

Winnacunnet High School

COVID-19 Mitigation & Response Plan

2021 – 2022*

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

**updated 3-7-22*

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 getting 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.

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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.
- **Virtual Option for students** – We will not offer a remote learning academy for the 2021-2022 school year. Students may enroll in VLACS. Students who enroll in VLACS will still receive special education and related services from the School District, if eligible. If VLACS is the option a family wants to explore or access, we ask that they please connect with their child’s school counselor. Our districts want to be a resource to assist families with their choice and to provide support.

Transportation

- Masks are not currently required on buses.

Health Screening

- The use of a health assessment screener remains important. 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

- The 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

- 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">• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wear a mask indoors in public• Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines• Get tested if you have symptoms• Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

County Level – SAU 21 schools will align with Rockingham County:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Mitigation Responses
Levels are Based on CDC COVID-19 Community Levels

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

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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. 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. *Upgrades to our current HVAC systems are prioritized in the use of ARP ESSER III Funds where provided.*

Cleaning

The priority for cleaning is to keep occupants in a healthy environment with the risk of illness mitigated through cleaning and disinfecting efforts. Each space will be cleaned daily by the custodial staff following guidelines from the CDC. 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 will continue to be available to all students/staff who register. Screening testing currently occurs every other week.

School Lunch

Free lunch will be available to all Winnacunnet students for the balance of the 2021-2022 school year.

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 2021-2022 school year:

- Social Emotional curriculum across districts (Responsive Classroom; Open Circle; 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
- Refocus on Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) due to new discipline policy and redirection
- Seacoast Care Team (Behavior Intervention Team) rollout of new elementary school team
- Social-Emotional building-level and SAU teams will focus on staff emotional health per prior goal
- Mental Health & Wellness priority for staff (no new initiatives!)
- Third annual SEL PD day for all educators on March 8th, 2022