

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Reopening Plans 7all 2020

July 24, 2020

Draft – This plan is subject to change based on local, state and federal health guidance, along with feedback from constituents.

Dear Members of the New London School Community,

I hope that you and your family are safe and well and that you are enjoying the beauty and opportunities the summer months have to offer. We have continued to miss our students, staff, and families and have been working throughout the summer weeks to develop three drafted plans for welcoming students back to school in the fall. We know and understand the importance of education and socialization and we also understand the shared concerns regarding how we will work together to ensure health and safety for all. I wish to thank the over 100+ people (staff, community partners and parents) who have contributed to the development of this plan through eight different district subcommittees, who will continue this work throughout the summer months. I also wish to thank the 1,200+ parents who have completed our district survey regarding their thoughts on the reopening of schools. Your voice and questions are so valuable. Please know we will be resurveying all families again over the next two weeks now that you have more detailed information in hand. Virtual parent meetings will also be offered in each school, in addition to hosting our district's virtual Coffee Hours, in hopes to answer any other questions you may have.

This document outlines drafted plans for three possible reopening scenarios. Each is coded to a color:

- Green (full reopening with 100% of students and staff back in school)
- Yellow (hybrid reopening with 50% of students and staff back in school and 50% of students learning remotely from home) *This is now a universal regional model.
- Red (full school closure with 100% of staff and students working remotely from home)

We have built these plans to be prepared to educate students consistently, with the ever-fluctuating health data of our state, region, and community. Decisions on which color-coded model our district will be implementing will be determined through ongoing collaboration with Governor Lamont, the Commissioner of Education, and our local Health Advisor. Decisions will be based on the status of health data; specifically, the numbers of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in our region. Currently the state of Connecticut's COVID-19 case data is extremely low. This data will be watched daily, and we will continue to receive guidance and recommendations from our local health advisors.

A variety of new safety parameters have been put into place for each reopening scenario. These include:

- extra cleaning protocols (in bathrooms, on the buses and in schools and offices during the day, and after students and staff leave for the day),
- extra handwashing and the use of paper towel instead of hand driers,
- the cohorting of students K-8 (and in the high school to the best extent possible),
- the implementation of some block scheduling,
- added lunch waves,
- updated procedures for food distribution,
- one-way hallways,
- bus monitors,
- efforts to socially distance students (to the best extent possible),
- plastic desk dividers, and
- creative uses of outdoor spaces.

Per the state's requirements, all staff and students will be expected to wear masks that cover their mouth and nose daily. If a student or staff does not have access to a mask, we will provide one. Mask breaks, with procedures, will be a part of the daily routine. All students and staff will participate in COVID-19 safety trainings to be educated on proper handwashing, safety protocols, responding to illness situations, etc. Families will also be offered such training. I will be recommending that the Board of Education consider supporting additional positions to include extra teachers, support staff, custodians, bus monitors, and additional nursing support to be of help implementing these safety measures for all.

We are proud that all students will continue to have 1:1 technology devices. The district has developed solutions for those who do not have Wi-Fi access and will continue to support those families in need. Improvements have been made to our instructional units for both in-school and remote learning. Students can expect individual hands-on manipulatives and supplies for their use. The State Board of Education has approved districts to have 177 days of student instruction instead of 180. For this year, 3 days will be used for teacher and staff training. The Board of Education will be working to modify and re-approve the 2020-2021 school year calendar, which will be shared with families in August.

An additional change I will be recommending to the Policy Committee is that our existing uniform policy for K-8 be waived for this coming school year. This decision will be made in August's Policy Committee meeting, but for now I recommend that parents do not spend a lot of money purchasing uniforms until further notice.

I also wish to highlight that the same expectations for students to have an annual physical and receive required immunizations prior to coming to school is still in place, per the State Department of Education. We are here to assist families with this. Please know that all our School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) are open in our buildings and they are taking wellness check appointments. To have your child seen by a SBHC, registration is required. Please click here to access the registration form.

New London Public Schools prides itself on being *United in Excellence*. We accomplish great things by working together on behalf of our students. Your partnership is much needed and valued at this time. Please continue to be on the lookout for weekly communications from me, as well as invitations from your child's building Principal to participate in additional informational meetings over the next several weeks. Each building is also in need of volunteers to assist with a variety of preparations for the safe reopening of the buildings. Please continue to keep informed about these opportunities. They will be promoted through phone calls, emails, our district website (www.newlondon.org) and our social media platforms (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram).

Sincerely, Superintendent Ritchie

P.S. A heartfelt thank you goes out to over 100+ people who have volunteered to contribute to the development of this plan. Your dedication to our children and school community is extremely appreciated. On behalf of myself, the Board of Education, and our children, we thank you! Our children will continue to benefit from the hard work happening, as we keep them at the center of all our thoughts.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
STATE OF CONNECTICUT GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS	4
Major Operational Considerations	4
NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: STUDENT EXPECTATIONS	5
NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS: ADULT EXPECTATIONS	6
MONITORING COVID-19	7
DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUS AREA	8
DISTRICT SUBCOMMITTEE LEAD CONTACTS	g
PANDEMIC RESPONSE EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	10
HEALTH & WELLNESS	13
WELLNESS EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING THE NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	17
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL GROWTH AND TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES	20
SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	20
ACADEMICS AND INSTRUCTION	22
FALL REOPENING MODEL	
TEMPORARILY CHOOSING NOT TO PARTICIPATE	
USE OF FACE MASKS, AND FACE SHIELDS	
Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning	
ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS	
After School Activities	
Adult Education	
FACILITIES & OPERATIONS	25
FACILITY EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING THE NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
EXAMPLES OF STUDENT DESK DIVIDERS AND TEACHER SHIELDS	
TRANSPORTATION	
TRANSPORTATION EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING THE NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
FOOD SERVICES	
FOOD SERVICES	
TECHNOLOGY	
TECHNOLOGY EXPECTATIONS FOR REOPENING	
FALL REOPENING CERTIFICATION AND PERSONNEL PLANNING	
Human Resources	
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	35

State of Connecticut Guidelines and Expectations

...from ADAPT, ADVANCE, ACHIEVE: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together

Due to positive containment efforts in Connecticut, reopening schools in person can be successfully achieved based upon current data. Connecticut has determined it is appropriate to plan a consistent approach to the operating model (schedule) but be prepared to modify educational plans, as necessary. Maximizing in-person instructional time, after the current period of disruption is critical. However, given the uncertainty planning for reopening months from now, schools must be prepared to modify their reopening model to support a partial reopening if the public health data changes.

Schools should plan to have all students, in all districts, return to schoolhouses for full time instruction at the beginning of 2020-2021, so long as public health data continues to support this model. This model will be supported with more intensive mitigation strategies and specific monitoring, containment, and class cancellation plans.

As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in this document are grounded in six guiding principles:

- 1. Safeguarding the health & safety of students and staff;
- 2. Allowing all students, the opportunity to return into the classrooms full time starting in the fall;
- 3. Monitoring the school populations and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
- 4. Emphasizing equity, access, and support to the students and communities who are emerging from this historic disruption;
- 5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators and staff; and
- 6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety and social-emotional wellbeing of our students when they are not in school

Major Operational Considerations



Masks: All staff and students will be expected to wear a protective face mask that completely covers the nose and mouth when inside the school building, with certain exceptions, such as mask breaks or when teachers are providing instruction in specific conditions.



Social Distancing and Facilities: Review building space and reconfigure available classroom space, such as gymnasiums and auditoriums, to maximize social distancing, consistent with public

health guidelines in place at that

time.

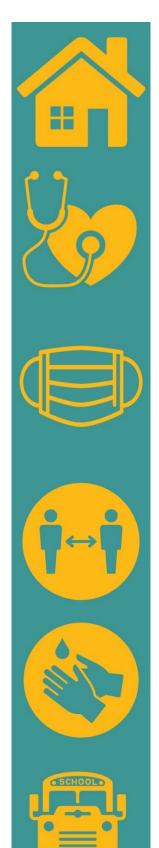


Cohorting: Emphasize grouping students by the same class/group of students and teacher so each team functions independently as much as possible. Placing students in cohorts is strongly encouraged for grades K-8 and encouraged where feasible for grades 9-12.



