



Somersworth School District

2020-2021

School Re-opening Plan

SAU 56

51 West High Street

Somersworth, NH 03878

Phased Re-opening Plan

Dear Somersworth Community,

The main goals of the Phased Re-opening Plan are:

1. To ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff within our buildings and to help protect the greater Somersworth Community from the spread of COVID 19.

2. To ensure a quality education for all students which attends to their academic, social and emotional needs.

The Phased School Re-opening Plan will be implemented in a methodical and responsible manner. As determined by the Somersworth School Board, we will start the 2020-2021 school year in **Phase 2**. Small groups of students will be identified by building administration to receive academic support and services within the school buildings. All other students will begin the year in remote learning. It is our hope that we can increase the number of small groups within each building as we progress through each phase of re-opening. Each phase will be monitored by administration and revised as appropriate, in two week intervals by the Somersworth School Board.

In the weeks leading up to the start of school, students will be receiving additional information specific to their grade level, from each building. If you have any questions concerning your child, feel free to contact their school administration at any time.

Sincerely,

	SAU 56 Office	692-4450
Dr. Robert Gadomski	Idlehurst Elementary School	692-2435
Superintendent	Maple Wood School	692-3331
	Somersworth Middle School	692-2126
	Somersworth High School	692-243

Somersworth School District

Phased Re-opening Process

Phase 1: Full Remote Learning

- Significant community spread and/or Governor Stay at home order
- All students learn remotely from home
- Teachers instruct from home

Phase 2: Remote Learning with Small Groups In Person Learning

- Community spread is stable or diminishing
- Staff will be in the buildings to conduct remote learning. Exceptions may be allowed for special circumstances.
- Students learn remotely from home
- Small groups of students, as identified by administration, can access in person instruction at school. Safety guidelines and protocols will be implemented.

Phase 3: Hybrid Model, Remote Learning and In Person Learning

- Community spread is diminishing and/or low
- Staff will access the buildings for instruction
- Students will learn remotely from home and cohorts of students will access in person learning at school. Safety guidelines and protocols will be implemented.

Phase 4: In Person Learning with Safety Guidelines

- Community spread is low or nonexistent
- Teachers and students will access learning in person with safety guidelines
- Remote instruction and remote learning may still be available for our high risk population, as identified by administration.

Phase 5: Full Re-opening without Safety Guidelines

- Staff and students full return to school without guidelines

Purpose:

The purpose of a phased approach to school re-opening is to offer quality education and supports for our students, while keeping safety at the forefront. Guidance from the CDC, DHHS and other state and national health agencies will be used to guide our decision making for a safe school throughout the Phased Re-opening Process.

Remote Learning Plans:

Remote Learning Plans have been developed for each school. Parents must assist their children to adhere to the schedule and expectations set by each school. Expectations, policies, rules, etc. will be followed as if it were in person education. Attendance, participation, etc. will be closely monitored.

Monitoring and Screening for Symptoms:

When students and staff are allowed in the building, the following expectations for safety will be in place.

It is vital that we all work together so that anyone who is ill, does not enter the building.

1. Students and staff will be screened prior to entering the building.
(see Questionnaire below)
2. Parents must keep their child home if they have a temperature above 99.9 degrees. Staff must do the same.
3. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must quarantine at home for 14 days and notify the school.
4. Staff who become sick during the day must leave the school building as soon as possible.
5. Students who become sick during the day will be isolated from others. Parents will be required to pick up sick children immediately. Anyone exhibiting symptoms will be immediately assessed by school nurse and sent home.
6. Contact tracing will be done for each student/staff who are sent home.

Symptom Check Questionnaire:

The following questions will be asked of each staff member prior to coming to school.
The following questions will be asked by each parent, of their child, prior to them getting on a bus or coming to school.

1. Have you been in close proximity with a confirmed case of Covid-19? _____

2. Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours? _____

3. Are you experiencing any respiratory symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath?

4. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?

5. Have you experienced any new changes in your sense of smell or taste?

6. Does your temperature exceed 99.9 degrees: _____

7. Have you traveled outside of New England in the past 14 days?

If the answer to any question is “yes” you must not come to school and need to be tested for COVID 19. Also, please notify the school of the absence.

Temperature Protocol (For in person learning at a school)

Parents must temperature scan their student at home, prior to getting on the bus or being dropped off at school to verify that they do not have a fever.

Staff must temperature scan prior to coming to school.

Students may have their temperature scanned by school staff prior to entry onto the bus. If their temperature is above 99.9 degrees, they will not be allowed to board the bus.

A temperature scan will be done for all students before they enter the building.

Staff will have their temperature scanned upon entry and exit of building.

Monitoring Students

If a student has a fever working 1:1 with teacher or para, the student will be immediately isolated and sent home. The student will need to quarantine at home for 14 days and get tested for COVID-19. Staff will follow the same procedure.

DHHS will be notified and their procedures for a student running a fever will be followed.

The school nurse and building administration will notify anyone who was potentially exposed.

If other students have been wearing masks and have been socially distanced, monitoring will continue with no other students quarantined.

If there was any type of close student to student contact to a student who was running a fever, each student exposed will be subject to a 14 day quarantine.

Anyone who has a temperature greater than 99.9 degrees will need a negative COVID-19 test to return to school.

