



Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Reopening Plan

9/1/2021

Recommendations, requirements, and guidance.

The Maine Academy of Natural Sciences has developed an approach to reopening our schools based on guidance from local health officials, the Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC), the Maine Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics, our professional staff who served on a collaborative committee to identify a safe approach to opening school, and parent feedback from surveys.

The Maine Department of Education has developed a framework to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools. The full document can be found on their website: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/framework>.

In addition, the MDOE has listed 6 requirements of all public schools in Maine. These include protocols such as physical distancing and masks. The list can be found on their website: <https://www.maine.gov/doe/covid-19/>

Our plan is strongly aligned with the State framework and recommendations. It is in full compliance with the initial 6 requirements introduced to schools in the 2020-21 school year. It is designed to prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as we reopen and prepare to deliver instruction for the 2021-2022 school year.

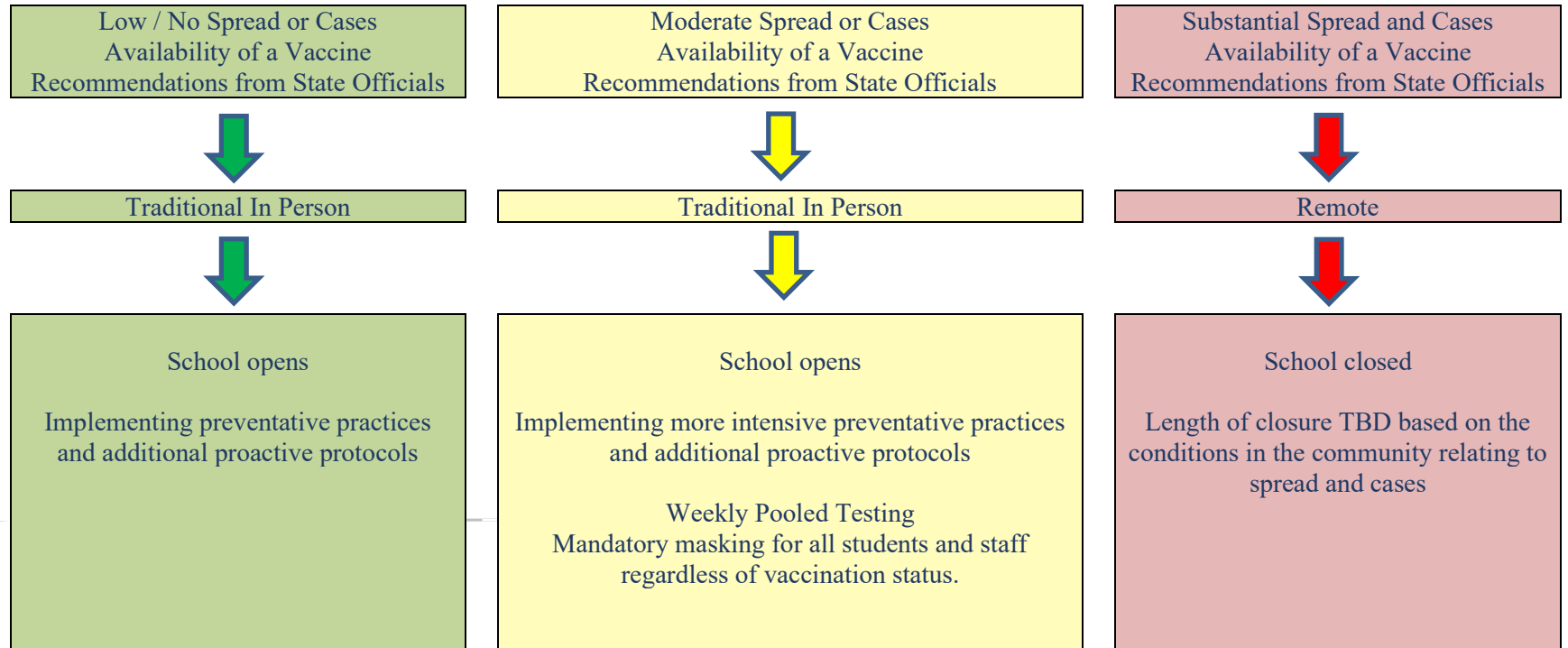
LEVEL OF COMMUNITY SPREAD and VIRUS PREVALANCE

(as determined by state and local officials)

Low/No Spread or Cases	Minimal/Moderate Spread or Cases	Substantial Spread and Cases
<p>MeANS will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community • Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) • Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school specific protocols • Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness • Heightening cleaning and sanitizing • Weekly pooled testing • Mandatory masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status 	<p>MeANS will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community • Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) • Implement enhanced social distancing measures • Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Isolate and deep clean impacted classrooms and spaces • Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness • Weekly pooled testing • Mandatory masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status <p>Districts have the authority and flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed.</p>	<p>MeANS will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community • Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible) • School is closed. Implement distance/remote learning • Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. • Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness

MeANS 3-Tiered Pathway


Factors in determining pathway







The decision tree above provides a menu of instructional models that the school can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.