Transportation: Districts should plan for buses to operate close to capacity with heightened health and safety protocols, including requiring all students and operators wear face masks. Plans must be developed to activate increased social distancing protocols based upon community spread.

New London Public Schools: Student Expectations



STAY HOME IF FEELING ILL.

Students must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

MORNING HEALTH CHECK ENCOURAGED.

To prevent transmission among the school population, parents are encouraged to screen students before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below **100.4 degrees** Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

Students must wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus, with exceptions only for those students for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. The district will provide each student with a mask if one is needed. Parents/families will be responsible for ensuring that students are wearing face masks when they arrive at their bus stop or are dropped off at school. Schools and buses will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED.

Students must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible. Students are expected to practice social distancing when entering and exiting the building, in classrooms, and moving throughout the school. Sharing of school supplies and materials will not be allowed.

FREQUENT HAND-WASHING OR SANTIZING IS EXPECTED.

Students must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.

STUDENTS MAY NOT CHANGE BUSES.

Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day. Masks must be in place prior to entering the bus.

Parents/families are strongly encouraged to drive their children to school each day.

New London Public Schools: Adult Expectations



STAY HOME IF FEELING ILL.

Teachers and staff must stay home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.

MORNING SELF-SCREENING.

To prevent transmission among the school population, teachers and staff are encouraged to self-screen before leaving for school. Check to ensure temperature is below **100.4 degrees** Fahrenheit and observe for symptoms associated with COVID 19 outlined by public health officials.

FACE MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

Teachers and staff must wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school, with exceptions only for those for whom it is not safe to do so due to medical conditions. "Mask Breaks" will be provided during the day. Schools will have backup disposable masks available for teachers and staff.

SOCIAL DISTANCING IS REQUIRED.

Teachers and staff must maintain social distancing to the greatest extent possible.

FREQUENT HAND-WASHING OR SANTIZING IS EXPECTED.

Teachers and staff must engage in frequent hand washing or sanitizing upon arrival, before and after meals, after bathroom use, and after coughing or sneezing.

Monitoring COVID-19

New London Public Schools will follow a traditional schedule of school while monitoring the level of transmission of COVID-19 with the assistance of the Ledge Light Health District. School schedules and/or protocols may be adjusted if the community enters a "yellow" level with minimal or moderate community transmission.

If there is a substantial surge in local cases, based on guidance from the State of Connecticut and/or the Ledge Light Health District, the school will revert to a Hybrid Model (yellow) or Distance Learning Model (red). Data will determine the status each classroom and school.

LITTLE or NO COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Minimal/No spread of Virus (or Virus Contained)	MINIMAL OR MODERATE COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION Moderate Spread of Virus (requires possible adjusted schedule and adjusted transportation)	SUBSTANTIAL COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION High Spread of Virus (requires quarantine)
Instruction is 100% in-person, in school buildings	Instruction is 50% in-person and 50% at home, with students coming in two days per week. (See chart below.)	Instruction is 100% distance learning, with all staff and students at home
Attendance rates monitored	Attendance rates monitored and shared with local health officials	Attendance for distance learning is monitored based on participation from home
Teaching and reinforcing of healthy hygiene	Concentrated reinforcement of healthy hygiene	Communication to home on healthy hygiene practices
Prevention measures in place	Heightened prevention measures in place	Quarantine measures in place for essential personnel
Social distancing in place	Heightened social distancing in place with limitations in activities/events	Quarantine measures in place
Group gatherings/events limited; all require approval	Group gatherings/events postponed	All group gatherings/events canceled
Remain prepared for distance learning while learning is In-Person at school or hybrid learning takes place	Active preparation for distance learning and/or short-term school dismissals resulting in short-term distance learning	Continued engagement in distance learning during extended school dismissals for long periods
Cleaning and disinfecting in place	Intensified cleaning and sanitizing in place	Classroom and buildings sanitized and shut down
Regular communication with local health officials	Coordination of closure with local health officials	Order of closure from local health officials and/or Executive Order for closure from Governor's Office

Note: This plan is subject to change based on local, state, and federal health guidance, along with feedback from constituents.

District Subcommittee Focus Area



The following pages outline the operational planning expectations for New London Public Schools, based on the guidelines issued by the State of Connecticut. Our plan reflects the work of multiple committees of staff and invested stakeholders, along with the review of other plans in our region and across the state, to inform our process and procedures. We also extend our gratitude to the Ledge Light Health District staff, our Visiting Nurses Association, and our District Medical Advisor, Dr. Sikand. The committees' work is based on the eight sub-sections represented above.

Ms. Elizabeth (Beth) McCaffery, Assistant Director of Human Resources, is serving as New London Public Schools' COVID-19 Compliance Liaison. She can be reached at: mccaffreye@newlondon.org or (860) 701-5813.

District Subcommittee Lead Contacts



Ms. Kate McCoy and Mr. Miguel Gautier, Jr.



Mr. Tommy Thompson and Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti



Dr. Valerie Kelsey



Dr. Valerie Kelsey



Mr. Tommy Thompson and Dr. Jennifer Hills-Papetti



Ms. Angela Rasmussen



Mr. Timothy Enos



Mrs. Carrie Rivera

Pandemic Response Expectations for Reopening New London Public Schools

The New London Pandemic Response includes a tiered response for school attendance based on transmission in the community and/or in the school.



Community transmission of COVID 19 will impact the schools' planning, operations, and instruction as indicated in the chart above.

2 The New London Pandemic Response includes an immediate response for a confirmed diagnosis in the school.

If a student or staff member has been present in school has a **confirmed diagnosis** of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Central Office and the Superintendent of Schools. In addition, the Superintendent will be notified by school personnel that a student is suspected of being sick, maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The Superintendent of Schools will notify the local health officials (Ledge Light Health District) immediately.

The Ledge Light Health District will assess risk of further transmission in the school.

Decisions will be made concerning:

- CONTACT TRACING
- CLOSURE
- CLEANING
- CONTINUITY OF EDUCATION
- REOPENING OF SCHOOL

The decision to suspend or close a school (or the entire school district) will be made by the Superintendent or designee based on information and recommendation from local health officials (Ledge Light Health District). Board of Education members and town officials are notified of closure as well as the State Department of Education.

All communications regarding school closure will be made through the Central Office.

During school closure, all extracurricular activities, athletics, and school-based afterschool programs are canceled. Access to school buildings may be limited or restricted.

As part of the New London Pandemic Response, the Superintendent of Schools is authorized to make immediate decisions for the safety of the students and staff.

The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 until a documented negative COIVD-19 test result or note from a healthcare provider clearing them to return to schools is provided.

The Superintendent of Schools may exclude staff and/or students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 for a duration that is appropriate given the situation.

The Superintendent of Schools may suspend any activity or program at any time due to health and safety risks.

The Superintendent of Schools may suspend in-person classes at any time due to health and safety risks.

The Superintendent, in collaboration with Ledge Light Health District, will decide when it is safe to return to normal in-school activities.

There will be a coordinated effort among all schools to ensure that students and staff take everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses.

The Superintendent and Principals will communicate regularly, in multiple modalities, encouraging all parties to stay home when sick or feeling sick; to appropriately cover coughs and sneezes; to practice social distancing; to clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces; and to wash hands often with soap and water or using hand sanitizer.

Communication guidelines are established in each school according to the appropriate transmission tiers or an in-school case.



Weekly communication will be shared with staff and families concerning the status of school's reopening efforts and continuing safety efforts.

The New London Public Schools' will utilize its website, automated calls, social media pages, and letters home to address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Ledge Light Health District, as materials become available.



Weekly communication will be shared with staff and families. We will utilize our website, automated calls, social media pages, and letters home to address prevention efforts and share updated information from local, state, and national authorities, as well as publications from the Ledge Light Health District as materials become available.

