

Haverhill Advisory Committee for Reopening Schools - FAQ from Facebook

1. Any mention of what special ed will look like?

Special education services will be provided for the 20-21 school year whether we are all in school face to face, in a hybrid model or remote. Unless there is an incredible surge in positive cases, families can expect in person services for students with disabilities even if we are in a remote or can be provided remotely if the family prefers. We certainly know more now than we did in the spring about slowing the spread of COVID-19.

2. What if students come to school sick?

We have developed a preparedness plan, based on Dr. Chan's recommendations and DHHS guidance. Families should know that students will be sent home from school with even mild COVID-19 like symptoms:

- Temperature over 100.0°F
- Chills and/or body aches (even without fever)
- Runny nose or nasal congestion (not attributed to existing diagnosed allergies or other pre-existing conditions)
- Diarrhea
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing (not attributed to asthma or other pre-existing conditions)
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting

3. Internet access during remote instruction

The state is awarding a contract with a provider to improve internet access in remote areas. The SAU has ordered hotspots to loan families who need it and has installed wifi access on one of our school buses. In the event of remote instruction, the schools will work with families who need internet access. (County Rd, Brushwood, Allagash Rd, Lily Lane, Joy Lane, and some areas of Mt. Lakes, among others).

4. Moving students around the school

It is our intention to keep cohorts of students together and move teachers to students. This is easier to do in K-8 and harder to do at the high school level as students enroll in different courses. A hybrid cohort model would reduce the number of students at HCMS and WHS by 50%.

5. How will high school students be able to go to River Bend for Tech Ed?

We have a meeting with Riverbend on July 28 to discuss scheduling. At this time, Riverbend is proposing the same hybrid model we are looking at: divide students by alphabet and have one group attend school on Monday and Tuesday and the other group attends on Thursday and Friday. Wednesday will be used for deep cleaning, online small group and 1:1 support, training, planning and meeting.

6. Will the state provide towns with additional funding for cleaning supplies, tents for learning outside, PPE, etc?

The Federal Government gave Haverhill \$5,000 for reimbursement for COVID-19 related costs. They also awarded us \$170,000 and said we could use it for student computers, teacher computers, mental health supports, supplies, tutors, etc. Each school was given \$55,000-60,000 to use as they needed. Some funds have been held to see more of what our needs are. This won't cover all that we need and are watching our budgets carefully.

7. What about those that are asymptomatic? You can have this virus and not show symptoms.

This is a difficult question and the reason we need to plan carefully for using masks with all students and staff, increase our hand washing protocols and have social distancing in class with 6 feet between desks.

Asymptomatic individuals who test positive for C-19 need to be out of school for 10 days (as long as they remain asymptomatic. If symptoms develop during the 10 days, another 10 days must follow)

Staff/Students exposed to someone suspected or confirmed to have C-19:

14 days, assuming the person remains asymptomatic.

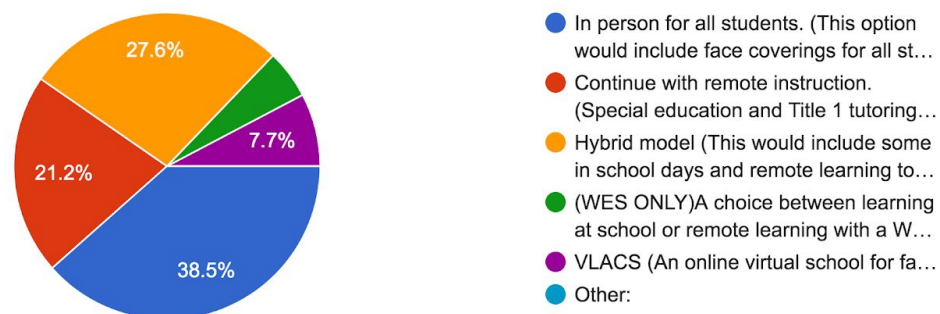
- Staff/Student cannot "test-out" of 14 day quarantine

8. How about remote learning for all students?

A new survey went out July 23 in the morning. By noon, we had over 100 responses. The results will be shared with the committee and the school board. There is a mix of parents wanting in school as well as remote, with the majority willing to support a hybrid model. At this time (and the survey is still open):

Preferred Learning Model

156 responses



Is the superintendent opposed to remote learning?

The superintendent is not opposed to remote learning. We have been tasked with having three models ready to use depending on our local context: face to face, hybrid and remote. In our local village schools, they have smaller class sizes and adequate space to provide 6 feet of space between student desks. Haverhill schools have larger enrollments and many grades and classrooms are unable to provide that level of protection.

9. Are you screening and taking temps every day?

We will screen and take temperatures of staff and students every day. Parents will be asked to do this at home before school starts each morning.

10. How many layers do cloth masks need to be?

A minimum of 2 layers.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-to-make-cloth-face-covering.html>

11. It would likely be quite difficult for teachers to be interacting with in-person students and remote students at the same time.

Teachers would not be asked to teach in person at school and teach remote lessons. All teachers will be asked to keep important lesson information on their google classroom for access no matter which model: in person, hybrid or remote.

In a hybrid model for grades 4-12, teachers would teach half of the class on M/T and half on TH/F with W a remote learning day for all students in the classroom. When not in class, students would work remotely on assignments. Teachers would help students in their classes with assignment questions like they always have when a student misses school days for illness.

Woodsville Elementary School is still working on their hybrid model. With 3 teachers per grade, if enough parents want remote instruction, teachers will be enlisted to teach students remotely (similar to the spring) while other teachers teach students face to face.

12. Transparency is so important for any in person offerings - families need to know the reality of what school will be like for their children.

We agree. The school board is meeting on Thursday, July 30 at 6:30 to hear the recommendations from the Haverhill Advisory Committee, administrators and the superintendent. The Haverhill School Board will vote on the reopening of schools, based on the information we have available at this time.

13. To clarify...has the decision been made for the schools to be open for in-person?

Not yet. The board will decide next week so families can plan for their children. We have to have three plans: in person, hybrid and remote in case we need all of them, given the local situation. We planned for in person first and quickly realized we needed the hybrid option to provide 6 feet of space for students in classrooms.

14. Did the superintendent say parents will be home-schooling? What about VLACS?

Parents have the option to homeschool if they choose to do so. The Virtual Learning Academy (VLACS) is a free (for NH residents) public charter school now has a K-12 curriculum for families that wish to enroll due to concerns with COVID-19. They are competency based. The K-5 program is relatively new. Because of the pandemic, families can take some or all courses and still be enrolled in the local public school. Enrollment for K-5 will begin August 3 and students can start August 17 or when our schools start on August 31. Courses include Math, Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Art, PE and Technology.

Students in grades 3-5 have a Spanish option. For more information, go to www.vlacs.org or call 603-778-2500. Please let the superintendent and your school office know of your intent to enroll in VLACS.

15. Is it possible to have a different plan for each grade level?

It likely would be very difficult to do this.

