

PANDEMIC/EPIDEMIC EMERGENCIES

I. Introduction

The Board recognizes that a pandemic/epidemic is a serious threat that stands to affect students, staff, and the community as a whole. The Board establishes this policy in the event the town/municipality and/or school district is affected by a pandemic or epidemic. At all times the health, safety and welfare of the students shall be the first priority. The District may follow the advice and recommendations in the State of New Hampshire and the Dept. of Health & Human Services.

II. Planning and Coordination

Planning for a pandemic requires a multi-faceted effort, and school preparedness should include input from a team of individuals to address their specific areas of expertise.

The Superintendent shall designate one or more employees to serve as a liaison between the school district and local and State health officials. This designee is responsible for communicating with health officials to identify local hazards, determine what crisis plans exist in the school district and community, and to establish procedures to account for student well-being and safety during such a crisis. The designee shall work with local health officials to coordinate their pandemic/epidemic plans with that of the school district. The Board encourages the designee to become a member of the Health Alert Network through the New Hampshire Department of Health & Human Services.

The principal and/or school nurse or other designee shall develop a curriculum component to health classes that is designed to teach students about preventing or limiting the spread of communicable diseases.

With fiscal concerns in mind, the district may purchase and store supplies necessary for an epidemic/pandemic response, including but not limited to disinfectant products, face masks, water, examination gloves, and other supplies as recommended by the school nurse.

The Superintendent shall develop procedures and plans for the transportation of students in the event students are released from school early.

III. Response

In the event anyone, staff or student, within the school is discovered or suspected to have a communicable disease that may result in transmission to other students, faculty, or staff, that person shall be immediately isolated pending further medical examination. The New Hampshire Communicable Disease Control Section of the Department of Health and Human Services shall

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be notified immediately or other state agency as is recommended by local, state or federal requirements.

IV. Infection Control

Any student found to be infected with a communicable disease that may bear risk of transmission will be excluded from school until that individual's primary care physician or other medical personnel indicating that the individual does not bear the risk of transmitting the communicable disease provide medical clearance.

Students with excessive absences due to a communicable disease may be given a reprieve from other Board policies relative to excessive student absences. Efforts will be made by the staff to determine what, if any, schoolwork the student can complete while absent. Policy JH – Student Attendance has additional information about attendance expectation.

Any staff member, visitor, contracted service provider, coach or volunteer found to be infected with a communicable disease that may bear risk of transmission will be expected to follow the District's established illness management protocols and procedures.

In response to an epidemic/pandemic, the District will ensure that safety protocols are established and followed to ensure the safety of all students, staff, visitors, contracted service providers, coaches and volunteers. The District will require all individuals to follow the District's established illness mitigation plan.

V. Continuance of Education

As outlined in Policy IFB – Remote Learning, the Superintendent will develop a plan of alternate means of educating students in the event of prolonged school closings and/or extended absences. Such a plan may include providing students with assignments via mail, local access cable television, the school district's website or other means as identified in the District and Building Level Remote Learning Plans.

The Superintendent is authorized to amend the traditional class schedule and schedule of days. Such a plan may include extending the school day, having school days held on Saturdays, the use of previously scheduled vacation days, and/or extend the school year beyond the previously established end of school year. Refer to Policy IFB for additional information on when Remote Learning can be utilized.

SOMERSWORTH

Category: *Optional*

EBCF

Related Policy: IFB, JH

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Legal References:

Pandemic Preparedness and Planning online resources, Department of Health and Human Services. www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/avian/pandemic.htm.

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New NHSBA Policy:	August 2006
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