Information on NLPS' Distance Learning Plan and procedures for school closure will be posted on our district's website.

If necessary, we will update and share information on moving to hybrid scheduling (50% of students) and accompanying procedures for any such adjusted schedule.

Students who are absent from school will be called to confirm COVID 19 symptoms.

Close communication will be maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID 19 symptoms or to confirm if staying home for prevention or family care.

NLPS will provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.



The New London Public Schools' website, automated calls, social media pages, and letters home will address prevention efforts, updated information from local, state, and national authorities, and publications from the Ledge Light Health District, as materials become available.

Students who are absent from online instruction will be called to confirm COVID 19 symptoms.

Close communication will be maintained with absent staff members to confirm COVID 19 symptoms.

NLPS will provide information and education to staff, students and families regarding pandemic flu, individual prevention measures, and various community/school plans and updates.

6	New London Public Schools will implement ongoing recovery measures to support a return to normal school functioning.
	NLPS will provide ongoing assessment of student and staff health and mental health needs.
	Procedures will be in place to reinstate classroom learning and daily schedules (accommodating individual student needs), continue monitoring of potential risk, ensure adequacy of infection control supplies, evaluate effectiveness of surveillance and infection control measures, and a review a mental health status report.
	Continued communications with staff, families and local and state health officials will be ongoing.
	The City of New London, in collaboration with the health district and school district, has initiated the Long- Term Recovery Planning Committee. An Education Committee is a subgroup of this. The Superintendent will continue to meet with the Mayor and various City department leaders regularly.



Health & Wellness

The health and safety of students and staff is the top priority in planning for the New London Public Schools' reopening. New London Public Schools will work in collaboration with local health officials (Ledge Light Health District), the Connecticut State Department of Education, and the Office of the Governor in planning for health and wellness procedures, as well as making decisions regarding the status of schools.

	Health Expectations for Reopening the New London Public Schools
1	Conditions for reopening have been confirmed by the State of Connecticut and/or local health officials (Ledge Light Health District).
	The State of Connecticut has lifted, adjusted, or removed any school closure or Executive Order allowing schools to physically reopen.
	The Governor's Office and Department of Public Health have determined that local conditions safely allow for schools to physically reopen.
2	Planning guidelines for reopening have been issued by the State of Connecticut and New London plans have been developed and approved at the local level under the supervision of the Superintendent of Schools.
	The State of Connecticut and State Department of Education have issued guidelines on which school reopening plans are to be based.
	The New London reopening plan has been developed in consultation with the Ledge Light Health District, our Visiting Nurses Association, and the District Medical Advisor.
	The New London reopening plan has been created in collaboration by various constituents and the New London Public Schools' District Reopening Committees and reviewed by the Superintendent.
	The New London Public Schools' reopening plan is scheduled to be reviewed by the New London Board of Education.
3	The Executive Director of Operations has confirmed that there is adequate protective equipment in place for
	reopening.
	There is protective equipment (including masks) for students in the classrooms and throughout the facilities.
	There is protective equipment (including masks and PPE) for staff, appropriate for each classification or duty.
	There is a plan for an ongoing supply of protective equipment.
	There is sufficient PPE for the staff of various populations of students with disabilities (i.e., for those requiring medical procedures, toileting, lifting and mobility assistance).
	There is a sufficient supply of school-appropriate cleaning supplies to continuously disinfect the school site in accordance with State of Connecticut & DPH guidance.
	There are sufficient supplies that include hand sanitizers, soap, handwashing stations, tissues, no-touch trash cans, and paper towels.
4	The Superintendent of Schools has established a procedure should there be COVID 19 cases in the schools or in the community that could possibly impact the schools.
	The New London Pandemic Response Plan has been updated to include procedures for a case, or cases, of COVID-19. These procedures include communication to the local health officials (Ledge Light Health District) when a student, teacher, or staff member or a member of their household has tested positive for COVID-19 and has possibly exposed others at the school.
	The Principals and Executive Director of Operations have procedures for isolating an area of the school for a length of time based on (1) a positive COVID-19 case or cases in the school and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the Ledge Light Health District.
	The Superintendent of Schools has a procedure for the closure of schools, for a length of time, based on: (1) a positive COVID 19 case or cases; and (2) the risk level within the school/community as determined by the Governor's Office.

	The Board of Education has approved Policy 6114.81 – Emergency Suspension of Policy, which grants the
	Superintendent the authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public
	education, provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from the
	State of Connecticut.
	The Board of Education has approved Policy 6114.81 – Emergency Suspension of Policy, which grants the
	Superintendent the authority to limit access to public school grounds and school buildings during school closures
	Under the supervision of the Directors of Curriculum, the schools can provide for a continuity of in-person
	instruction and distance learning, if necessary.
	Under the supervision of the Executive Director of School and Family Support, the schools will be prepared for
	any special or unique needs for students with disabilities related to school opening.
	Under the supervision of the Director of Food Services and the Executive Director of Finance, the schools can provide for continuity of meal service.
5	The Board of Education has authorized limited access and/or restricted access to the schools by the public
3	through Policy 6114.81 – Emergency Suspension of Policy.
	The Board of Education has approved Policy 6114.81 – Emergency Suspension of Policy, which allows the
	Superintendent to restrict access to the school buildings during the school day by nonessential visitors and
	minimal use of school buildings outside of school hours.
	Students and staff are excluded from school facilities if showing symptoms of COVID-19 or if a member of their
	household has tested positive for COVID-19.
6	The Director of Nursing (VNA) and Principals have organized a screening procedure for students at home and
	to the extent possible, at school.
	Passive Screening: Parents are encouraged to screen students before leaving for school by checking to ensure
	temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Parents
	are asked to keep students at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID 19, or
	have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: Schools will screen students as they enter school consistent with state and local health
	guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow-up temperature checks with no-touch
	thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Students will be observed
	for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Students may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within
	the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
	NOTE: Screening procedures for all children are not required at the point of entry to the school. However, school
	staff will observe students throughout the day and refer students who may be symptomatic to the school nurse.
	NOTE: Temperature checks for all children at the point of entry will not be included due to the high likelihood of
	potential false positive and false negative results but will be available in the school under the supervision of the
	school nurse.
	In screening students who appear ill, only the nurse shall use a thermometer requiring a touch method (under
	the tongue or arm, forehead, etc.). Caution will be taken by the nurse included wearing gloves, eye protection,
	and a mask.
	Students with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit are not permitted into the school. Students
	will be allowed to return with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19
	test.
	The school nurse will monitor screening information/data of students while complying with relevant privacy and
	health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in students and staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal
	of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health
	laws. Nursing staff will enter data into a secured portal within PowerSchool.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands prior to boarding buses.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all students to sanitize hands upon entering classrooms.
_	

7	The Principals will oversee that large gatherings are avoided upon school entry. Students will proceed directly to classrooms or small group designated areas. The Director of Nursing (VNA) and Principals have organized a screening of staff at home and to the extent possible, at school
7	
	possible, at school.
	Passive Screening: Staff are expected to self-screen before reporting to work by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Staff are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Active Screening: Schools will screen staff as they enter the buildings consistent with state and local health guidance, which includes visual wellness checks and any necessary follow up temperature checks with no-touch thermometers (checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit). Staff will be observed for illnesses including cough or respiratory distress. Staff may be asked about COVID-19 symptoms within the last 24 hours and whether anyone in their home has had COVID-19 symptoms or a positive test.
	Staff with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit are not permitted into district buildings. Staff will be allowed to return after 24 hours with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	The school nurse will monitor screening information/data of staff while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The school nurse will monitor symptoms in staff that could be related to COVID-19, with the goal of decreasing the risk of spreading or contracting the virus while complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	The Principals will oversee procedures for all staff to sanitize hands upon entering classrooms.
8	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic students.
	Students who are symptomatic when entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be separated from others right away by the school nurse.
	Students exhibiting symptoms will be required to continue to wear a mask and wait in a supervised, designated isolated area through which others do not enter until student can be transported home.
	If more than one student is in the isolation area, physical distancing will be maintained.
	The school nurse will have a plan for triaging students in the health office, recognizing that not all symptoms are COVID-19 related.
	The school nurse will advise parents of sick students that students are not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html . Students will be allowed to return with a note from their healthcare provider or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	There will be no COVID-19 testing of students at school. Local testing site information will be shared with families. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of students once made available by parents, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a student who has been present in school has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent and District Compliance Officer. The District Compliance Officer will notify the local health officials (Ledge Light Health District) immediately. All confidentiality, in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be maintained.
	New London Public Schools' District Compliance Officer is Elizabeth McCaffery. Mccafferye@newlondon.org
9	The Superintendent of Schools has developed a uniform procedure for all schools for symptomatic staff.
	Adults who are symptomatic when entering school or become symptomatic during the school day will be sent

