



The Lyme School

Kindergarten to Eighth Grade Serving the community of Lyme, New Hampshire for over 100 years
(603) 795 - 2125 • MAIN STREET, LYME, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03768

Reopening Plans for School Year 2021-2022

Regular Operation 8:10 am - 3 pm; Thursdays 8:10 am - 2pm. Please make every effort to arrive by 8:00 am. Full operation of instructional programs based upon a typical operational schedule.

School Message:

- School will be full, in-person with no remote instruction.
- The current plan is based upon the conditions that exist at the point of its authoring and were formulated in the context of current local epidemiology and current CDC and NH DHHS COVID-19 guidelines.
- The plan and mitigations are and will continue to be reviewed regularly by the COVID Committee and adjusted as needed to the ever changing conditions.
- Our mitigation strategy is based upon a best-practice "layering approach" - increasing the number of layers commensurate with the presence of the virus and its variants in our broader community.

Masking:

Masks are required to be worn by all individuals inside the school building and on buses, regardless of vaccination status. Buffs and masks with valves are not allowed. Individuals will have the option to remove masks when outside. Mask breaks are defined as scheduled times when students can safely unmask. Mask breaks for Lyme School students are currently scheduled to take place at lunch, snack time, and outside during recess. Unmasking at lunch and snack time should be done while students are seated and for the purpose of eating and drinking. Masks should be put back on when eating and drinking is finished and before a student moves about the classroom. Physical distancing must be maintained during breaks.

If a teacher assesses the need for their class to have a mask break, they can do so by bringing the class outdoors. Individual students who need an additional mask break can make arrangements with their classroom teacher for a safe, supervised location outside of the classroom.

Students and staff should follow the [CDC safe mask handling protocol](#) when unmasking, including washing hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer after handling a used mask and avoiding touching the front of the mask.

Students and staff are expected to have a freshly cleaned mask daily upon arrival to the school grounds and 1 to 2 extra masks on hand. A cache of clean, cloth masks will also be kept at the Lyme School should a child lose their mask during the day or upon arrival to school in the morning.

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) does not recommend certain populations of students to wear masks or face coverings. Those relevant to the Lyme school include anyone who has trouble breathing, students for which having a cloth, tie or elastic may interfere with certain medical equipment or assistive technology, or those who have other sensitivities that limit their use. Alternative masks with a clear window to see the mouth or face will address some of these learners and will be provided. Proper face covering usage information can be found [here](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html): <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>.

Physical distancing:

Students and staff will maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet with a goal of 6 feet when conditions allow. Closer contact may be allowed based on instructional necessity.

Hand Hygiene:

Regular hand washing and use of hand sanitizer will be encouraged, especially during allergy and cold season, when handling shared materials, before and after eating, after using the restroom, etc.

Cohorts:

School activities will be structured to limit co-mingling of classes to reduce the number of potential exposures. Middle School Students (6-8 grades) will co-mingle only to the extent necessary to offer our regular instruction program.

Attendance will be kept for use in contact tracing. Quarantine protocols will be based upon NH DHHS rules of contact tracing and not default automatically to cohorts.

Lunch will occur in the classrooms, or alternative space when necessary, to maintain cohorting and maximize distancing during eating.

Recesses will be cohorted by class.

Vaccination:

Although not required, we encourage all eligible students and staff to get vaccinated. Contact the nursing office for help scheduling a vaccination appointment.

Health Checks:

Health Checks will be conducted daily by parents for students and as daily self-assessment for staff. Parents and staff will sign a one-time attestation at the start of the year agreeing to perform daily health checks.

Anyone with *any* COVID-associated symptoms must stay home from school. Individuals who develop COVID-associated symptoms at school will be sent home. Anyone with COVID-associated symptoms will need to have a negative COVID test result prior to return to school. Acceptable tests include PCR or antigen tests.

Any students or staff who come to school with or develop symptoms at school that are associated with COVID-19 will be immediately isolated. Parents of symptomatic students will be

contacted and required to pick up their child (as soon as possible, preferably within 30 minutes). Students and staff will be sent home with instructions for medical follow up, testing, and return-to-school clearance procedures.

Visitors:

Visitor access into the school will be limited to activities that cannot be done virtually, and should not occur during the pick up or drop off period to avoid congestion during this time. All visitors who enter the building will be required to complete the health screening process, wear a mask (unless < 2yrs old or with medical exemptions), and practice social distancing. As appropriate, parent/teacher conferences and other meetings will be held virtually.

Environmental Cleaning:

High touch surfaces will be cleaned daily at the end of each school day and throughout the day as needed. Shared materials will be cleaned between each use. Additionally, the HVAC system is monitored for adequate air exchange and mitigations implemented.

