

COVID19 Reopening Wellness Group Summary

Key Focus: Essential actions to keep staff and students safe and healthy

Meeting Dates: July 1, July 7, July 14, July 21, July 24, July 28, Aug. 4, 2020

Members			
Lanesborough Elementary	Mount Greylock Middle/High School	Williamstown Elementary	Community Members
Nolan Pratt, Principal Kathy Larson, School Nurse Christy Viall, School Psychologist	Keith Jones, School Social Worker Nichole Russell, School Nurse Geri O'Brien, School Psychologist Guidance Counselors at MG: Beverly Maselli Jessica Casalinova PJ Pannesco	Elea Kaatz, Asst. Principal Beth Persing, School Social Worker Wendy Powell, School Psychologist Carol Stein-Payne, School Nurse Kim Shand, Paraprofessional	Dr. Childsy Art Dr. Kathy Wiseman

Topics Covered (click to jump to section)

[Mental Health](#)

[Preventing the Spread of Infection](#)

[Institute Limited Contact Procedures](#)

[Personal Protective Equipment](#)

[Possible COVID Case in School](#)

[Vaccinations Planning](#)

[Training](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Arrival and Dismissal Procedures](#)

[Next Steps](#)

Mental Health

Objective: Normalize feelings through forums and spaces where students and school staff can share, discuss, and process their experiences relative to Coronavirus.

Needs: Purchase universal screener

- School based liaisons
 - WES- Beth Persing, school social worker
 - MG- Keith Jones, school social worker
 - LES- Christy Viall, school psychologist
- Universal Screener for all students [BESS Proposal](#)
- Normalize feelings through forums and spaces for compassionate listening where students and school staff can share, discuss, and process their common experiences relative to SARS-COV-2. (School psychologists, counselors)
- Crisis response team focused on student and staff mental health and wellness.
 - WES- Kristen Thompson, Elea Kaatz, Eli Phillips, Beth Hayes, Sue Lynch, Colleen Martin, Jim O'Brien, Wendy Powell, Beth Persing, Carol Stein-Payne, Rebecca Leonard, Cindy Sheehy
 - MG-Keith Jones, Geri O'Brien, Nichole Russell, Student Support Team
 - LES-Nolan Pratt, Kathy Larson, Christy Viall
- Community Based supports <http://www.nbccoalition.org/resource-guides.html>
- Online Resources:
 - The Child Mind Institute <https://childmind.org/audience/for-families/>
 - <https://childmind.org/article/talking-to-kids-about-the-coronavirus/>
 - Calm App, Headspace, Insight Timer (mindfulness and meditation)
- Teacher Wellbeing
 - <https://masssupport.org/>
 - Employee Assistance
 - Telehealth (mental/behavioral)
 - Provide resources for staff self-care, including resilience strategies [Self-care](#)
- Parent outreach and education
 - De-stigmatization of SARS-CoV-2
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/reducing-stigma.html>
 - [MGRSD Talking to children about covid](#)
 - [CDC talking with children](#)
 - Understanding normal behavioral response to crises
 - General best practices of talking through trauma with children
 - Resilience strategies for children
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/science/key-concepts/resilience/>
<https://developingchild.harvard.edu/resources/inbrief-resilience-series>

Preventing the Spread of Infection

Objective: To keep all students, faculty, staff, and the greater community healthy through a set of protocols and precautions.

Needs: Finalize entrance screener, PPE, signage, finalize bathroom procedures/monitor

- Require a daily online home screening done by parents for students or by selves for staff.
 - Include temp, respiratory and other possible COVID symptoms, hx (ie recent positive COVID test or exposure, use of acetaminophen or ibuprofen that morning) , information required for attending school , similar to paper questionnaire for summer school.
 - This must be completed and submitted to school prior to entry to building or getting on a school bus.
 - A Nurse should evaluate results for any student or staff member who does not pass screening.
 - All screenings need to be documented.
- Include on school supply list: hand sanitizer, masks that come to and from school, reusable water bottles
- Encourage students and staff to stay away from school when sick.
- Teach students and staff to use masks and protective equipment appropriately, covering a cough, and using/discarding tissues appropriately. Stress the importance of keeping hands away from the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Introduce hand washing best practices through the school nurse
 - Utilizing and posting signage.
 - Using soap and water and scrubbing for approximately 20 seconds before rinsing.
 - Using paper towels to turn sink handles and open doors before discarding.
 - Using alcohol-based sanitizer when hands are not visibly soiled.
 - Developing fixed schedules for hand washing (particularly, for younger students).
Teachers can choose times in addition to below.
 - Required times:
 - upon arrival to school- sanitization stations
 - before eating
 - before putting on and after taking off masks
 - after using the bathroom
 - before dismissal- sanitization stations
- Water fountains will not be used. Bottle filling stations only.
- Bathroom procedures

Institute Limited Contact Procedures

Objective: To ensure staff and students have contact within only their own cohort “pod”

Needs: Guidance from instructional group on school day scheduling, guidance from facilities regarding hallway flow and classroom capacity, Procedures are being drafted for student arrival and dismissal (see below)

- Relay the importance of minimal contact between students of a younger age
- Spread desks and seating arrangements to conform with Social Distancing Guidelines
- Institute 6’ distancing at all times.
- Amend schedule to conform to social distancing guidelines.
- Visitors (except substitutes) not permitted in the building.
- If a parent needs to drop off something for their child, they can drop the item off at the front door of the respective school.
- Students enter the building by grade levels.
- Backpacks will be stationed by student desks.
- All meetings with members outside of the school community will be held virtually.