	The school nurse will advise adults not to return until they have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html . Staff will be allowed to return with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test. There will be no COVID-19 testing of staff at school. Local testing site information will be shared with staff. The schools' nursing offices will monitor testing results of staff, complying with relevant privacy and health laws.
	If a staff member who has been present in school has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, the School Nurse and the building Principal will contact the Superintendent and District Compliance Officer. The District Compliance Officer will notify the local health officials (Ledge Light Health District) immediately. All confidentiality, in accordance with FERPA, privacy expectations, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be maintained.
10	Outside visitors and groups will have very limited or no access to schools.
	Access to the buildings will be extremely limited and only for approved purposes and will be subject to safety guidelines and screening procedures.
	Each school's Main Office will maintain a log for those allowed into the building. The log will include name, contact phone number, and arrival/departure time.
	Principals and office staff will organize parent pick up / drop off, of students, which will be modified at each building. The use of a face mask will be required of all parents who are picking up or dropping off students during the school day. Pick up in the afternoon will be modified to ensure that parents have no access to the interior of the school building.
	The Superintendent of Schools will review all requests for use of the schools – before and after school. There will be limited access to outside organizations' use of school sites and schools' resources after school hours.
	The Central Office and Superintendent of Schools will ensure that external community organizations (including those that sponsor before- or after-school childcare) that are allowed use of the facilities also follow the school's health and safety plans, as well as the expectations of local health officials (Ledge Light Health District).
	There are procedures at each school site developed by Principals and Director of Facilities and the custodial staff for accepting deliveries in a safe manner.



	Wellness Expectations for Reopening the New London Public Schools
1	The Director of Nursing (VNA) and School Nurses will oversee high standards of hygiene (handwashing /
	sanitizing) and training for all in each school.
	 School nurses will ensure, in accordance with CDC guidance, that handwashing/sanitizing includes: Opportunities for students and staff to meet handwashing/sanitizing frequency guidance. Sufficient access to handwashing and sanitizer stations. The availability of fragrance-free hand sanitizer (with a minimum of 60 percent alcohol). Children under age nine use hand sanitizer under adult supervision.
	The Director of Nursing (VNA) and School Nurses will identify the training needs of staff related to health and safety protocols and work with the Directors of Curriculum who will oversee such training prior to the first day of classes.
	The Directors of Curriculum will plan in-person or online training that includes social distancing, cleaning protocols, and hygiene practices. Principals will ensure access for all students and staff, as well as for family members who are interested.
	Training will be provided to substitutes or others who may enter the school outside of the first day or typical calendar start.
	The Executive Director of School and Family Support and Directors of Curriculum will designate, in addition to the School Nurses, additional people in each school to assist with training as needed.
	 Principals and teachers will review guidance/training and post signage on proper handwashing techniques with students, including the following: Scrub with soap for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not accessible. Staff and students should dry hands thoroughly. Wash/sanitize hands when: arriving and leaving home, arriving at and leaving school, after playing outside, after having close contact with others, after using shared surfaces or tools, before and after using restroom, after blowing nose, coughing, and sneezing, and before and after eating and preparing foods.
	Principals and teachers will ensure that students receive ongoing education in the expectations related to all public health policies and protocols. Students will be educated about how Coronavirus is spread and how preventative actions help avoid the spread. (For example, that masks keep droplets out of the air and hand hygiene keeps the virus out of one's mouth/nose/eyes).
	Principals will assess the best approach to communicating wellness information for each age group and plan to set aside time at the beginning of the school year, as well as schedule frequent reminders, to review the new policies and protocols. These practices include, but are not limited to: • social distancing, • use of masks that completely cover the nose and mouth, • respiratory and cough etiquette, and • enhanced cleaning/disinfection of surfaces.
2	All school employees will assist in the expectation from the State of Connecticut that face masks are in place during the school day by all.
	The following communication will appear in school email, website, and social media: "For the safety of all students and all staff, the State of Connecticut guidelines for returning to schools requires that all students must wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth while inside the school and on the bus."
	 The only exceptions for masks are as follows: For anyone who has a medical reason making it unsafe to wear, a face mask should not be required. During official mask breaks, as designated by building principal.

	For students, masks may be removed while eating, drinking and during designated mask breaks. Exceptions may also be necessary for certain special education students or other special populations.
	Schools will have backup disposable masks available for students who forget them.
	Principals will establish times and procedures for "Mask Breaks" that will be provided during the school day. Breaks will occur when students can practice social distancing and/or when they are outside. Mask breaks should be about 3 minutes long.
	Staff members will wear masks that completely cover the nose and mouth when inside the schools and will be assigned all necessary PPE as required for their role.
	Face shields worn with face masks may also be used by staff who support students with special healthcare needs (who are not able to wear masks and who may need assistance with activities of daily living, such as toileting, eating).
	Schools will have backup disposable masks available for staff members who do not have their own.
	Staff members will receive guidance/training on proper use of PPE required for their role: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/using-ppe.html .
	School Nurses and any staff member engaged in symptom screening will be provided surgical masks, face shields, and disposable gloves
	Front office and food service employees will be provided masks and disposable gloves.
	 Custodial staff will be provided equipment and PPE for cleaning and disinfecting: For regular surface cleaning, gloves appropriate for all cleaning and disinfecting will be provided. staff engaged in deep cleaning and disinfecting will be equipped with proper PPE for COVID-19 disinfection (disposable gown, gloves, eye protection, and mask or respirator) in addition to PPE as required by product instructions.
	Contractors and those making deliveries to the school must wear face masks that completely cover the nose and mouth. Where possible, all deliveries will be completed outside the school building.
	Information will be given to staff, students and, parents on proper use, removal, and washing of face masks. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html
3	All school employees will assist in the expectation that Physical Distancing / Social distancing is maintained as much as possible.
	The school administration will be prepared to assist staff and students in determining and maintaining social distancing between individuals to reduce the transmission of the virus per the public health guidelines at that time.
	Principals will be prepared to communicate and adjust the approach to social distancing if guidance from the CDC or DPH changes due to shifting public health data or evolving understanding of COVID- 19 disease, including transmission.
	Each school will plan for the number of people that can be in all school spaces (library, cafeteria, gymnasium) based on maintaining reasonable social distancing prior to use by a classroom or group.
	Even with social distancing expectations in classrooms, school spaces, and hallways all students, and staff members will wear masks in school and on the bus.
	To the extent possible, the schools will create student/teacher classroom cohorts to minimize the mixing of student groups throughout the day. Consistent teams/cohorts will minimize cross-contamination of student groups.
	Schools will have plans to minimize movement of students and staff as much as possible and reduce the number of students and staff that move at the same time.

