



School Administrative Unit #31
Newmarket School District
186A Main Street, Newmarket, NH 03857
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www.newmarket.k12.nh.us



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August 16, 2022

MEMO to Newmarket School Board

RE: Fall 2022 School Entry Plan

We are entering the fourth school year impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Newmarket, like school districts across the country, has been managing COVID related disruptions since the spring of 2020. As circumstances have changed Newmarket schools have adapted. The goal has always been and will continue to be maintaining the health and safety of our students and staff.

At the close of the 2021-22 school year all students and staff were operating in a fully in-person instructional model with a variety of COVID protocols in place. At the writing of this memo in the middle of August, a high percentage of the Newmarket Community is fully vaccinated, local COVID case counts remain low and the rate of severe COVID infections across the state and region are at a very low level. It is time for the Newmarket schools to adapt again.

As we enter the 2022-2023 school year, we are shifting the paradigm on how Newmarket schools manage COVID. We are moving from an operational model driven by school policies and procedures to a model that promotes individual responsibility. Our goal as a system is to operate as close to pre-pandemic normal as possible. We will continue to promote awareness of community health and safety but will place the onus of responsibility on individuals to make the right health choices for kids, families and staff.

Let's start by defining normal.

Elements of a return to normal:

1. Full sized in-person learning will be our instructional model. Cohorting of students for the purpose of contact tracing will no longer be done.
2. Masking will be optional and encouraged during periods of high community case counts.
3. We will return to start and end times of school as practiced prior to the pandemic.

*NES instructional day will start at 8:45 and end at 2:50

*NJSHS instructional day will start at 7:35 and end at 2:30



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4. Bus routes will run as normal at full capacity. Parents can still drop off and pick up children if they choose. NJSHS administration will also communicate with students and families about how we will manage student drivers.
5. School entry at the beginning of school and dismissal at the end will return to a process of bus students entering/exiting through the main entrance of the school and drop-offs entering/exiting at a secondary entrance. Each school will communicate with families the procedures for entering and exiting school each day. We anticipate this process to be much more efficient.
6. Athletics will function as they did prior to the pandemic with the exception of transportation. Coaches and the Athletic Director will communicate with families about specifics regarding each activity. Please note that due to a bus driver shortage transportation to and from athletic events may be a challenge. The athletic department is actively working to secure transportation, but patience will be required as there may be times when we need to call on parents to transport athletes.
7. Recess and lunch will return to pre-pandemic structures. Cafeterias will be used to full capacity. Every effort will be made to accommodate individual needs.
8. School facilities will be open for outside use again. This means that community groups will again be able to utilize the school facilities like the gyms and multipurpose spaces. Custodial staffing capacity will likely impact our ability to support community groups using our facilities but will do what we can to make our spaces available to the community.

In the coming days the leadership of NES and NJSHS will provide more specific information to families and the community about school opening for the fall of 2022. The goal throughout the Newmarket School System is to open school this fall using pre-pandemic normal as our guide.

Please note that we will continue to monitor and address COVID cases as needed by following current CDC guidance. Our school nurses will continue to support students and staff by providing the best guidance available and by providing access to testing where needed. Our intention is to make protocols as simple as possible so that we can keep everyone healthy and fully participating in learning. School nurses will communicate specific information regarding how each school will manage individual COVID related issues.

The COVID section of the district website will be changed and will contain the following information.

COVID Data Dashboard will be kept up to date with known cases.

<http://newmarket-school-district.newmarket.campussuite.site/school-reopening>

Current CDC protocols for managing positive COVID cases and exposures.



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Guidance for people testing positive:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/07a08336/TfW40NX1CEiT-SVphxxKfg?u=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

Guidance for close contacts:

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/c8b5eedb/4n-LZfNdr0e1CfDZgGfwjA?u=https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/if-you-were-exposed.html>

General Health and Safety Recommendations

1. The CDC encourages everyone to stay up to date on vaccinations. This includes up to date booster shots.
2. Everyone is encouraged to self-monitor for COVID symptoms every day. If you or someone in your household has symptoms, please stay home.
3. If you have new or unexplained symptoms, reach out to the school nurse or your healthcare provider for guidance.
4. If you are out due to a positive test or exposure to a positive case when you return wear a well-fitted mask through day 10.