

**SAFETY MEASURES THAT WILL BE IN PLACE
AT THE LINCOLNVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23**

Given the experience gained in the last two school years, most of us are quite familiar with the critical health and safety practices that reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission. These include rigorous hygiene and hand washing, use of masks/face coverings, physical distancing, reducing interactions between groups, staying home when sick, protecting those most vulnerable to the disease, and expanding testing and tracing capabilities, among others.

It is well documented that all these strategies taken together will substantially reduce the risk of transmission. In other words, continuing the culture established last year of health and safety that focuses on regularly enforcing these important practices is more important than any one measure.

Any and all updates to this document will be based on the best available scientific information.

The following safety protocols will be in place in our school as follows:

1. Daily Health Screening

- a. All students, under the supervision of a parent or guardian, and all staff members will conduct a health checklist protocol each morning before school. Students and staff who are experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Should notify the school nurse before coming to school.

- b. The health check has been simplified this year, but is still a mandatory requirement for every student and staff member. The health of the entire community depends on each individual being in compliance with our safety standards.

2. Pooled Testing

- a. We will continue to monitor the effectiveness of Pooled Testing in other settings and consider using it if deemed appropriate.
- b. We will administer a Rapid Test to symptomatic students with parental permission. Those students may need followup testing through their PCP.

3. Masks/Face Coverings

- a. The wearing of face masks can be an effective measure against the spread of Covid-19. They will not be required unless a person is returning to school after testing positive for Covid-19. In those cases the number of days a mask should be worn will be determined by the school nurse based on the most recent recommendations from the Maine CDC.

- b. Face coverings, when required, should be constructed of at least two layers of fabric, not contain a ventilator or other holes, and must otherwise comply with school appropriate dress code.
- c. Masks/face coverings should be provided by the student/family, but extra masks will be made available by the school for students who need them. Cloth masks should be washed daily.
- d. Any student who refuses to comply with the face covering requirement will not be allowed to attend school due to the safety hazard that poses to other students and staff.
- e. Additional safety precautions are required for school nurses and/or any staff supporting students in close proximity, when distance is not possible, when students require physical assistance, or when a nurse is tending to a sick person. These precautions will at a minimum include eye protection (e.g., face shield or goggles) and a mask/face covering.

4. Hand Hygiene

- a. Students and staff will wash or sanitize hands in the following situations:
 - i. Upon entering the school
 - ii. Before and after eating
 - iii. After using the restroom
 - iv. Before and after use of playgrounds and shared equipment
 - v. Upon entering and exiting a school bus
- b. We will post signage and train students in proper hygiene procedures.

5. Ventilation and Outdoor Spaces

- a. Our schools' ventilation system meets all indoor air quality standards. Therefore, we will rely on the current system, with upgraded filters for our air circulation. We will not need to use fans and windows for air circulation.
- b. We will use outdoor spaces for instruction and meals as much as feasible.
- c. If used, outdoor playgrounds/natural play areas only need routine maintenance. Students will wash or sanitize their hands before and after using these spaces. When hand hygiene is emphasized, cleaning and disinfection are not required between cohorts.

6. Cleaning and Disinfection

- a. Classroom desk tops will be sanitized, by staff or students, at the end of every class period if students are changing classes.
- b. High touch surfaces, such as door handles, office phones, shared keyboards, toilet handles, and faucets and other surfaces will be sanitized according to guidelines.

7. Restrict Non-essential visitors in all district buildings

- a. We will only utilize parent or community volunteers and guest speakers in classrooms if it is deemed safe practice and approved by the principal.
- b. Parents and other family members may enter the school with permission from the principal.
- c. No non-essential visitors will be allowed into the building.
- d. Programming with external organizations can happen on campus with permission from the principal if all safety protocols are followed.

8. Quarantine:
 - a. We will follow guidelines developed by the Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, school nurses, school physicians, and Pediatric Infectious Disease Experts.
9. Sports:
 - a. The safety of our students and staff will be our first concern when it comes to participation in all programming.
 - b. Our plan is to have our student athletes participate in our interscholastic athletic programs within the Busline League beginning in the fall.
 - c. We will consider safety recommendations provided through the Maine Department of Education, Maine Principals' Association, and Busline League in planning for our sports programs.
10. A School Safety Team will meet as necessary and will review all relevant data and report all recommended changes to the Superintendent who will report to the school committee at monthly meetings. The Superintendent will have the authority to reduce mitigation measures without Board approval, but a vote of the board will be needed to impose more restrictive measures unless so directed by the Maine CDC.
11. Here is the link to the CDC website:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/covidview/index.html>