	1
	Traffic patterns in hallways will be designed to promote social distancing during passing times. Strategies will include staggered passing times or one-way traffic in hallways.
	Consistent classroom seating shall always be assigned to students during the day.
	Individual desk shields will be available for students and utilized as needed.
	Schools will restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals. These materials include such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies. No two individuals should use the same materials in any given school day, without appropriate cleaning and disinfecting in between uses.
4	The Executive Director of Operations and Assistant Director of Athletics will oversee school activities/athletics, which will be allowed in a limited capacity on a case by case basis.
	The school district will follow all CIAC (Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference) guidelines for middle school and high school sports after approval of such activities by the Superintendent of Schools. Athletic guidance and expectations will be provided in a separate document by the CIAC. (Note: These are expected to come out shortly and information will be communicated to all soon.)
	After school clubs, activities, and events will be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. Approval will be based on the ability to meet the safety expectations of students and staff members involved.
	Recess time and use of playgrounds will be supervised and scheduled to ensure physical distancing. Recess time will be adjusted for specific classroom and/or cohorts. Safety procedures will be in place.
	The Assistant Director of Athletics, Physical Education and Health will work with the Physical Education Teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in <i>Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together</i> . In general, activities will be limited to those that do not involve physical contact with other students or equipment until advised otherwise by state/local public health officials.
	The Directors of Curriculum and subject area Assistant Directors/Supervisors will work with the Art and Music Teachers in adapting curriculum and activities to be in line with guidance found in Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together. Modified units of instruction will be in place for the new year.
	School assemblies, concerts, and other programs with a larger number of students will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Directors of Curriculum and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on size of activity, ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations.
	Field trips and off campus experiences will be limited at the start of the school year and require approval of the Directors of Curriculum and the Superintendent of Schools. Decisions will be made based on ability to maintain proper distancing and safety expectations. Virtual field trips will be encouraged.
5	The Director of Nursing (VNA) and School Nurses will oversee and monitor changes and updates to the State of Connecticut Requirements for Immunizations and Health Assessments.
	Immunizations: Students should plan to receive their required immunizations, prior to the start school. Nursing staff will review all physical forms. Supports are in place for students and families who need assistance.

Social/Emotional Growth and Trauma Informed Practices

The return to school this year will be unlike any other in our history. NLPS is committed to supporting the varied social-emotional needs of our staff, students, and families. We will continuously work to deepen our social and emotional competencies. We will aim to create equitable learning environments where all students and adults process, heal, and thrive.

To rebuild thriving schools, we need to prioritize safe, supportive, culturally sustaining, and equitable learning environments that promote the social and emotional competencies of both students and adults.

By incorporating both SEL and an asset-based culturally sensitive, trauma-informed lens, schools can create a foundation for supporting whole-child development.

From "Reunite, Renew, Thrive: Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Roadmap for Reopening School" (casel.org)

	Social/Emotional and Mental Health Expectations for Reopening New London Public Schools
1	The Social/Emotional Learning and Mental Health Reopening Committee will work with school personnel to ensure the inclusion of Social/Emotional Learning (SEL) and Trauma Informed Practices (TIP) to benefit the entire school community.
	Plan for experiences that ensure schools place adult and student wellness first to establish a positive, safe, and supportive learning environment. Strategies will be identified to engage populations and specific students that have been disengaged.
	Develop programming designed to help children and adults in the school community to manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.
	Plan for SEL and TIP that is integrated into academic content through building essential self-management skills, resilience, and connections.
	Prioritize relationships, engage in two-way communication, and build coalitions to effectively plan for supportive and equitable learning environments that promote social, emotional, and academic learning for all students.
2	Coordinate SEL and TIP activities prior to and during the reopening.
	Communicate to the school community that SEL and TIP are a priority to the success of the school and a necessary aspect of reopening.
	Engage directly with staff and families to provide activities to help them feel comfortable back in the schools.
	Continue the social and emotional support needed by the students during the initial reopening period as a result of the distance learning period. Encourage that all parties reflect on the students' ability to navigate the unprecedented challenges of the alternative learning contexts during distance learning.
	Engage the staff in reflecting on distance learning and how their experiences shape them as an educator.
	Provide embedded professional learning to build educators' capacity to support students' social, emotional, and academic growth, with focus on the impact of trauma on student development and learning. Resources to be shared with all staff on SEL and TIP.
	Integrate and support staff in social justice, equity and culturally relevant practices regarding mental health and family engagement.
3	Integrate SEL and TIP activities into to the reopening process.
	Consider how staff can coordinate to check in regularly with a small group of students and families.
	Intentionally build structures that promote supportive adult-student, student-student, adult-adult relationships, and a sense of social belonging.
	Develop a plan in each school to provide non-academic-focused check-ins with students.

	Create exercises/lessons on alternative ways to communicate feelings given that wearing masks may alter the understandings of how individuals are feeling.
	Create exercises/lessons on positively communicating the need for physical distancing in the classroom as children naturally hug, touch, etc. when playing.
	Help staff with strategies to handle students' and/or families' varied understandings of physical distancing measures by school personnel.
	Coordinate with all staff the best ways to assist students who need additional support to physically distance or who may not be able to wear a mask due to a manifestation of their disability.
	Weave in opportunities for students to practice and reflect upon social and emotional competencies throughout the day.
	Assist staff in engaging students in developmentally appropriate conversations and lessons to discuss past, current, and future impacts of the pandemic on themselves, their families, their communities, and the broader world.
	Acknowledge the potential for increased trauma in staff and students and create school culture/equip teachers with skills to realize, recognize, respond, and resist re-traumatization.
	Design opportunities where adults can connect, heal, and build their capacity to support students including self-care, ongoing professional development, and creating space for adults to process and learn from their experiences.
	Ensure all students feel a sense of belonging, have consistent opportunities to learn, reflect on, and practice SEL; examine the impact of the pandemic and systemic racism on their lives and communities, and access needed support through school or community partners.
4	Integrate SEL practices into instructional planning.
	In the NLPS District Strategic Plan (DIP) in Theory of Action 2 (2019-2020) - Culture and Climate states: If we are intentional and tireless in our pursuit of supporting students' and adults' social-emotional development, where diversity is celebrated as a strength and collaboration, leadership and relationships are vailed as essential to all we do, then we will create a culture and climate of excellence. As the 2020-2021 DIP is created, the district will continue
	to integrate SEL and TIP practices into instructional planning. Each school will integrate SEL and TIP practices into their annual school improvement plan (SIP).



Academics and Instruction

Creating an academic plan that addresses the current needs of the students in New London Public Schools has been a critical component of our reopening plan. In grades K-8 students will be placed in classroom cohorts. The creation of cohorts will help to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. Every effort will be made to cohort students in 9-12, but will be less extensive due to the nature of scheduling students.

IN PERSON LEARNING



In Person Learning

Traditional schedule with Health & Safety Expectations
All staff & students attend every day

HYBRID LEARNING



Hybrid Learning

As a result of surge in COVID-19, smaller groups of students are returned to school (alternating of 50% of students)

DISTANCE LEARNING



Distance Learning

100% Distance Learning
All staff & students practice Distance
Learning model.

	Academics and Instruction
1	Fall Reopening Model
	Plans will be in place for a full return of students at the beginning of the year.
	The Directors of Curriculum will oversee any modifications that need to be made to curriculum and pacing to provide appropriate, high standards of learning for all students.
	Data will be analyzed to address students' current learning needs when they return to school. Student data will be analyzed at the school and district level on a regular basis to adjust instruction as needed.
	Staff at all schools will work with the Directors of Curriculum to identify specific areas where instruction or intervention need to be increased based on student need.
	First units in all subject areas will be adjusted to ensure high student engagement, remediation, as well as assessing current academic levels.
2	Temporarily Choosing Not to Participate
	A comprehensive distance learning plan will be put in place that includes interaction with teachers and other students that may also be participating in distance learning.
	Pacing guides will be put in place to ensure that students participating in temporary distance learning are keeping the same pace as those receiving in-person instruction.
3	Daily Operations
	Students in K-8 will be placed in cohorts. This group of students will stay together throughout the school day and movement throughout the school building will be limited. Lunch will be eaten in classrooms.
	Every effort will be made to cohort students in 9-12, but this will less extensive due to the nature of scheduling of students.
	Teachers will push into classrooms as much as possible, such as Art, Music, Technology to reduce the movement of students through the school.
	In all grade levels, physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
	Class size will depend on the total number of students participating in distance learning.
4	Use of Face Masks
	All staff and students will be required to wear face masks throughout the day.