MeANS Reopening Plan


Level of Community Spread

	Traditional In Person	Traditional In Person	Remote
<p>Practicing Prevention</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols. Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use Face coverings or other PPE required Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning each day; schedule periodic cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks (to the extent practicable) Weekly pooled testing Mandatory masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and no-touch trash cans in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily and shared objects after each use Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff and require wearing of face coverings when the appropriate social distancing is not feasible. Mask protocols may vary based on recommendations and / or county data Allow students and staff to bring face coverings to use from home Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe Allow students and staff to bring water bottles from home and provide safe protocols for water fountain use (school may issue water bottles to all students) Ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible, as long as this does not pose a safety or health risk to students or staff Conduct deep cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning each day; schedule additional cleanings during weekends or school holidays/breaks Weekly pooled testing Mandatory masking for all students and staff regardless of vaccination status 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use communication protocols to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols

<p>Transporting</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers • Require bus drivers and students to wear face coverings • Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission) • Inspect buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus after each use or at least daily • Air out buses when not in use 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers • Require bus drivers and students to wear face coverings • Require students (parents) to use a screening tool for symptoms of illness prior to boarding the bus • Utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable) • Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces on the bus at least daily • Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission) 	<p>School Plan:</p> <p>School buildings are closed.</p>
<p>Entering Schools</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • Limit unnecessary congregations of students and staff • Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Establish a protocol for visitors: calling front office before entering, screening visitors, requesting use of face coverings, etc. 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19. COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures (including staying home when sick), good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols • Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school • Require students (done by parents for younger students) to use a screening tool for symptoms of illness prior to entering the building • Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100.4°F • Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained) • Establish a protocol for visitors: Restrict non-essential visitors in the building, calling front office before entering, screening any approved visitors, requesting use of face coverings, etc. • Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup • Maintain social distance 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District/school leaders must remain vigilant and purposeful as they determine roles, responsibilities, and reporting requirements for staff • District/school leaders should leverage virtual tools and platforms wherever possible to conduct essential business and keep in-person reporting to a minimum during school closures

<p>Serving Meals</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day • may return to cafeteria 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow time for student hand washing before and after meal service • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • Use disposable plates, utensils, etc. • Monitor serving lines and traffic paths to ensure spacing (to the extent practicable) • Conduct cleaning of classroom and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day • Utilize alternative serving models and locations to increase social distancing when applicable • May return to cafeteria 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice established social distancing protocols to the greatest extent practicable • Have meals available-during a designated time at our meal sites • Distribute printed instructional packets if needed and district/school communications along with meals
<p>Transitioning</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face coverings required • Conduct cleaning of hallways and high-touch surfaces throughout the school day • Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) to walk to keep students separated (to the extent practicable) 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable) 	<p>School buildings are closed.</p>

<p>Supporting Teaching and Learning</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/emotional screening and support • Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff • Conduct cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces each day • Limit physical interaction through partner or group work • Provide additional instructional supports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ students at-risk of not graduating on time ○ students with disabilities ○ students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social/emotional screening and support • Balance class numbers as much as possible – remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms; maximize social distancing (to the extent practicable) • Establish distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks • Identify and utilize outdoor spaces for social distancing • Increase classroom technology, synchronous classes for remote students • Provide additional instructional supports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ students at-risk of not graduating on time ○ students with disabilities ○ students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a robust Remote Learning Plan • Utilize Google Classroom to facilitate remote learning • Provide technology tools and support to families • Increase classroom technology, synchronous classes for remote students
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<p>When a Child, Staff Member, or Visitor Becomes Sick at School</p> 	<p>School Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with school administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify an isolation room to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms. Follow in-school isolation guidelines. • School nurse and other healthcare providers should use <i>Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions</i> when caring for sick people. • Notify local health officials, staff, and families immediately of a possible case while maintaining confidentiality. • Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use before cleaning and disinfection. Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to stay home and follow state CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
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