

Some Q & A for Reopening Our Schools - August, 2020 (Discussed at the 9/10/20 Haverhill School Board meeting)

1. **What happens if** 6 children are sent to the nurse at the same time?
 - i. Children will be sent to the nurse one at a time following the school's procedure. Teachers will call down to the office before sending a child to the nurse's office.
 - b. Where do they go if they have to be quarantined?
 - i. HCMS -- Additional office space next to nurse's office
 - ii. WHS -- 2 rooms in nurse's office, small office space, conference room
 - iii. WES -- section of gym
 - iv. KSS / FPS-- time out areas
 - v. Piermont -- Book room / multipurpose room
 - vi. WVS -- Outdoor classroom, weather permitting - SPED room otherwise
 - vii. BVS -- Outside front door / guidance office
 - c. Do they have to stay 25 feet apart which is the distance for sneeze or cough droplets?
 - i. No. With consistent and proper mask use, transmission is reduced and doesn't require such a distance.
 - d. Who watches the isolated children?
 - i. Staff members who are available: nurse, admin, instructional and support staff
2. **What happens if** the parents cannot pick up their child for two or three hours.
 - a. We need to have multiple emergency contacts and parents need to know that we will go down the list to find someone to pick up the children if the parents can not be reached. Use verbal permission protocol to allow alternative contact pick up students.
 - b. Until then they remain in isolation with supervision.
3. **What happens if** a child (or staff member) tests positive for Covid. Does the entire class plus teacher have to quarantine for 14 days and or be tested?
 - a. State requires contacting DHHS. The entire class and the teacher are out of school for 14 days.
 - b. The Haverhill Board voted to transition to remote instruction for a 2 week quarantine in the event a student of staff member tests positive for COVID-19
4. **What happens if** the children cannot stay home alone because there was no pre-planning for a sudden -exclusion from school. Parents will rely upon their emergency contacts. Ultimately it is the parents' responsibility to provide for students. Teachers will have assignments ready for students using the google classroom platform.

5. **What happens if** the children cannot learn the curriculum in 40% of the allowed time as contemplated under the hybrid system.

We will have to set curriculum priorities and believe more than 40% of time is in our new instructional model: Day 1 and 2 and for direct instruction and to prepare students for their Day 4 and 5 Distance Learning days for project based extension of learning.

- a. Wednesday will be a remote day in which teachers will provide wrap up and small group instruction for students who need extra support.
 - b. The two days that a student is in remote session will be project based time to practice and expand on new concepts.
6. **What happens if** the nurse gets sick – who will replace her? Does the entire school shut down? If not why not?
- a. If the nurse is out, every effort to use a nurse sub will be made, but in the case where no nurse is on site, the school principal or their designee will determine if a student needs to go home due to COVID related symptoms. All staff need training on PPE use and disposal. Quarantined nurses could provide telehealth services if well enough.
 - b. State guidance has a chart for the amount of time exposed and proper use of PPE.
7. **What happens if** a teacher coughs or sneezes and has to stay out for 14 days or get tested which currently takes 7-14 days.
- a. Determine if the symptom is related to known allergies or other health condition
 - b. Staff can return after a negative test and symptoms are gone.
 - c. If it is determined that a teacher must quarantine for 14 days, the teacher may: execute lesson(s) remotely from home with a staff member or sub in the classroom. Teachers are required to construct in-school lesson plans that enable them to go remote on one day notice and/or accommodate a child who is quarantining from home. Remote access in only for students who are currently receiving in-school instruction and are home on quarantine.

8. **What happens if** two teachers get sick (ie: test positive for COVID) in the same grade – does that grade have to shut down for two weeks? State requires contacting DHHS. Local control and local matrixes will dictate. We believe the entire class and the teachers are out of school for 14 days. It would look different at different buildings. HCMS(6-8) and WHS would feel the impact on three class periods of students per teacher.

9. **What happens if** 1, 2, 3 or 4 students get Covid? Do we shut down the school suddenly? What is the tipping point for shutting the school down?

DHHS guidance requires us to call them immediately for communication protocols.

Local control will set the metric: for example, are we using % or number of students

physically in the school? We need to develop a metric for what we think is right. Currently, in Grafton County, we have less than 1% of individuals testing + for C-19. Many communities have no positive cases. Some suggest being proactive and going to remote instruction, when the county results are 5% +. The Haverhill Board voted to go to remote instruction for a two week quarantine period in the event of one positive COVID-19 student or staff in school.

10. How do parents react when the school is shut down for 14 days on less than 24 hours' notice? This is a difficult question and situation for everyone, especially working parents. Due to the pandemic, the Governor has called for flexible, fluid plans. Parents will need contingency plans in the event of a two week quarantine for a school with a positive case or in the event of a full remote model if community transmission of the virus surges.