	Principals will create a schedule for mask breaks to occur during the day.
	Students, staff, and families will receive information on the appropriate use of masks, washing of hands and
	other health and safety procedures.
5	Future Planning for Remote Blended Learning
	Staff will be prepared to move from in-person, hybrid or completely virtual model of instruction.
	Based on survey data collected from staff, students and families, a remote learning model has been
	developed that includes face time with teachers and students on a daily basis.
	Learning goals for each grade level will be clearly established and shared with students and families.
	Utilizing the CT Remote Learning Hub, and other resources, the district will provide high impact support for
	distance learning.
	Schools will evaluate and adapt our revised models of instruction throughout the year and adjust as
	necessary for distance and in-person learning.
	The Directors of Curriculum will continuously share resources with staff, students, and families to provide
	support for distance and blended learning.
6	Special Education
	The Director of Special Education, Special Education Supervisors and Special Education Case Managers will
	oversee programming and transition back to school for all students with IEPs
	The schools will oversee programming for the fall with the understanding that there has been no waiver of
	requirements under the IDEA for provision of a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least
	restrictive environment (LRE). During the spring of 2020 closure, the schools may not have been able to
	provide all services in the same manner that they are typically provided. Federal disability law allows for
	flexibility in determining how to meet the individualized needs of students receiving special education
	services. Programs will follow established standards and public health strategies.
	The schools will treat students eligible for special education and other special populations as general education students first. Guidance and policies related to school reopening plans apply to all students,
	including students with special needs who qualify for individual education programs under the IDEA and
	accommodation plans for eligible students under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. If students with
	disabilities are unable to access the reopening plan as designed, staff will facilitate individualized and
	alternative means of re-entry based upon student need, present levels of functioning, developmental
	levels, and student/parent input. Consider remote learning schedules if needed.
	Programming decisions will not be based on a student's disability category; however, the nature and/or
	severity of a student's disability may require unique considerations. Protocols will consider the students'
	developmental level and skills.
	Special Education Supervisors and Case Managers will communicate with families of students with a high
	level of need to develop transition plans to assist special population and special education students in their
	return to the school building. All PPT and 504 meetings will be held virtually.
7	
,	English Language Learners
	When students return to the building, teachers will be in communication with general
	education/content teachers to ensure access to curriculum in the general education setting and
	appropriate supports and accommodations are being provided, EL services will continue and be accommodated to meet the needs of families whether virtually, in-person
	and/or by phone.
	ESL specific courses are already scheduled in 6-12, students will be registered, supports will be in place
	through ESL teachers and tutors.
	Identification of ELs will continue virtually and in person as needed .
	, , , , , , , ,

	Bilingual programs for students will continue whether in school or virtually, a plan is being developed on
	the seamless transition should we have to move to a complete virtual model.
	A communication plan will be developed with a series of videos and "how to" documents for families with
	limited English proficiency in their native languages.
	All emails and mailings to families will be translated.
	ESL teachers will work collaboratively with special education and general education staff to ensure
	students' needs are being met with a focus on both IEP and EL needs.
8	After School Activities
	After school activities will be designed by grade level and will adhere to state guidance and safety protocols
	as appropriate.
9	Adult Education
	A detailed plan, that follows the three-tiered model of learning has been established with specific consideration given to the Adult Education program.

Hybrid Model (YELLOW) Schedule

MODEL	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
IN-PERSON MODEL BY COHORT	Cohort A (In Person) 50%	Cohort A (In Person) 50%	All on Distance	Cohort A (Distance)	Cohort A (Distance)
(HYBRID)	Cohort B (Distance) 50%	Cohort B (Distance) 50%	Learning	Cohort B (In Person)	Cohort B (In Person)
DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL (OPTIONAL)		ALL ON	DISTANCE LE	ARNING	

Facilities & Operations

Policies and protocols related to facilities and operations will be reviewed regularly by the Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Executive Director of District Operations and Magnet Pathways, the operations team and school administrators with the understanding that schools may need to react quickly to changing conditions. Given the possibility of changes in public health data, there may be an in increase or a relaxation of restrictions throughout the school year to respond effectively to health concerns.

	Facility Expectations for Reopening the New London Public Schools
1	The Operations Team will ensure that schools meet <u>high cleanliness standards</u> prior to reopening and maintain a high level of cleanliness during the school year.
	The Director of Facilities in coordination with his team and building leadership will oversee the reopening for each school building that specifically addresses high standards of cleanliness for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school.
	The Operations Team and school administration will communicate cleaning and hygiene protocols as recommended by the State of Connecticut and the CDC to staff and families.
	Building plans for disinfecting high touch surfaces will include: • Door handles • Handrails • Sink handles • Restroom surfaces • Instructional materials that cannot be supplied to a specific student • Playground equipment
	Drinking fountains will be shut off and water filling stations will be created, or bottled water will be provided. Frequently touched surfaces and other equipment will be cleaned throughout the day. Desks and classroom equipment should not be shared; however, those that are used by more than one group will be cleaned in between usage.
	Buildings will have a plan for disinfecting the following between uses: • Desks that are shared during the day • Tables that are used throughout the day • Chairs that are shared during the day • Classroom/office items, such as phones, headsets, copy machines, etc.
	Classroom doors will generally be left open during the school day to limit use of high touch surfaces, such as doorknobs, and to promote air circulation.
	The Operations Team and principals will work with teachers to assess ways to minimize exposure from playground and fitness equipment use, including but not limited to: ensuring only the team/cohort uses it at the same time, hand washing before and after use (or use of hand sanitizer), and disinfecting fitness equipment or other smaller outside equipment after used by each group of students.
	Bathrooms will be sanitized at least twice a day. Where possible, schools may designate separate bathrooms for different classes or establishing shifts for classes to use the bathroom (and thus avoid mixing of classes)
	The Operations Team and principals will ensure that the products used are approved for the State of Connecticut and are labeled to be effective against emerging viral pathogens. Label directions will be followed for appropriate dilution rates and contact times.
	Cleaning logs will be used in each building to track cleaning frequency of areas including bathrooms. Logs will be completed by all staff upon cleaning or disinfecting of a surface or area. (Copiers, door handles, etc.) The Operations Team will ensure that the schools comply with DPH guidelines including: • Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting of Schools during COVID-19

	Guidance for School Systems for the Operation of Central and non-Central Ventilation Systems
2	The Operations Team and principals will ensure that schools meet distancing expectations by adjusting the set up in all classrooms.
	 The Operations Team will oversee a reopening plan for each building that specifically addresses social distancing for all classrooms, bathrooms, hallways, and offices in the school. Maximize social distancing between student workstations, achieving 6 feet if feasible (not required) when determining the classroom layout. Desks should face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) or students should sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart. Physical barriers will be provided for students where spacing cannot be maximized. Where necessary, assess other spaces that may be repurposed for instruction in the school. Maximize space between the teacher and students due to the risk of increased droplets from teachers during instruction. Floor markings throughout classrooms and the school may be included to illustrate social/physical distancing guidelines. The building principal and the Operations Team will do a walkthrough of all buildings prior to reopening to
	review distancing expectations. The Operations Team and principals will work together to ensure that classroom furniture besides desks is
	adjusted to create the maximum amount of space between students. The Operations Team and principals will work together to ensure that a dedicated medical isolation room has been identified in every school building.
	HVAC systems will run on staggered occupied/unoccupied schedules to maximize fresh air exchange. While the building is occupied, and outside temperature permits, the system will bring in up to 25% fresh air.
3	Principals will ensure that schools restrict the shared use of materials.
	Principals will work to ensure that staff restrict the sharing of educational materials between individuals (including such items as books, manipulatives, computers, calculators, writing utensils, and art supplies). Teachers will ensure that there is a procedure for disinfecting any electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids that must be shared during the same school day.
	When shared space is used by multiple groups of high school students, disinfecting of materials must occur in between the times when groups of high school students use the space/materials.
	Any alternate seating or shared seating in reading nooks, group centers, and other areas will not be allowed. Items that cannot be cleaned and sanitized (such as shared stuffed animals in classrooms) will not be allowed in classrooms.
	Each student's belongings/school supplies will be separated and in an individually labeled storage container, cubby, locker, or other designated area depending on the grade level/specific course. Students will be encouraged to minimize personal belongings in school and to take home belongings each day to be cleaned. Belongings such as personal stuffed animals and other toys will be strongly discouraged.
4	The Director of Facilities with school administration will ensure that handwashing and sanitizing stations will
	be readily available.
	Each school will ensure that staff, students, and visitors have access to soap and water and/or hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol at all times.
5	Signage will be posted in school that is highly visible as well as being accessible for students with disabilities.
	The Operations Team and principals will work together to ensure the distribution of information and regular communication about the actions school communities can take to stop the spread. Signs will be posted in English and Spanish and in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, staff areas, and restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and provide instruction related to properly washing hands and properly wearing a mask. https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/index.html

