

## Dates for Reopening Approved by the Merrimack School Board for Fulltime Option Back to School

April 19th Grades 5-6 (JMUES)

May 3, 2021 Grades 7-12 (MMS & MHS)

Early Release on Fridays

Please look to your schools and communications in the upcoming days



# Adaptations to 5-12 Educational Format

March 30, 2021



# Components



CHOICE



DESIGN



SAFETY



# Choice

Parents and students make a choice to attend school in person or online and “work from home”

Concurrent learning remains in place each day to accommodate choice

School doors are open 5 days per week for students

REAL Program stays intact with no changes



# Design

Buses will be traveling through town as if all students were attending

Lunches will be served with a grab and go option at each school

Fridays will focus on "What Individuals Need" (WIN)  
Students will be released early K-12

Wi-Fi will be added to outdoor spaces



# Safety

Proposed and Current Safety Measures  
Without Social Distancing

Assigned Seats  
On the Bus



Classroom  
No Mask Breaks  
Assigned Seats  
Increased Plexi Glass  
Where Needed



Current Safety  
Measures Stay in  
Place



Space  
Additions of Tents  
to Outdoor Areas



## Transportation

- STA and Caring Hands will disinfect before every route
- The buses will be disinfected before the first tier (MS/HS) and again after they are dropped off and prior to elementary upper elementary pick up
- Assigned seats on all buses for all students





# Space

Tents will be added to each building to allow for additional space

- Additional classroom instructional space
- Lunches
- Mask Breaks
- Larger group activities
- Meetings





# Classrooms

- ☐ Assigned Seats
- ☐ Limited Movement
- ☐ No Mask Breaks
- ☐ Plexi for:
  - ☐ Science Tables
  - ☐ Reading Group
  - ☐ Other Designated Areas





# RE-DESIGN OF REOPENING PLAN GRADES 5-12 CONSIDERATIONS

Important considerations to share with the  
Merrimack School Board and community

## Focus On The Goals

Virus mitigation to maintain student and staff safety



Manage impacts of virus on school operations



Keep schools operating



Provide best education conditions allow



# Potential Impacts of Increased Populations in Grades 5-12



## Increased Populations Challenge Current Guidance and Recommendations Concerning Space

Maintaining SPACE is the number one virus mitigation strategy

Spacing will move from 6 feet to 3 feet **or possibly less** in classrooms during instruction

- ☐ Cannot be guaranteed in non-controlled environments (hallways, bus stops etc.)
- ☐ Cannot guarantee 6 feet between students during lunch as currently recommended
- ☐ Developmental stages makes mandating social distancing difficult in non-controlled settings



# Increased Populations Impact Contact Tracing

## Current Practice vs Projected Practice

- Current cohort model has allowed for limited COVID exposure in the schools
  - A W/Th student with confirmed or possible exposure has not impacted M/Tu students
- Current cohort model allows for more surgical and complete contact tracing
  - Fewer students impacted by a possible quarantine
- Increasing school populations would make contact tracing much more difficult
  - Likely increase in larger population quarantines as contact tracing becomes more difficult

**IMPORTANT NOTE—NH DHHS still requires schools to quarantine students or staff with confirmed COVID or who are suspected close contacts** and are not fully vaccinated or have had confirmed COVID in the last 90 days

**“Increased student populations makes limited quarantines less likely as contact tracing becomes more difficult”**



The background image shows several wooden letter tiles with green letters spelling out the word 'DATA'. The tiles are arranged on an open book with cursive text. The tiles are slightly tilted and overlapping. The text on the book is in a cursive script, with some words like 'God', 'Look', 'Ay', 'my good lord', 'presence', 'his red colour hath', 'Edie', 'Is Clarence', 'revers'd', 'But he, poor', 'died', 'that a winged', and 'me, here' visible. The overall tone is warm and slightly blurred.

# Review of Current Merrimack Data

## Uptick a Cause of Concern

# Quarantine and Positive Case Summary

- **Positive Cases:** Any student or staff member that has tested positive
- **Quarantined not positive:** Any student or staff member in quarantine, includes:
  - Travel Quarantine
  - Exhibiting a new or unexplained COVID-19 Symptoms pending test results or medical evaluation
  - Identified as a close contact with a positive case

This is a per student/staff member event, not per days of absence or quarantine. One student/staff member may be counted more than once if events were separate of each other. For example, if a student was symptomatic in September, but tested negative and also traveled out of NE in February, their quarantine would be counted as two separate events.

Staff	3/30/2021	2/28/2021	1/29/2021
Approximately 750 staff members			
Total Quarantined for the month not Positive	30	37	48
Total Positives for the Month	8	6	9
YTD Positive	53	45	39
YTD Quarantined and Returned to Work	320	286	243

## Overall Staff Quarantine and Positive Cases



<b>MUES</b>	<b>3/30/2021</b>	<b>2/28/2021</b>	<b>1/29/2021</b>
Total Quarantined for the month NOT Positive	96	63	43
Total Positives for the Month	3	3	8
YTD Positive:	18	15	12
YTD Quarantined and Returned to School	332	236	173

<b>MMS</b>	<b>3/30/2021</b>	<b>2/28/2021</b>	<b>1/29/2021</b>
Total Quarantined for the month NOT Positive	50	27	42
Total Positives for the Month	2	2	9
YTD Positive:	20	18	16
YTD Quarantined and Returned to School	229	179	152

<b>MHS</b>	<b>3/30/2021</b>	<b>2/28/2021</b>	<b>1/29/2021</b>
Total Quarantined for the month NOT Positive	216	86	114
Total Positives for the Month	14	2	39
YTD Positive:	89	75	73
YTD Quarantined and Returned to School	865	674	592

## 5-12 Student Quarantine and Positive Cases



# Impacts Curriculum and Instruction

- Mitigation strategies will require that:
  - Instructional practices will be modified as we balance safety with educational integrity
  - Movement in the room for partnering and other group work will be significantly limited
  - More traditional stand and deliver models of instruction will be employed
  - Project-based and hands-on learning in the class will be limited



# Impacts Consistency of Instruction

- The potential for sudden and unexpected shifts to on-line instruction in classrooms and schools may significantly increase
- Opening prior to April Break allows for the potential for Students quarantined during the April break
- Increased cases after April travel
- Increased quarantine for educators and support staff
- Disrupting established instructional patterns
- Sports and others instructional spaces will be impacted with a potential rise in cases



# Financial

- ❖ Continued unbudgeted expenditures on safety and space mitigation measures
  - ❖ Tents
  - ❖ More Plexi
  - ❖ More PPE
  - ❖ Substitutes
  - ❖ Additional Personnel Expenditures



# CDC Director Rochelle Walensky and Dr. Anthony Fauci Express Concern

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Walensky and Fauci appealed to elected officials, community leaders and everyday Americans to maintain social distancing measures and mask wearing.

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“We have so much to look forward to, so much promise and potential of where we are and so much reason for hope. But right now, I’m scared.”  
RW

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“We are doing things prematurely.” AF

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“Just please hold on a little longer.” AF

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“We’ve seen surges after every single holiday. Please limit travel to essential travel for the time being.” AF

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Questions?

