

Chester Academy COVID FAQ

Reopening Q&A

This document is arranged by topic.

Relevant sources are indicated by a page number (for the Reopening Plan) or the relevant source (links can be found on the last slide).

Mask Wear

- Will mask wear be required at Chester Academy?
 - Yes, the CSB has determined that mask wear by Faculty, Staff, students, and visitors is the most responsible course of action during the current COVID-19 pandemic. In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, and relevant chapters of Title XV Education chapter 200, Guidance from NHDHHS, NHD OE, and the CDC will be followed at Chester Academy.
- What if my student cannot wear a mask? (*I have a doctor's note*)
 - If your student is not able to wear a mask, the safest course of action is to keep your student at home. Each of the three models proposed include options for learning from home. At this time the only exceptions to the mask policy will be for our youngest students and those students who are not able to safely remove the mask unassisted.

Mask Wear

- Will masks be provided to anyone?
 - Masks are not being provided by Chester Academy. If an individual arrives at the school and does not have a mask, a disposable mask will be provided (intended to last for the school day). As resources are limited, students who habitually arrive at school without a mask will be asked to stay home.
- What type of mask is required?
 - In accordance with recommendations from the CDC, cloth masks that cover the mouth and nose will be required. It is not necessary to use medical grade N95 masks. Based on guidance from health authorities neck gaiters, open-chin triangle bandanas and face coverings containing valves, mesh material or holes of any kind will not be considered appropriate face coverings.
- Will there be mask breaks during the day?
 - Mask breaks will be incorporated into each school day. They might include indoor and outdoor options with enhanced physical distancing at the discretion of the classroom teacher, in coordination with grade level teams and the administration.

Mask Wear

- Will my student be sent home for not wearing a mask?
 - Yes, in accordance with Executive Order 2020-04, we will be requiring mask wear of all individuals while at school. We will be diligent about separating those who may present a threat to the safety of the Chester Academy community by providing an area that is physically separated (part of the gymnasium) from the majority of people in the building until a parent/guarding can safely take custody.
 - Our goal is to provide the very best education for each student. While we strive to instill compassion and flexibility in serving the families of Chester, during this time it may be necessary to ask families who differ in their opinions on mask wear to choose a telepresence or remote learning option until mask wear is determined to be unnecessary. (See page 11-13 of the Reopening Plan)

COVID Testing

- Will COVID testing be required to attend school?
 - A NEGATIVE COVID test (neither active, nor serum), is not required to attend school. In accordance with the latest CDC guidance, symptomatic individuals, those who have had close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or longer), those who suspect they have been infected, those who have travelled outside New England, should self isolate or quarantine. Symptomatic individuals should expect to remain out of school until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours (1 day) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms)
- Will COVID testing be provided by Chester Academy?
 - No, if COVID testing is recommended by a physician or DHHS guidelines, it will be the responsibility of the family. Currently, NH is encouraging individuals who need testing to visit Convenient MD, or Clear Choice MD. In some instances, testing will be provided without cost to the individual.

COVID Testing

- How long will my student be required to stay home after a positive COVID test?
 - Students, faculty, and staff will be required to remain at home until at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared AND at least 24 hours (1 day) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms). The time frame may vary by individual.
- How will I be notified of a positive case of COVID-19 at Chester Academy?
 - Notification and contact tracing is dictated by Federal Law (HIPPA). Notification of COVID-19 at Chester Academy will be handled in accordance with direction from the NHDHHS. The protocols that have been incorporated in the planning for the Adapted-In-Person model have taken into account the possibility of community spread.

COVID Testing

- If someone in my family (household) tests positive for COVID-19 will my student be required to stay home from school?
 - Yes. See the current guidance from the NH DHHS regarding self isolation and quarantine.
- What protective measures are being taken to ensure COVID-19 is not spread at Chester Academy?
 - In addition to the daily attestation forms, the mask wear policy, and the physical distancing, individual classroom teachers will be providing opportunities (at frequent intervals) for hand washing and hand sanitizing as appropriate (i.e. entering/exiting the classroom, before eating). The District is also upgrading the HVAC system to improve air quality. We are installing an iWave system. This is an air purifying device that installs in the existing air duct system. When air in the ducts passes over the iWave, ions produced by the device reduce pathogens, allergens, particles, smoke and odors in the air, creating a healthy environment without producing any harmful products. Additionally, the janitorial team is increasing cleaning measures, especially in high-traffic areas. This is the reason for hiring an additional janitor.