Examples of Student Desk Dividers and Teacher Shields





Coronavirus Disinfectant Selector Guide



Coronavirus Disinfectant Selector Guide

Product Name & Number	Active	Dilution Ratio	рН	Acinetobacter	Enterobacteriaceae (carbapenem-resistance)	Hepatitis A	Hepatitis B	Hepatitis C	ΛΙΗ	Human Coronavirus	Human Coronavirus (SARS Associated)	Influenza	Klebsiella	MRSA	Norovirus	Pseudomonas aeruginos	Staphylococcus aureus	VRE	Tuberculosis (TB)	VISA	VRSA	Canine Parvo	Salmonella enterica/choleraesuis
Triforce (333)	Quat	1:256	Alkaline	3 min			3 min	3 min	1 min	3 min	10 min	1 min	3 min	3 min		3 min	3 min	3 min		3 min			3 min
Quat-Stat 5™ (341)	Quat	1:256	Alkaline	5 min	5 min		5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min	5 min			5 min		5 min
Fight-Bac® RTU (311)	Quat	RTU	Alkaline			10 min	1 min	1 min	1 min	2 min	2 min	2 min		3 min	30 sec	3 min	3 min	3 min	5 min	3 min		10 min	3 min
pH7Q (316)	Quat	1:64	Neutral	10 min			10 min	10 min	4 min	1 min	10 min	2 min	10 min	10 min		10 min	10 min	10 min		10 min			10 min
pH7Q Dual (355)	Quat	1:256	Neutral	10 min	10 min		10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min		10 min	10 min	10 min		10 min	10 min 1:64	10 min	10 min
Pine Quat (304)	Quat	1:32	Neutral	10 min			10 min	10 min	4 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min			10 min	10 min		10 min			10 min
Symplicity™ Sanibet™ Multi-Range (237)	Quat	3 oz/5 gal	Neutral				10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min	10 min						10 min

- Triforce Sanitizer for soft, non-food contact surfaces at 1:256

Transportation



CONNECTICUT SAFE STATUS
Vaccine available or effective
treatments for COVID-19

Full Capacity on Bus
Bus transportation can operate
with no restrictions



CONNECTICUT LOW STATUS Low transmission risk in the community of COVID-19

Up to Full Capacity on Bus
Bus transportation can operate
up to full status with face mask
requirements and loading and
unloading restrictions along with the
addition of bus monitors.



CONNECTICUT MODERATE STATUS

Moderate or more severe

spread of COVID-19

Limited Capacity on Bus

Bus transportation can operate with seating and spacing restrictions, face mask requirements, and loading and unloading restrictions.

Reduced Number of Students and seating based on strict social distancing guidelines

Transportation Expectations for Reopening the New London Public Schools 1 Transportation status will be determined by the State of Connecticut and/or the Department of Public Health (DPH). In the "low status", student passengers will be required to wear a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The passenger's mask must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Passengers should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers walk by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading. If the state determines that we are in a "moderate status", student passenger density will be significantly reduced because schools will be employing a hybrid model of learning (A-B days) when in this status. Bus passengers should be spaced with family members sitting together and non-family members should be spaced 6 feet apart utilizing alternating diagonal seating. Passengers will be required to wear a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. The passenger's mask must be in place prior to boarding the bus and must be kept in place until they are completely off the bus. Students should load into the bus from the back row to the front (where the first passengers onto the bus sit in the back row) and then unload the bus in a controlled manner upon arrival at the school from front to back by seat. This will reduce the number of people passengers pass by as they get on the bus and will prevent crowding in the center aisle when the bus arrives for unloading. 2 Transportation to and from by parents/guardians will be encouraged. Parents are encouraged to transport their children to school to avoid possible exposure on the bus. The Operations Team and principals will assess if a staggered arrival and drop off buses and cars will enhance safety protocols in place. The Operations Team and principals will plan vehicle flow and logistics and make any needed adjustments if there are more family transport vehicles.

	<u></u>
	The Operations Team and principals will develop arrival/departure procedures which will allow for minimal contact of parents with school personnel and students while dropping off and/or picking up students during the day.
3	Proper hygiene habits will be practiced on the bus.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to assist in social distancing at bus stops and during pick-up and drop-off.
	Parents of students in younger grades will be asked to secure masks on students at bus stops prior to students entering the bus.
	Students will be required to wear a mask that completely covers the nose and mouth during transit. Students will not be allowed to enter the bus or be transported if they are not wearing a mask.
	Seating arrangements will be adjusted on buses to prevent students from passing one another while loading/unloading as much as possible. • First students to load on bus sit in back, filling seats toward the front of bus
	 Students in front unload first Loading process at school based on route to promote limited passing in aisles Assigned seats will be arranged for students in Grades K-5
	The Bus Cohort Model will be expected in all grades, K-12. Stable groups help to mitigate the risk of spreading the virus. Students will only be permitted on the bus to which they have been assigned in order to minimize cross-contamination of student groups. Students will be expected to ride the same bus to school in the morning and the same bus to home in the afternoon every day.
4	Bus drivers will follow the expectations for school employees regarding health and screening.
	Drivers are encouraged to self-screen before leaving for school by checking to ensure temperatures below 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit and to observe for symptoms outlined by public health officials. Drivers are to stay at home if they are feeling sick, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or have had close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19.
	Drivers with a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees are not permitted to drive. Drivers will be allowed to return 24 hours after a fever has broken, or with a note from their healthcare provider, or with a documented negative COVID-19 test.
	All drivers will sanitize hands upon entering buses.
	Bus drivers must wear face masks. These must always be worn when children are in the bus.
5	Numbers of students on each bus will be confirmed by the State and/or by local health officials.
	Schools will ideally adjust schedules with as little impact as possible to meet transportation requirements. Bus routes will not initially be based on survey results from parents whether they will drive students to school; however, this information will be important if the State indicates that the number of students on buses must be reduced. If extra runs are required to accommodate students and distancing expectations, students will not be penalized for arriving late to school.
*	If the State of Connecticut adjusts social distancing guidelines due to a surge in COVID 19:
	The number of students on each bus may be adjusted.
	The schools will limit the number of students on buses based on guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. Seating options include: • Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus. • Seat one student to a bench on both sides of the bus, skipping every other row. • Seat one student to a bench, alternating rows on each side, creating a zigzag pattern on the bus.
	Bus populations may be adjusted as follows: • 70 students per bus • 48 students per bus – 50% more secondary bus runs; 100% more elementary bus runs

 24 students per bus – 100% more secondary bus runs; 150% more elementary bus runs 12 students per bus – 150% more secondary bus runs; 200% more elementary bus runs
In each of these scenarios, reduced size bus runs will require additional bus runs which may lead to staggered arrival times and dismissal times for students.
A bus monitor employed by the school district will ride on the bus at all times and will ensure that students practice social distancing on buses.
 The school schedule may be adjusted based on updated guidelines issued from the State of Connecticut. If student numbers are to be limited, a hybrid schedule may be implemented, limiting the number of students in the building each day. Adjusted State Guidelines may result in an extended period of distance learning by all students.



