

Regional School Unit 82/ Maine School Administrative District No. 12

School Reopening and Pandemic Response Plan

Forest Hills Consolidated School

August 5, 2020

Revision August 18, 2021

This plan is subject to change as conditions or regulations change.

INTRODUCTION

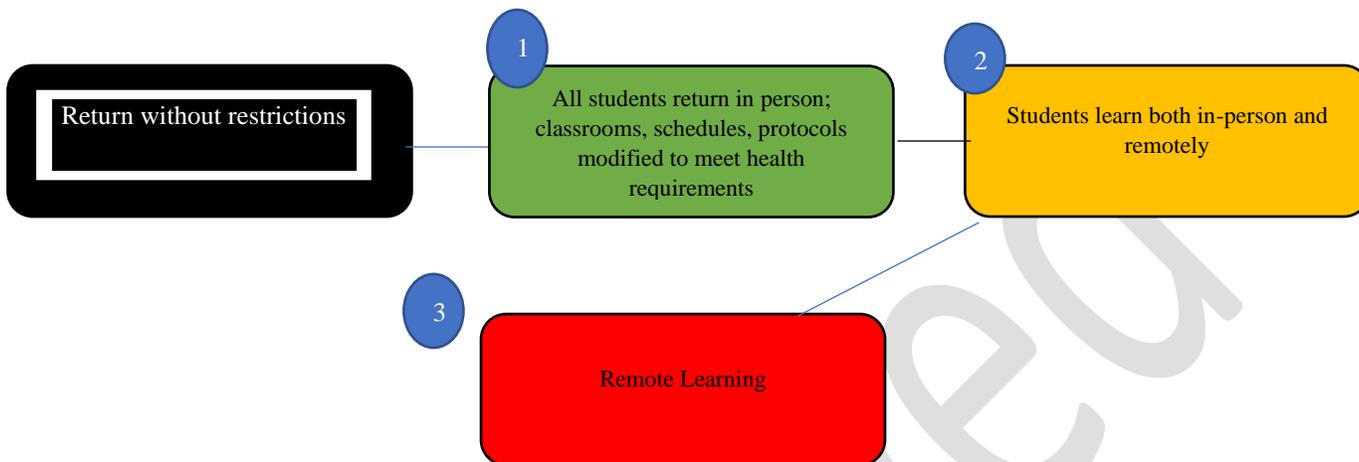
We have been guided by three principles in developing this plan: protecting the health and safety of our school and local communities, maintaining an exceptional educational program, and, whenever possible, facilitating experiences that enrich our core educational mission and foster growth in our students.

There is clear consensus from both education and medical groups: we must keep in mind not only the risks associated with COVID-19 for in-person school programs, but also the known challenges and consequences of keeping students out of school. While remote learning has improved over the course of the school closures, there is no substitute for in-person instruction when it comes to the quality of students' academic learning. In-person school plays an equally important role in our ability to support students' social-emotional needs, including their mental and physical health, and in mitigating the impacts of trauma. We also recognize how disruptive school closures have been to families trying to maintain regular work schedules while managing household needs, including childcare, and also facilitating remote learning.

It is critically important to develop strategies that can be revised and adapted depending on the level of viral transmission in the school and in the community and done with close communication with local and state public health authorities while recognizing the differences between school districts including urban, suburban, and rural school districts. In assessing how the status of Coronavirus in our area impacts school decisions, we will refer to information such as the rate of influenza-like illnesses and COVID-like cases in the area, the trajectory of documented cases and newly hospitalized patients, availability of testing and treatment, and local hospital capacity.

THREE SCENARIOS

We will plan for three scenarios, but with the intention to implement scenario number “1” in the fall of 2021 given the current state of Coronavirus in our community. The scenario at any point in time will be dependent on local health conditions.



1. Green (In-person Learning): This is a model with in-person learning with new safety requirements. For the fall, the box in green represents our goal to get as many students as possible back into schools for in-person learning—safely. In this model, any student can return in-person to school settings that are appropriately modified to accommodate the health and safety requirements outlined below. Examples of modifications could include: altered classroom configurations, setting up additional learning spaces, and schedule changes.
2. Yellow (Hybrid Learning) - Split Model learning: This model will be used in the event we are unable to bring all students back to in-person learning under the health and safety requirements despite our best efforts, or in recognition of COVID-19 related circumstances. A split-model means that students would alternate between in-person and remote learning. For instance, students would switch between in-person and remote learning on alternating weeks or days of the week (the alternating schedule would be determined by the district).