Staff

If staff have contact with someone having a temperature of greater than 99.9 degrees, the following will occur; If staff are greater than 6 feet apart and they wore a mask they need to monitor for symptoms. If someone was in close contact or not wearing a mask, they will be quarantined for 14 days.

Staff who are identified to be high risk will need a doctor's note, notify administration and both need to meet with superintendent.

The school will be open to staff (except for Phase 1) and staff are expected to be at school to fulfill responsibilities. Other considerations for job modifications will be done on a case by case basis which needs to go through building administration and both need to meet with the superintendent.

Social Distancing:

Social distancing is a key tool used to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Social distancing ("physical distancing") means keeping space between yourself and other people.

In our schools:

1. We will provide social distancing floor/seating markings in waiting and reception areas, as appropriate.

2. We will mark 6 feet of spacing to remind students and staff to always stay 6 feet apart in lines and at other times when they may congregate.
3. We will provide marks on the floors of restrooms and locker rooms to indicate proper social distancing.
4. There will be no nonessential visitors into our buildings and activities involving external groups or organizations will not be allowed.
5. Staff will monitor arrival and dismissal to discourage congregating and ensure students go straight from a vehicle to their classrooms and vice-versa.
6. We will discontinue the use of any self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria.
7. We will eliminate opportunities for sustained exposure (15 minutes or more) by ensuring sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people whenever possible (ie; adequate space exists in hallways, classrooms are large enough or class sizes are small enough, students and staff are in large outdoor spaces).
8. Reminders for students and staff to stay at least 6 feet apart from one another when feasible, will be frequent.
9. Physical barriers such as Plexiglass for protection at reception desks and similar areas will be put in place.
10. We will arrange desks or seating so that students are separated from one another by 6 feet when feasible.
11. If it is not possible to arrange seating 6 feet apart, consider having all students sit facing the same direction (i.e., all sitting on the same side of a table), or using barriers between students.
12. One way entrance and exit doors for classrooms and restrooms to reduce the chance that people meet face to face, when possible.
13. We will try to keep students and teachers in small cohort groups that stay together as much as possible during the day, and from day to day. Limit mixing between cohort groups as much as possible.
14. We will discontinue activities that involve bringing together large groups of people or activities that do not allow for social distancing, including assemblies, in-person field trips, large groups using playground equipment simultaneously, etc.
15. We will attempt to incorporate virtual events such as field trips, parents/family meetings, assemblies, and performances when possible.

Face Coverings:

It is important to teach and reinforce the use of cloth face coverings for students and staff on buses or other school transportation vehicles, inside school buildings, and anywhere on school grounds, including outside, when 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained between people.

At our schools:

1. Staff will wear face coverings at all times, unless in their classroom when able to maintain 6 feet of social distancing.
2. Students will wear masks at all times unless instructed in the classroom that they are appropriately social distanced.

Transportation:

Parents must prescreen their child each day prior to them getting on the bus. (see temperature protocol) Parents are encouraged to utilize personal transportation when available.

We will:

1. Clean and disinfect the buses after each run.
2. Keep the windows on the bus open when appropriate
3. Masks will be worn on the buses at all times.
4. Students who have a temperature or are sick will not be allowed to enter the bus.
5. Students will be socially distanced as much as possible on the bus.
6. Students who become sick during the day will not be allowed to ride the bus home.

Cleaning and Hygiene:

Promoting and teaching appropriate cleaning/hygiene is vital to slow the spread of germs.

Our schools will:

1. Provide adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, and tissues).
2. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer by staff and older children.
3. Increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff
 - Supervise use of hand sanitizer by students.
 - Ensure that children with skin reactions and contraindications to hand sanitizer use soap and water.
 - Reinforce handwashing during key times such as: Before, during, and after preparing food; before eating food; after using the toilet; after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; after touching objects with bare hands which have been handled by other individuals.
4. Provide hand sanitizer at every building entrance and exit, in the cafeteria, and in every classroom, for safe use by staff and older students.
5. Systematically and frequently check and refill hand sanitizers.
6. Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
7. Incorporate frequent handwashing and sanitation breaks into classroom activity.
8. Allow time between activities for proper cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces.
9. Establish a schedule for and perform ongoing and routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch areas (ie: door handles, stair rails, faucet handles, toilet handles, playground equipment, drinking fountains, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, kitchen countertops, cafeteria and service tables, carts, and trays), and increase frequency of disinfection during high-density times and disinfect all shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) between use.

10. Limit sharing of personal items and supplies such as writing utensils.
11. Keep students' personal items separate and in individually labeled cubbies, containers or lockers.
12. Limit use of classroom materials to small groups and may disinfect between uses or provide adequate supplies to assign for individual student use.
13. Ensure that all non-disposable food service items are minimally handled and washed with hot water and soap or in a dishwasher, or use disposable food service items such as plates and utensils.

Meals:

Social distancing measures will be adhered to as much as possible.

Presently we are working Café Services, the provider of the district's food service, to determine the ongoing delivery of student lunches. When in school, students will eat lunches in cohorts as much as possible. Further information will be sent to parents prior to the opening of school.

We are all in this together. The school community will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and assess when/if modifications can safely be done. As the safety increases, we will determine the safe progression through the phases stated. Thank you for your continue support of your students and staff.