Food Services

	Food Service Expectations for Reopening the New London Public Schools
1	The Food Service Director will ensure compliance with federal guidelines and local health official guidelines and any additional guidelines introduced regarding child nutrition.
	All New London Public School students will receive a no-cost breakfast and lunch.
	NLPS complies with USDA regulations and policies (and changes occurring) for school meals and milk including
	the meal pattern requirements
	NLPS participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and will implement accurate counting and claiming methods to ensure accountability across the meal programs, with adequate documentation on file to support the claim.
	The Food Service Director will always proactively plan and be prepared throughout the year for meal access for all NLPS students in all models of school opening/closure.
	The Food Service Director will oversee PPE for food service operations such as masks, gloves, physical barriers in serving areas, etc.
2	Food service in each school will be designed to promote social distancing: (GREEN)
	The Food Service Director, working with school building leaders, will determine the appropriate meal distribution method (Breakfast-in-classroom, cafeteria pick up, etc.) of meal service based on social distancing, physical location, student traffic, space, staffing, etc.
	Each school will communicate age-appropriate and school-appropriate strategies to families about school meal service and options. Meal service communications will include social distancing requirements and any additional school options as follows: • Lunch waves based on cohorts
	Extended lunch periods to accommodate social distancing requirements
	 Increasing number of meal service access points (specifically for grab-and-go breakfast) Serving meals in cafeteria in grab-and-go fashion and returning to classrooms for consumption. There will be no self-service buffets for food and condiments.
	School building leaders will arrange for class cohorts to enter the cafeteria and serving line to pick up their lunch and return to the classroom. More than one classroom cohort may be in the cafeteria with another cohort, but groups must remain separated from each other by a distance of at least 14 feet.
	Physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions will be installed throughout serving locations and point of sale to ensure additional safety measures where social distancing is not possible.
	Serving line will be sanitized between each class cohort.
	Sufficient trash removal and cleaning will be in place throughout classrooms and hallways.
	Meals will be available at designated district location(s) for pick up for full time distance learning students. The Parent/Guardian/Student picking up meals must provide the name and ID number for the NLPS student the meals are for. (Meals are only available for enrolled NLPS students). The number of days' worth of meals that can be distributed at one time is pending CSDE guidance and waiver approval.
3	Food service for students during hybrid/full time distance learning: (YELLOW)
	Students present in school will receive meals based upon the full capacity plan.
	Students in distance learning will be provided meals to take home, and/or will pick up at a central location. The number of days' worth of meals that can be distributed at one time is pending CSDE guidance and waiver approval.
4	Food service for full school closure: (RED)
	Meals will be provided for NLPS students only, via school buses, along multiple bus routes. The number of days' worth of meals that can be distributed at one time is pending CSDE guidance and waiver approval.

Technology

New London Public Schools is now a 1:1 district. This means all students have been issued their own technological device for remote learning.

	Technology Expectations for Reopening
1	Access to technology will be 1:1 for students in Grades K-12.
	Students in grades K-2 will have an assigned iPad and charger for use in school and at home. Students who completed grade 2 in June will return their assigned iPads to school to be redistributed to incoming kindergarten students.
	Students in grades 3-12 will have an assigned Chromebook and charger for use in school and at home.
	All devices and chargers will remain and travel with students from home to school, and school to home, each day to support a sudden change to hybrid or a distance learning model.
	The Technology Staff will continue to plan and support students with repair, replacement, and technical support. Technology specialists will be assigned to each building to support when students are in school and assigned to Central Office to support students, by appointment, if a hybrid or distance learning model is put in place. All students will have 24/7 access to their Chromebooks and iPads.
	Students participating in Remote Learning will be issued a school device (iPad or Chromebook, depending on grade level).
	Children participating in Home Schooling are not enrolled in the district and will not be issued devices.
	Students who attend schools outside of the district, i.e. a magnet school, special outplacement, charter school, while still residing in New London will not be provided a NLPS device and instead should follow the guidance and plans for the school in which they attend.
2	District funding will be used to purchase additional devices as needed to support student learning in a remote, hybrid or distance learning models.
	The district will continue to monitor and adjust spending to ensure all students have access to 1:1 devices. Additional funding sources may be needed to replace devices in a regular cycle.
3	The district will ensure that equitable and universal technology access will continue.
	The district will guarantee that every student has access to digital technology provided by the district (iPad or Chromebook, depending on grade level). The district will also continue to work with families to ensure they have access to Wi-Fi and provide hot spots when available.
4	The district will continue to develop teacher skills and efficacy in using technology.
	District staff will use common, agreed upon platforms to communicate with students and provide instruction.
	We will continue to develop teacher skills and efficacy in using technology to support effective instruction. We will continue to provide technology learning experiences for teachers and will expect teachers to read and follow the expectations provided in the district's hybrid and/or distance learning plan.

Fall Reopening Certification and Personnel Planning

As the pandemic evolves, NLPS will monitor and adjust its fall reopening practices based upon guidance from public health authorities. Revised and/or updated public health guidelines will be communicated to all staff as they are made available.

	Human Resources
1	Certification and personnel planning.
	The Human Resources Department will ensure compliance with all legal and regulatory requirements related to certification and staffing, including, and not limited to, EEOC, ADA, and the Rehabilitation Act which will continue to apply during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, employees will be counseled concerning their rights addressed by the Families First Coronavirus Cares Act (FFCCA). At all times, NLPS will strive to maintain a safe workplace for all staff.
	Executive Director of Human Resources will participate in regularly scheduled meetings with legal counsel for updates on legal and regulatory requirements associated with EEOC, ADA, and COVID-19 pandemic.
	Updates will regularly be shared with staff.
	Staff are asked to direct their questions concerning the Families First Response Cares Act, COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and other EEO laws to the Human Resources Department. *Please note the HR Staff Contact chart at the end of this section.
2	Full staff roster engagement.
	NLPS staff, both certified and non-certified, will be engaged in supporting our students as set forth in the three models pertaining to the fall, 2020 reopening of schools. These models are: return to an in-person school setting (for all), hybrid of in-person learning and distance learning for students, and full-time distance learning.
3	Staffing.
	Staff assignments are in development and a data-driven decision-making process will be used to determine staff deployment that is in the best interest of students. Decisions will be made and communicated upon approval by the CSDE of the district's fall reopening plans.
	The flexible staffing guidelines provided by CSDE will allow for teacher coverage and continued student instruction.
	Requests to hire additional staff will be made as dictated by need and budget.

Contact	Email	Phone
Human Resources	HRStaff@newlondon.org	860-447-6020
Robert Stacy	StacyR@newlondon.org	860-447-6000, X6019
Elizabeth McCaffery	McCafferyE@newlondon.org	860-701-5813
Danielle Henderson	HendersonD@newlondon.org	860-447-6000, X3170

Professional Development

All staff members will complete an online course *COVID-19: Plan, Prepare, and Respond* (Due to the ever-changing conditions and recommendations in the fight against COVID-19. The topics covered in this tutorial will include: What is COVID-19 and How is it Spread, Recommended Resources for School Administrators, Guidance for School Staff, Teachers, Aides and Nutritional Service.

	Professional Development	
1	The Directors of Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Professional Development and Committee will ensure implementation of thorough professional development for staff; while also providing education on safety protocols and use of technology for staff and students.	
	A document will be developed listing all required professional development for staff by grade level and department.	
	The district will explore various ways of providing professional development including, but not limited to virtually, asynchronously, in-person, etc. A centralized system will be developed for tracking the completion of all professional development.	
	A prioritized plan will be generated, with training of staff, students, and families for a smooth transition with materials and technology to remote learning, if needed.	
	A communication plan will be developed for staff members to work with families and students to ensure full engagement, should an extended closing be necessary.	



Thank you for taking time to read our drafted reopening plan.

We look forward to working closely with you and your child throughout the school year!