The only difference between Green and Yellow is that the district would limit the number of students in-person as an added safety measure if needed in this model. This situation would correspond to the state’s “Yellow” designation.

3. Red (Remote Learning): All districts and schools are required to have a plan for operating a remote learning program. This model will be used for all students in the event of future classroom or school closures due to COVID-19. State guidelines will be followed.

Plan for special populations: Across each of these models, Forest Hills Consolidated School will plan for special populations, including students with disabilities, English Language Learners, and our youngest (K-2) students. Our intention is to prioritize in-person attendance for special populations

LOCAL HEALTH DATA

As of August 5, 2020

County	Somerset
Total Cases	34
Active Cases	1
Deaths	1
Case Rate	.67/100,000
Community Transmission	None

As of August 16, 2021

County	Somerset
Total Cases	2,414
Active Cases	73
Deaths	34
Case Rate	477.2/10,000
Community Transmission	High

GREEN

In-person instruction with required health and safety measures in place

Description: During a full reopening of the school, students and teachers will return to Forest Hills Consolidated School with certain health and safety procedures and protocols in place. Additionally, the school will implement all mandated health and safety measures as provided by the Centers for Disease Control.

Our goal for the fall is to implement the safe return of students to in-person instruction to best address learning and our students' holistic needs. To help accomplish that goal, we have set forth the following expectations for teachers and students:

- Classes will follow a schedule, which may be adjusted from past years. Curriculum, instruction, and assessment will be similar to the past, with modifications as needed.

With the safety measures we have in place, we feel students will therefore most benefit by attending school **in person**.

SAFETY MEASURES THAT WILL BE IN PLACE AT SCHOOL

The critical health and safety practices that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission include, but are not limited to: rigorous hygiene and handwashing, recommended use of masks/face coverings, physical distancing when possible, reducing interactions between groups, staying home when sick, and protecting those most vulnerable to the disease.

Establishing a culture of health and safety in our school that focuses on regularly enforcing important practices is more important than any one measure.

The following safety protocols will be in place in our school as followed:

1. Daily Health Screening
 - a. All students, under the supervision of a parent or guardian, and all staff will conduct a health checklist protocol each morning before school (or before boarding buses if applicable) that will determine whether students/staff can attend school/work that day.
 - b. Students or staff who answer "yes" to any questions on the screening should stay home. Any student or staff exhibiting symptoms must notify the school and stay home.
 - c. The health check is a mandatory requirement for every student and staff member, per MDOE and MECDC mandate. The health of the entire community depends on each individual being in compliance with our safety standards.

2. Quarantine

- a. Quarantine requirements will follow CDC guidelines.

3. Masks/Face Coverings

- a. The wearing of face coverings/masks is a personal choice made by families and employees. Forest Hills Consolidated School will support any student, employee, or guest in their choice to wear a face covering.
- b. Parents wishing to have their child wear a face covering are asked to submit in writing that their child will be wearing a face covering so that staff can support them.

4. Physical Distancing

- a. Physical distancing measures will be encouraged when feasible. CDC recommends 3 feet of distancing when space allows.

5. Hand Hygiene

- a. Students and staff will wash or sanitize their hands in the following situations:
 - Upon entering the school
 - Before and after eating
 - After using the restroom
 - Before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment
 - Upon entering and exiting the school bus
- b. Forest Hills will post signage and train students and staff on proper hand hygiene procedures.

6. Cleaning and Disinfection

- a. Classroom desktops and chairs will be sanitized by teachers or support staff, at the end of every class period if students are changing classes.
- b. Classrooms where cohorts stay together for the entire day will have desks and chairs sanitized after each school day.
- c. High touch surfaces, such as door handles, office phones, shared keyboards, toilet handles, and faucets and other surfaces will be sanitized according to guidelines.

7. Ventilation and Outdoor Spaces

- a. Our school's ventilation system is set to bring in fresh air from outside. We will keep this system running as long as school is open.
- b. All areas, when feasible, will have one window partly open to aid in air circulation.

