

Community Update - 10/21/2020

Greetings Monadnock Community!

It's hard to believe the leaves have already changed and we are nearing the end of October. I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and patience as we have moved through the first six weeks of school together in the Hybrid Model. We continue to hear your feedback and use that to identify ways we can tweak and improve both our in-person days and our remote days.

Hybrid Model

At last night's Board meeting, the Board voted to continue in the Hybrid Model through January 15th, 2021. This action was taken after reviewing [current COVID-19 data](#) from the [New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#) and the [Harvard Public Health Institute](#). The discussion centered around identifying the best approach at this point that would provide the greatest potential for consistency (and avoid unnecessary disruption) through the cold and flu season and the travel associated with the holidays.

Shifting to Full Return at this time would put students in closer proximity indoors at a time when infection rates are climbing, likely increasing the chance of needing to shift models during the winter months (either back to Hybrid or to Full Remote). Shifting to Full Remote at this time would similarly introduce an additional transition that may not be necessary and cause additional disruption for families and students. While not universal, the vast majority of the feedback received from parents and employees suggested that remaining in the Hybrid Model - 'staying the course' - was the preferred approach to minimize disruption, provide consistency, and maintain health and safety for all.

The Board will reevaluate the educational model on January 5th, 2021. Any decision to move into a 'less restrictive' model (such as moving from the Hybrid Model to Full Return) will be made by the Board. If there is an imminent need to move into a more restrictive model (such as moving from the Hybrid Model to Full Remote), this decision will be made by the Superintendent, utilizing available infection data as reported by [New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services](#), the [Decision Matrix](#) developed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and other relevant guidance.

Returning to School Reminders

When can a staff member or student return to school after being **diagnosed with COVID-19?**

Any person diagnosed with COVID-19 can end their isolation and return to school when they have met CDC's criteria for ending home isolation, which requires a person with mild to moderate illness, who is not severely immunocompromised, to meet all of the follow criteria:

1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first began
2. At least 24 hours have passed with resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications
3. Other symptoms have improved
 - a. Persons diagnosed with COVID-19 who never develop COVID-19 symptoms (asymptomatic infection) may discontinue isolation after 10 days from the date of their first positive test.

Please keep siblings home if they or any members of the household are being treated for COVID-19 and notify the school nurse.

Can a staff member or student with diagnosed COVID-19 get a doctor's note to return to school before their isolation period ends?

No. NH DHHS is the only entity with the authority to release an individual from quarantine or isolation.

If a staff member or student is excluded from school due to symptoms of COVID-19, but they have not been tested for COVID-19, when can they return to school?

Any person with new or unexplained symptoms of COVID-19 should be excluded from school, and instructed to isolate at home and contact their primary care provider for COVID-19 testing. Symptomatic students or staff can be allowed to return to school when one of the following two conditions is met:

- Person receives an approved COVID-19 test that is negative (with documentation provided to the school) **AND** the person's symptoms are improving **AND** they are fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications.
- Person has met CDC criteria for ending of home isolation
 - a. (i.e., if person is not tested, they are managed assuming they have COVID-19).

What about holiday travel?

If your child travels outside of New England, they must quarantine for 14 days upon their return. However, if a member of your child's household travels outside of New England and your child does not, your child does not need to quarantine and may continue to attend school.

As always, communication is key. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse.

Nutrition Services

SAU #93 Nutrition Services is pleased to announce that The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that school breakfast & lunches will be provided at **no cost** for the rest of this school year! The District menu can be viewed [HERE](#).

Remote Meals

Students can receive meals for all remote school days. They will be available on Mondays & Tuesdays at all school sites from 9:30 – 10:30 am or by appointment. You can select the site that is most convenient for you to pick up at, even if you have students in different schools. We are asking parents to complete an online order form [HERE](#).

- Each week, parents and guardians can order up to five (5) breakfasts and five (5) lunches per student in their household. (Meals are also available for any other children living in the community age 18 and under.)
- If you have students in multiple schools, you can choose to have all meals picked up at one site by selecting the site most convenient for you
- Meals will include an entrée, fruit, vegetables, and milk.
- Some Meals will come refrigerated or frozen, with cooking instructions provided.
- Meals are subject to change based on availability.

School Cafeteria Contact numbers for any assistance, questions or requests:

Cutler School	(603) 355-3132	Cecilia Smith	casmith@mrsd.org
Emerson School	(603) 585-6006	Melanie Doyle	mdoyle@mrsd.org
Gilsum School	(603) 352-2226	Cheryl Wagner	cwagner@mrsd.org
Mt. Caesar School	(603) 903-6531	Linda Ouellette	louellette@mrsd.org
Troy School	(603) 242-6564	Deb Wilson	dwilson@mrsd.org
Main Office	(603) 903-6818	Thomas Walsh or Cheryl Wagner	
	Fax (603) 719-3238	twalsh@mrsd.org or cwagner@mrsd.org	

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your child's principal or to me directly. Be well and stay safe!

Best,



Lisa A. Witte
Superintendent of Schools

