

Dear Spaulding Families and Collaterals,

I know many of us never anticipated the impact that the COVID pandemic would have on our lives. COVID has pushed us all to problem solve, be more flexible and understanding, and appreciate our time with family and friends while sustaining the importance of children's education. We are grateful for the support you have provided during this pandemic!

Many schools have outlined their Stay Open Framework: COVID response for the 2021-2022 school year. Below you will find Spaulding's response.

COVID-19 and its variants are still impacting our communities. Spaulding will abide by the recommendations of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), the New Hampshire Department of Education (NHDOE), the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other appropriate health and governmental agencies. Should any change to the in-person education model be necessary, Spaulding will follow the "transitioning between instructional models" matrix as articulated by the NH DHHS.

This Stay Open Framework attempts to provide a macro-level perspective on how Spaulding will operate in the 2021 - 2022 school year with respect to health and safety protocols and with the primary goal of 5-days / week, in-person learning in mind. Spaulding is extraordinarily grateful for the efforts of students, families, teachers, administrators, and staff as they have navigated hybrid learning, remote learning, in-person learning, and the layers of health and safety measures in place during the end of the 2019 - 2020 and the entirety of the 2020 - 2021 school year. Spaulding believes that most students flourish in an engaging in-person learning environment. Spaulding Academy & Family Services intends to provide a 5-days / week in-person learning model throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Spaulding will not offer concurrent remote or hybrid options. Should Spaulding have to pivot to remote or hybrid instruction, administration and personnel will be ready.

Health and Safety Daily Health Screening: Spaulding is asking parents to continue to screen and monitor their child's health daily. As part of our effort to maintain a safe and healthy environment, please keep your child home if they are exhibiting / experiencing new or unexplained symptoms, such as cough, chills, sore throat, nasal congestion, headache, fatigue, nausea / vomiting, diarrhea, or a fever greater than or equal to 100.0.

Masks / Face Coverings

1. Spaulding will follow New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommendations regarding the use of masks on school property.
2. Should masks be a public health recommendation as they are currently, education and training will be provided to students with an inability to wear a mask with the goal of gradually increasing their ability to wear a mask.
3. Students and adults will have the option of wearing masks even when the NH DHHS recommendation does not require mask wearing.
4. What type of masks can be worn?
 - a. Disposable Medical Mask
 - b. Adjustable and fitted masks that include 2 or more layers of cotton / cloth
 - c. Neck Gaiters that include 2 or more layers of cotton / cloth

5. Masks must:
 - a. fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face (a mask that is too loose results in breathing more unfiltered air around the mask)
 - b. be secured with ties or ear loops, masks with adjustable ear loops may be best for students
 - c. allow for breathing without restriction
 - d. if reusable, be made of a fabric or material that can be laundered without damage or change to shape (using a small mesh laundry bag to wash can help)
 - e. cover the nose and mouth
 - f. abide by the school dress code
6. Masks/face coverings *not* allowed include:
 - a. Scarfs, handkerchiefs, fleece balaclavas, and bandanas
 - b. masks with exhalation valves are NOT allowed, as they do not filter exhaled air
 - c. masks that are porous
7. Other PPE including but not limited to face shields, can be worn, but not in place of wearing a mask / face covering

* the school will be able to provide appropriate masks for use to support students and staff

Quarantine due to COVID+ exposure

Students are required to quarantine at their home for 10 days if they have been exposed to a COVID+ person in their home. For day students, this means people living in or visiting their home. For residential students, this means cottage mates. Please note that remote instruction will not be provided should a student be quarantined due to exposure to a COVID+ person at their home. Students will not be required to quarantine if the exposure to a COVID+ person occurs in the school. The rationale for this approach has to do with the difference in settings. A home environment is not likely to be able to sustain masking and distancing procedures that protect from transmission whereas a more structured classroom environment can implement the safety measures needed to avert transmission.

Physical Distance Guidelines Physical classroom layouts are distanced to the greatest extent possible.

Classroom Sanitizer & Wipes Hand sanitizer stations have been installed throughout the school. In addition, each classroom has a stock of disinfectant wipes for wiping down hard surface areas.

Cleaning / Sanitizing Throughout the day, the custodial staff will sanitize / disinfect high-traffic common areas. Additionally, restrooms and other high-priority areas will be cleaned and regularly disinfected each day.

Should Spaulding be compelled to move to a remote or hybrid learning environment, appropriate educational supports and access to learning will be available. Spaulding students have access to remote learning platforms through their Google Classroom. Synchronous learning applications like Google Meets may be used to deliver instruction.

The partnership between the schools and homes is integral in successful education during this pandemic. Spaulding values our relationships with families and collaterals as we work together to educate our students.

Please reach out to me csliva@SpauldingServices.org or the COVID response team COVIDResponse@SpauldingServices.org if you have any questions or concerns.

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