Instruction Options

- Will classes be recorded so my student can attend at a more convenient time?
 - Due to privacy concerns for our students and teachers, synchronous class periods will be broadcast but NOT recorded. One goal of synchronous class periods is for active student engagement. Students participating in a telepresence fashion will have some flexibility to complete school work apart from the synchronous class periods.
- Will attendance be taken for remote classes?
 - Yes, attendance in remote/telepresence classes will be taken by the classroom teacher as indicated by participation online.
- Will there be any in-person instruction or activities this school year?
 - While Chester Academy is in the Adapted-In-Person model, or in the Hybrid to a lesser extent, there will be in-person learning. Extra curricular activities are currently not being offered as coordination between school districts is ongoing. As soon as it is determined to be safe to do so we will re-evaluate our ability to safely offer these invaluable opportunities for our community.

Instruction Options

- What changes are being made to remote instruction to improve on the quality of the classes as compared to the instruction from March-May 2020?
 - Here is a list of changes to Remote Instruction (see page 8 of the Reopening Plan)
 - Improved software and hardware tools
 - Synchronous activities (broadcast at specific times) to provide greater structure
 - Mandatory attendance in some synchronous classes to count for school attendance
 - Scheduled individual or small group time with teacher minimum once a week (5 students max)
 - Clear communication tools for parents to understand expectations, completions, missing assignments

Instruction Options

- I can't supervise my student during the day while I work, what am I supposed to do with my student? child?
 - During this period, we are all going to be asked to be creative with our routines. Hopefully, the environment remains permissive and we will be able to offer in-person learning opportunities. However, we are also asking for families to develop plans for the periods when we are in a remote learning option (see calendar) and if we are forced to move to the ORANGE or RED Learning Models.

Instruction Options

- Will there be Statewide testing this academic year?
 - The DOE has indicated that there will be Statewide testing this academic year. Students in grades 4-8 will be assessed in Math and Language Arts in October and in the Spring.
- Will classes be pass/fail?
 - No, the grading policies outlined in the Student Handbook, to include the use of the Student Learning Traits (SLTs) will be used.

Transportation

- Will there be bus service this year and how will children physically distance on the bus?
 - We are planning on providing bus service. In the interest of providing the best opportunity for educating our students, the decision has been made to accept slightly more risk on the school bus than on school grounds. Seats will be limited to 2 children per seat wearing masks. Additionally, bus windows will be opened to the first detent (weather permitting) to increase the exchange of fresh air on the bus.
- We live within 2 miles of the school, will my student be allowed to walk/ride to school? May I walk my student to school?
 - Not at this time. CA has had a longstanding prohibition against walking/riding/skateboarding to school out of concern for traffic safety along NH Rtes 102 and 121 ([CA Student Handbook](#) pg 48).
 - Parents will not be allowed to walk children to school at this time due to the access restrictions being implemented to provide the opportunity for distancing. To avoid congestion at entry/exit points the decision has been made to limit access during the busy drop-off/pick-up periods.

Transportation

- I need my student to ride different buses for going to and returning from school, is that an option?
 - Any need to ride multiple buses, whether long term, or for a short period of time should be requested through the Assistant Principal. Bus routes are going to be re-drawn to decrease the number of riders per bus. In some cases we will not be able to accommodate swaps. At this time changes to ridership may take up to one week to accommodate due to coordination with First Student (our transportation provider).

COVID Testing

How will Chester Academy address the needs of individuals who begin to exhibit possible COVID symptoms while present in the school?

Individuals who begin to exhibit possible COVID symptoms while in school will be removed from the classroom to a safe space while awaiting pick up by their parent/guardian. We have constructed 10 such spaces in a portion of the gymnasium for this purpose.

Hyperlinks to Source Information

1. [NH Dept of Health and Human Services \(NH DHHS\)](#)
 - 1.1. [Active NH COVID Summary](#)
 - 1.2. [COVID Exit Strategy \(State by State tracking\)](#)
 - 1.3. [School Resources](#)
 - 1.4. [Mask Wear](#)
 - 1.5. [Quarantine Guidelines](#)
 - 1.6. [Self Isolation Guidelines](#)
 - 1.7. [Self Observation Guidelines](#)
2. [NH Dept of Education \(NH DOE\)](#)
 - 2.1. [K-12 Back to School Guidance](#)
3. [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)
 - 3.1. [Planning Considerations for Schools](#)
 - 3.2. [Resources for Parents/Guardians](#)
 - 3.3. [State Level Data: Children and COVID-19](#)
4. [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)
 - 4.1. [Symptoms](#)
 - 4.2. [Testing](#)
 - 4.3. [What to do if you are sick](#)
 - 4.4. [School Reopening Guidance](#)
5. [Chester Academy Reopening Task Force Report](#)
6. [Chester Academy Student Handbook](#)
7. [Governor Sununu's Executive Order 2020-04](#)