

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT #2

Ashland School District

Inter-Lakes School District

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September 25, 2020

Dear Inter-Lakes Families,

I hope this correspondence finds your family well. Thank you to all of our families for your partnerships, patience and efforts to positively transition your children and our school communities to the new school year. Seeing our learners learn in our various pathways is heartwarming and inspiring! Below and attached are important updates.

[School Pass Wellness Screening Tool](#)

A primary goal we need to meet in order to maintain our physical in person model is to keep illness out of our schools. Thank you for completing the School Pass Wellness Screening Tool for your children each and every school day prior to riding the school bus or prior to arrival by 8:00 a.m. Attached to this correspondence is an important handout from our School Nurses to assist you with knowing the symptoms of COVID-19 and how we as a School District will respond to illness and symptoms.

[Mitigation Efforts](#)

As we settle in to our new routines for physically in person, children and adults have adapted well to wearing a face covering throughout the school day. This mitigation step is a key factor in our ability to maintain operations for our physical in person pathway. ***As updated information has emerged, we are shifting from a cloth face covering and face shield with drape to a face mask (without valves). This means members of our school communities who have been using neck gaiters, bandanas and face shields with drapes as face coverings, will need to shift to a face mask unless an approved special arrangement has been made through the appropriate process.*** If this presents a hardship, please contact your child's School Nurse and they will provide you with cloth masks.

A mitigation effort that continues to be a work in progress is physical distancing. It is part of our nature and culture to gravitate towards one another. This is a challenging adjustment for all and we appreciate our families continuing to help coach their children on this practice.

[COVID-19 Symptoms](#)

Attached to this letter is an important Inter-Lakes School District handout on COVID-19 symptoms and our responses in such circumstances. Our processes are in alignment with those developed by the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Resources. In addition to emailing families this information, a paper copy of the attachment will be sent home; please post this information in a location for easy reference.

[COVID-19 Dashboard \(click here to visit the Dashboard\)](#)

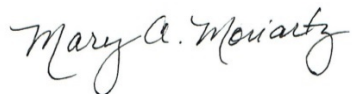
On our School District website, you will find a tab labeled COVID-19 Dashboard. The Dashboard has current information on COVID-19 within our schools, communities and State. To date, we have not had any confirmed cases of COVID-19, which we are very grateful for; however, we all recognize that this can change.

Additionally, you will see the membership for our COVID-19 Decision Making Team. This Team is meeting weekly to review the activity of the virus in our schools, county, and state; the level of absences for staff/students and the impact; the effectiveness/compliance with our mitigation efforts; ability to maintain supplies for cleaning and protection; and ability to meet established cleaning protocols. ***The Team notes and weekly recommendations are posted on this page.*** Originally, it was proposed in our Opening Plan that we would look to provide families a prediction for what tier our physical in person model will be for the upcoming month. ***What the Team has learned through our review process is that we are only confident in trying to make a prediction out one week at a time and with that, it is recognized that such a recommendation can change.***

I want to take a moment to thank and commend our School Nurses, Teresa McCormack, Jodi Pendexter, and Lora Colten, for their tireless work to serve our school communities during this challenging public health period.

Thank you for patience and perseverance to navigate through all of this information. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's School Nurse and School Principal with questions or concerns. I wish you well as we move towards completing our second full week of school. Be well, Inter-Lakes!

Respectfully,



Mary A. Moriarty
Superintendent of Schools

MAM/mgm

Attachment

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM THE INTER-LAKES SCHOOL DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICES

Jodi Pendexter, RN BSN	Inter-Lakes Middle/High School	279-6162	jodi.pendexter@interlakes.org
Teresa McCormack, RN BS	Inter-Lakes Elementary School	279-7968	teresa.mccormack@interlakes.org
Lora Colten, RN BSN	Sandwich Central School	284-7712	lora.colten@interlakes.org

Know the symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever (100.0 F or higher), or feeling feverish;
- Respiratory symptoms such as runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, or shortness of breath;
- Headaches;
- General body symptoms such as muscle aches, chills, and severe fatigue;
- Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, and
- Changes in a person's sense of taste or smell

Keep Sick Children Home

COVID-19 is most commonly spread through respiratory droplets when an infected person talks, coughs, sneezes, or sings. As a school community we ask for your support to take the following precautions to prevent the spread of the disease:

- **Keep sick children home and report their illness to the school nurse** if your child has a fever or is not feeling well with any of the symptoms listed above.

Screen Child and Complete Daily School Pass Wellness Screening Tool

Prior to arriving to school please screen your child by:

- **Taking** your child's temperature every morning;
- **Checking** for any **new or unexplained** symptoms of COVID-19 (listed above); this includes even mild symptoms;
- **Determining** if your child has had close contact with someone who is suspected or has been confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior 14 days;
- **Determining** if your child has traveled outside of NH, VT, ME, MA, RI and CT in the prior 14 days; and **THEN**
- **Complete** the School Pass Wellness Screening Tool before getting on the school bus or before arriving at school by 8:00 a.m.

If your child's Wellness has been **flagged** based on the results of the screening, your child is not cleared to attend school. Please follow the steps below:

1. Contact your child's school to report their absence.
2. Contact your child's School Nurse as soon as possible to report symptoms and discuss when your child may be able to return to school. The School District has adopted the protocols established through the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, which means:

- Any student with **new or unexplained** symptoms of COVID-19 will be excluded from school, and instructed to isolate at home and contact their primary care provider for COVID-19 testing. **A symptomatic student can be allowed to return to school when one of the following two conditions is met:**
 1. The student takes an approved COVID-19 test and the result is negative **AND** the student's symptoms are improving and the student is fever-free for at least 24 hours off any fever-reducing medications.

COVID-19 tests are most accurate if performed when symptoms first appear, within the first 1-5 days. Approved tests include:

 - A PCR-based molecular test
 - Quidel Sofia antigen testing is conducted within five (5) days of symptoms onset
- OR**
2. The student has met the Center for Disease Control and Prevention criteria for ending home isolation (i.e., if a person is not tested, they are managed assuming they have COVID-19).
- If a student has close contact with someone who is confirmed to have COVID-19 in the prior fourteen (14) days or has a travel-related risk, they are required to self-quarantine at home for fourteen (14) days from the last known exposure.

Know the Response if Your Child has Symptoms of COVID-19 at School

If your child presents with symptoms of COVID-19 at school, the following steps will be taken:

1. Your child's School Nurse will check the symptoms against your child's medical history (ie: allergies, migraines, etc.)
 2. If the School Nurse determines the symptoms are NOT common for your child's medical history, then:
 - a. Your child will be quarantined within the nurse's area;
 - b. The School Nurse will contact you (Parent/Guardian) and have you come pick up your child from school; and
 - c. The Parent/Guardian will be encouraged by the School Nurse to contact the child's Primary Care Physician.
 3. The Parent/Guardian can:
 - a. Keep the child out of school for ten (10) days and see if symptoms pass. If waiting the ten (10) days, the Parent/Guardian will need to contact the school nurse prior to returning.
- OR**
- b. Have the child complete an approved COVID-19 test. A negative COVID-19 test with documentation from the test provider shared with the school allows the child to return back to school, as long as the child is symptom free without the use of medication within the last 24 hours.
4. The School Nurse will facilitate communication with your child's teacher(s) regarding absences and the need for school work.