- c. Outdoor spaces will be utilized, when possible, for instruction and meals. The district will provide additional outdoor seating.
 - d. If used, outdoor playgrounds/natural play areas only need routine maintenance. Students will be encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before and after using these spaces. When hand hygiene is emphasized, cleaning and disinfection are not required between cohorts.
8. Diagnosed Case(s)
- a. The district will follow the Department of Educations Standard Operating Procedure for positive cases in schools to respond to diagnosed cases in the district.
9. Restrict Non-essential visitors
- a. We will limit parent or community volunteers or guest speakers in classrooms, especially times of increased illness or known increase in local transmission rates.
 - b. Non-essential visitors will be limited in the building.
10. Limit Sharing of Materials
- a. Sharing of art supplies and other high-touch equipment will be limited as much as possible. If feasible, we will have a separate set of supplies for each student.
 - b. Sharing of electronic devices, sports equipment, clothing, books, games, and learning aids will be limited.
 - c. Shared supplies and equipment will be cleaned and disinfected after use.

Students, educators, and other staff who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will want to consult with their health care providers about whether and under what circumstances a return to in-person school setting would be medically inadvisable. If medically inadvisable, parents or staff members should contact the Superintendent of Schools immediately to discuss options.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Arrival
 Before boarding a school bus, all students and staff are required to put on a face covering. Upon entering, students are required to sanitize their hands. Elementary students will enter the building at the Elementary South entrance (near the playground). High School and Middle School students will enter through the main office entrance. Students must not arrive prior to 7:15 a.m. All students arriving at school will report directly to their assigned homerooms.
2. Dismissal
 Parent/Guardian pickup will take place at the main entrance. Please call the school office at 668-5291 by 1:50 p.m. to notify the office that you will be picking up your child at the end of the day.

Please wait in your vehicle for your child. All children being picked up will be escorted out to waiting parents/guardians at 2:04 p.m.

3. Breakfast

Breakfast will be served within the wings/homerooms. This will be revisited as/when conditions change.

4. Lunch

Each wing will eat in the cafeteria utilizing physical distancing when space allows.

5. Microwave Use in the Cafeteria

There will be no microwave available for student use this year. Please do not send your child with a meal which requires it to be heated; our staff are not able to heat your child's food.

6. Extra-Curricular Activities and Events

- We will follow MPA and CDC guidance and requirements.

7. Sports

- We will follow MPA and CDC guidance and requirements.

8. Subject Specific Adjustments

- Music, Art, PE, and Library Classes will following the guidance of the CDC.
- Lab Sciences – Shared equipment will be sanitized after each class.

9. Transportation

- Face coverings are required on all buses.
- Students will be seated in assigned seats.
- Students from the same home/class/bus stop will be seated together to the extent possible.
- Some windows will remain open for ventilation to the extent possible. Winter weather will impede this practice and we will adjust as needed.

10. Classroom Setup

Recommended strategies in the classroom to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- It is recommended that student desks will be a minimum of 3 feet apart
- Seats will be assigned in all classrooms. Seating charts will be given to the main office.
- Classroom rugs may be used.

- Each room will have a hand sanitizer unit that students and staff will use when entering and exiting.
- Tables/desks will be sanitized daily.

11. Classroom Supplies

We are going to try to avoid using basic shared supplies. Students should plan on bringing their own general supplies. Supply lists will be sent home in early August. Class specific supplies will be provided by the school.

12. Safety Training

At the beginning of the year, we will train all staff and students on the health and safety protocols. We will have posters on display around the school.

YELLOW

Partial In-Person/partial Remote Learning

Description: During a Hybrid reopening, a combination of remote and in-person learning will occur. Determination of who or when in-person or remote learning occurs depends upon the needs of the student and school. In a hybrid scenario, all Forest Hills Consolidated School grading practices will remain the same as in-person learning.

If we need to move to a model where only a portion of our students can attend in-person, we will use an A/B Cohort model that isolates two distinct cohorts of students who attend in person on alternating days. We will code our days as Orange and Black days. Students would attend school on their designated day (typically every-other day). Those not in attendance would have remote assignments to complete on their remote learning day(s). All safety measures described in the “green” would remain in place, however, physical distancing would be implemented in all areas.

During the “yellow” phase, unless it is deemed unsafe by administration, in consultation with local health officials, Kindergarten through Grade 2 students would continue to attend school daily.

