOSIS
- INACCURATE/INCOMPLETE REPORTING OF TRAVEL, SYMPTOMS (INTENTIONAL OR UNINTENTIONAL)
- NOT FOLLOWING DISTRICT POLICY OR PROCEDURES REGARDING MASKS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, HANDWASHING AND RELATED SAFETY PROTOCOLS

COMMUNITY  
PROBLEM

COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP

COMMUNITY  
SOLUTION

## GIVENS

WHAT HAPPENS *IN* THE COMMUNITY HAPPENS  
TO THE SCHOOLS

COVID-19 HAS INTERRUPTED SCHOOLING  
DURING A PANDEMIC SCHOOLS MUST SEEK  
BALANCE BETWEEN THEIR EDUCATIONAL  
MISSION AND THEIR HEALTH AND SAFETY  
RESPONSIBILITIES

PANDEMIC IMPACTS CAN BE SWIFT AND  
UNPREDICTABLE

WORKING TOGETHER OFFERS THE BEST  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET AND BEAT THE  
PANDEMIC CHALLENGE