Transportation:

Busses will follow State pandemic safety guidelines and their company's safety policies. Busses will follow their regular bus routes which are based upon ridership and street addresses. Please contact Amanda Perry at the school prior to the start of school to confirm your intention to ride the bus and to provide your physical address.

Pick Up/Drop Off Routines:

Drop off will be between 7:45 and 8:00 am. Students will proceed to designated waiting areas by class cohort before being released to individual classrooms at 8:00 am. Parents should drop students off at the door and are asked not to enter the building unless absolutely necessary.

Pick up will be at 3:00 pm, with the exception of Thursday which is at 2:00 pm. Again, we ask that parents unite with students outside the building and avoid entering the building unless absolutely necessary.

Response to a positive COVID-19 case at school:

In accordance with the current NH DHHS guidelines, when an individual in the Lyme School tests positive for COVID-19:

1. The NH DHHS will be notified and the school Nurse will partner with Public Health for contact tracing, isolation and quarantine. We will follow the algorithm as defined in the State of NH School and Childcare Toolkit for School Year 2021-2022.
2. Quarantine protocols will be based upon NH DHHS rules of contact tracing and not default automatically to cohorts.

Quarantine and isolation information can be found at:

Isolation and Quarantine Recommendations for the General Public

Communication Plan:

The Lyme School identified three levels of communication to families of students at the school:

- 1) "Immediate" communication (L1): Generally used when a child is ill during the day, or there is an immediate change of protocol, such as an overnight requirement to close the school. This urgent communication is reserved for "must know now" information only. Method of contacts include automated phone call, email, text message, etc.
- 2) "Same day" communication (L2): For students or staff members who are known to have been in close proximity to a suspected case. This level of urgency is used when a staff member or or family member may need to change their behavior pattern by the next day.
- 3) "Informational" communication (L3): Used to communicate general information and protocol or policy updates. This information is available on the [Covid-19 website](https://www.lymeschool.org/o/lymeschool/page/school-information--224) as well.
<https://www.lymeschool.org/o/lymeschool/page/school-information--224>

The Lyme School cannot and will not share personal or medical information. *In any communications about suspected cases, the School will NOT VIOLATE PRIVACY LAWS, i.e., anonymity of the individual student or staff member will be ensured in communication.*

Communication for general updates (L3 "informational"):

- School class email lists for "business as usual"
- The school website is the authoritative source of all most current information
- Updates to rules and process will be communicated through conventional email updates

Cohort communication:

- If there is cohort separation (not full-class), each cohort will have a separate cohort email list, and any communication relevant to just the cohort will be sent there
- If no cohorts are formed, all reference to cohort will mean: "full class"

Suspected Illness of student (in classroom or at home):

- Immediate (L1) communication by email, cell phone, and SMS text message to the family when a child is suspected of illness in school (if the child is in the school) to come and collect the student
- Communication to the parents of affected cohort(s) about a suspected case will happen later in the same day (L2)
- Updates will be sent once medical diagnosis confirms or rules out COVID-19 infection in the cohort(s) (L3).
- All communications will preserve the anonymity of the individual.

Suspected illness of staff member:

- If during school hours and requiring cancellation of the day for a classroom: immediate (L1) communication to all parents of the affected class(es) by email, cellphone, and SMS text message to come and collect the students
- Communication to parents of affected class(es) about a suspected case will happen later in the same day (L2)
- Updates will be sent once medical diagnosis confirms or rules out COVID-19 infection (L3) in the affected class(es).
- All communications will preserve the anonymity of the individual.

School closing and other urgent school-wide announcements:

- Similar to snow days, urgent changes of protocol will be announced in the same manner as we announce snow days: robocall and email communication (L1)
- Optionally, an opt-in push notification SMS text message list may be subscribed to.

Confirmed illness of student or staff:

- If a COVID-19 infection is confirmed by medical diagnosis, the full school community will be informed by regular email notification (L3)
- Any changes in *process and protocol* will be communicated through conventional email communication and the school website (L3 communication)

Criteria for School Closure:

The Lyme School will follow guidance from NH DHHS in determining whether or not school must close or transition to remote learning for the safety of our students, staff and community.

Conclusion

The Lyme School understands that there may be changes in guidance as we move into the fall and beyond. It is important to note that the plans outlined in this document represent current guidance and best-thinking based on the information that was available while writing this document with input from the Lyme School COVID Response Team, board, administration, and faculty. The Lyme School is prepared to make any changes necessary to meet future guidance and recommendations. As the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic continue, the school's educational professionals are preparing to provide the best possible care, connection, and continuity of learning to the students and families in Lyme.

References:

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)

[SAFER AT HOME \(nh.gov\)](#)

[k-12-back-to-school.pdf \(nh.gov\)](#)