RED

Full Remote Learning

Description: It may become necessary during the course of the school year to move all students and staff to a remote learning scenario. This will be determined using the guidance of the MDOE, MECDC and based upon local data. In a remote learning situation, the administration, in consultation with local health officials, will determine if staff should work remotely or on campus.

Determining when necessary: Determination of Full Remote Learning will be based on local health data. Full Remote Learning is considered the least desirable situation for learning at Forest Hills Consolidated School. In a remote learning scenario, all Forest Hills Consolidated School grading practices will remain the same as in-person learning.

If the school needs to shift to remote learning for any period of time students will continue school remotely following an abbreviated synchronous schedule. We learned a lot about what did and did not work for students in the Spring of 2020 and will incorporate these lessons to improve remote instruction if it is needed. We are prepared to transition to remote learning without missing any instructional days.

SAMPLE REMOTE DAY SCHEDULE*

*Schedule may vary

Note that we will allow 5 minutes between each class period for transition time

High School	
8:00 – 8:10	Homeroom/Announcements
8:10-8:15	Transition
8:15-8:45	Period 1
8:50 – 9:20	Period 2
9:20-9:30	BREAK
9:30-10:00	Period 3
10:05-10:35	Period 4
10:35-11:15	Period 5
11:15-11:45	Lunch
11:45-12:15	Period 6
12:20-12:50	Period 7
12:50-1:00	BREAK
1:00-1:30	Period 8
1:30 – 2:04	Office Hours

Middle School	
8:00 – 8:10	Homeroom/Announcements
8:10-8:15	Transition
8:15-8:45	Period 1
8:45 – 8:55	BREAK
8:55-9:25	Period 2
9:30-10:00	Allied Arts
10:05-10:30	Period 3
10:35-11:15	Office Hours
11:15-11:45	Lunch
11:45-12:15	Period 4
12:15-12:25	BREAK
12:25-12:55	Focus Instructional Time # 1
1:00-1:30	Focus Instructional Time # 2
1:30 – 2:04	Office Hours

A remote day schedule for the Elementary School would be sent directly to parents as it varies for each grade level.

Appendix A: Student Daily Health Check

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours
have you had a fever
(100.4 and above*) or
used any fever reducing
medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any
of the most common
symptoms of Covid, had
vomiting/diarrhea, or felt
unwell?
(see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been a close
contact of a person with
Covid in the past 14 days?

YES =



Have you traveled
outside of the state in
the past 14 days?

YES =



Contact
Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 10.9.20



Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

Cough
Shortness of
breath
or difficulty
breathing
Fever (100.4°F/
38 °C or greater)*
Chills
Sore throat
New loss of taste
or smell

Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny
nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/
38°C regardless of
measurement
location (oral,
temporal).



Appendix B: Staff Daily Health Check

COVID-19

Pre-Screening Tool for School Attendance

Within the past 24 hours
have you had a fever
(100.4 and above*) or
used any fever reducing
medicine?

YES =



Do you feel sick with any
of the most common
symptoms of Covid, had
vomiting/diarrhea, or felt
unwell?
(see symptom list to the right)

YES =



Have you been a close
contact of a person with
Covid in the past 14 days?

YES =



Have you traveled
outside of the state in
the past 14 days?

YES =



Contact
Your School

Stay home with any YES response to the questions above OR with two or more of the "less common" symptoms listed to the right.

Attend school when all answers are NO and your child is feeling well with no other symptoms of illness. Call or see your school nurse or other designated person at school if you have questions.

Updated 10.9.20



Maine
Department of
Education

Most Common Symptoms of Covid 19:

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Shortness of
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New loss of taste
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Less Common Symptoms:

Muscle pain
Nausea or
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Fatigue
Headache
Congestion/runny
nose

*Fever is 100.4°F/
38°C regardless of
measurement
location (oral,
temporal).

APPENDIX D: Health Protocols

Protocol 1: If a staff member or student is at school presenting symptoms

Designated staff will isolate the individual from all other members of the school community and notify parents/staff member's contact to have the individual sent home. They will be advised to contact their primary care physician. Health Services at the school will have two separate locations - one where individuals can be seen for medications, etc. (the main office). and one where anyone presenting COVID-like symptoms can be seen and isolated. (Room 244-A) Designated staff will don appropriate PPE.

If a case is confirmed to be COVID-19 the school will follow the most updated version of Maine's Standard Operating Procedure for Investigation of COVID-19 in PreK-12 Schools which can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/sop>.