Personal Protective Equipment

Objective: Procedures and steps for PPE in schools (currently being drafted)

Needs: Purchase specific trash bins for contaminated PPE disposal, Mask exemption query from local doctor offices (in progress)

- Review <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
- Daily change of masks (unless in contact with a student who has symptoms or been contaminated). Shields should be cleaned daily.
 - If student/staff become in contact with a person(s) with symptoms PPE should be appropriately disposed of and immediately replaced.
- Masks with clear sections to show sound production do not have a filter and are less effective at protecting others, do not have positive reviews, are uncomfortable, expensive, fog up, and are only disposable. At this time those are not recommended.
- Face shields can be worn in addition to a mask.
- Mask Guidance:
 - All students are required to wear a mask/face covering that covers their nose and mouth.
 - Adults, including educators and staff, are required to wear masks/face coverings.
 - Exceptions to mask/face covering requirements must be made for those for whom it is not possible due to medical conditions, disability impact, or other health or safety factors.
 - Mask breaks should occur throughout the day (recess). Masks will be placed in clearly labeled individual paper bags with the student name during mask breaks.
 - Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra disposable face masks should be made available by the school for students who need them.
 - Reusable masks/face coverings provided by families should be washed by families daily.
 - Masks/face coverings are required to be worn by everyone on the bus during school bus transportation.
- Diaper changing protocol- gown, gloves, face mask (new set of gloves for each change, change other PPE if needed, ie wet)
- Mask exemptions: TBD
 - Staff working with students who don't wear masks will need N95 masks with a surgical mask on top to protect the mask. Then, at the end of each day, the N95 will be stored in a paper bag labeled with the staff member's name. If possible, there will be a mask for each day of the week. This method of storage and reuse has been adopted by hospitals to conserve supplies and allow enough time for any virus to expire before re-use. Any mask with visible soil or wear must be thrown away.

- Face shields should also be worn by those working with students who don't wear masks, as should the students.
- Plexiglass, distancing, individual rooms all should be utilized.
- No student who is not wearing a mask can be around other students.
- Encourage families to voluntarily have their child tested for COVID19 as a protection for others.
- Disposal of PPE
 - Always use universal precautions
 - Need to purchase rolling contaminated trash cans
 - If from a healthy school member, dispose PPE in regular trash
 - If from a member with symptoms, use special clearly identified containers and red bags (biohazard bags)

Possible COVID Case in School

- Follow CDC and DESE guidelines: [Protocols for responding to COVID-19 scenarios in school, on the bus, or in community settings](#). This guidance has strict guidelines for when students and staff need to be tested, quarantined, and re-enter school.
- At a **minimum**, any child or school staff who develops respiratory symptoms should be provided and wear a surgical mask, be transported and quarantined in a health isolation area that the district identifies, and sent home until cleared to return to school by a qualified health professional.
 - Locations with air purifiers in each
 - WES- middle room between the health office and the admin office (room 107b)
 - LES- back room of the nurse's office (room 62)
 - MG- speech room next to the nurse's office (room c133)

Vaccinations Planning

- Do not plan on a vaccine being ready for the 20/21 school year.
- School officials should expect to receive guidance on the timing and availability of teacher and student vaccines from public health officials.
- Potential for the vaccine to fall under school entry law.

Training

Objective: To prepare staff, students, and families to implement wellness procedures (both physical and mental health) in the case of in-person learning, hybrid learning, or remote learning.

Needs:

- Professional Development time for facilitating conversations about COVID19
- PPE Doff and Don <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html>
- Teach students and staff how to keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- Mask wearing social story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mhCBXIPPOuw>
- Talking with Children about COVID19:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/talking-with-children.html>
- Wash your hands poster:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/wash-your-hands-bubbles_poster.pdf
- Building entry signage:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread_poster.pdf
- Brain pop for older students: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GoXxmzKdick>

Transportation

Objective: Follow and support implementation of the [Transportation Guidance DESE](#)

Needs: TBD

- Distance - Students should be seated no more than one student per bench, alternating sides for each row, which allows students to maintain approximately 3 feet of physical distance. Children from the same household may sit together and in closer proximity (e.g., two students per bench).
- Ventilation - Keep windows open at all times during operation, unless not possible due to extreme weather conditions.
- Seat assignments- Students should be assigned to a single bus and a particular seat.
 - As students board the bus, occupy seats starting from the rear of the bus and fill sequentially to the front. Upon arrival at school, the bus should be unloaded in a controlled manner, starting from the front of the bus and emptying sequentially to the back.
 - Assign seats with the above boarding order and process in mind (i.e., based on when students will board during the route). For example, students boarding the bus at the beginning of the route should be assigned seats at the rear of the bus, and students boarding the bus at the end of the route should be assigned seats at the front.
- Bus monitors - Districts should consider adding a bus monitor (e.g., volunteer, student leader, or staff member) for every bus to ensure strict adherence to these health and safety guidelines.
- Students must disinfect/sanitize hands upon entrance to the bus.
- Survey:
 - How many students will return to school in the fall in-person?
 - How many families/students are planning to use alternative transportation?
 - What offerings/incentives might persuade families to use alternative transportation?
 - What modes of alternative transportation will families/students be likely to use (e.g., walking, biking, driving, carpooling)?
 - How many households will have two or more students riding the same bus (to allow more than one student per bench)?
 - Morning or afternoon must be differentiated

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

TBD- school based

Next Steps

- Site specific communication on normal operating procedures
- Crisis planning in time of social distancing(e.g., fire drills, evacuation)
- Transportation recommendations to consult with Bussing
- Plan training for wellness procedures for the school community