

# Reopening K-12 Schools at RSU 18

## Considerations and Recommendations that support the reopening of our schools

The Maine Department of Education has developed guidance to support districts and communities in determining their plans and strategies for reopening schools.

This approach is built upon the guidance and recommendations of health officials; it is strongly aligned to the reopening guidelines that have been provided by our state and federal leaders; and it's designed to help districts prioritize the health and safety of students and teachers as they open school buildings and deliver instruction for the 2021 - 2022 school year.

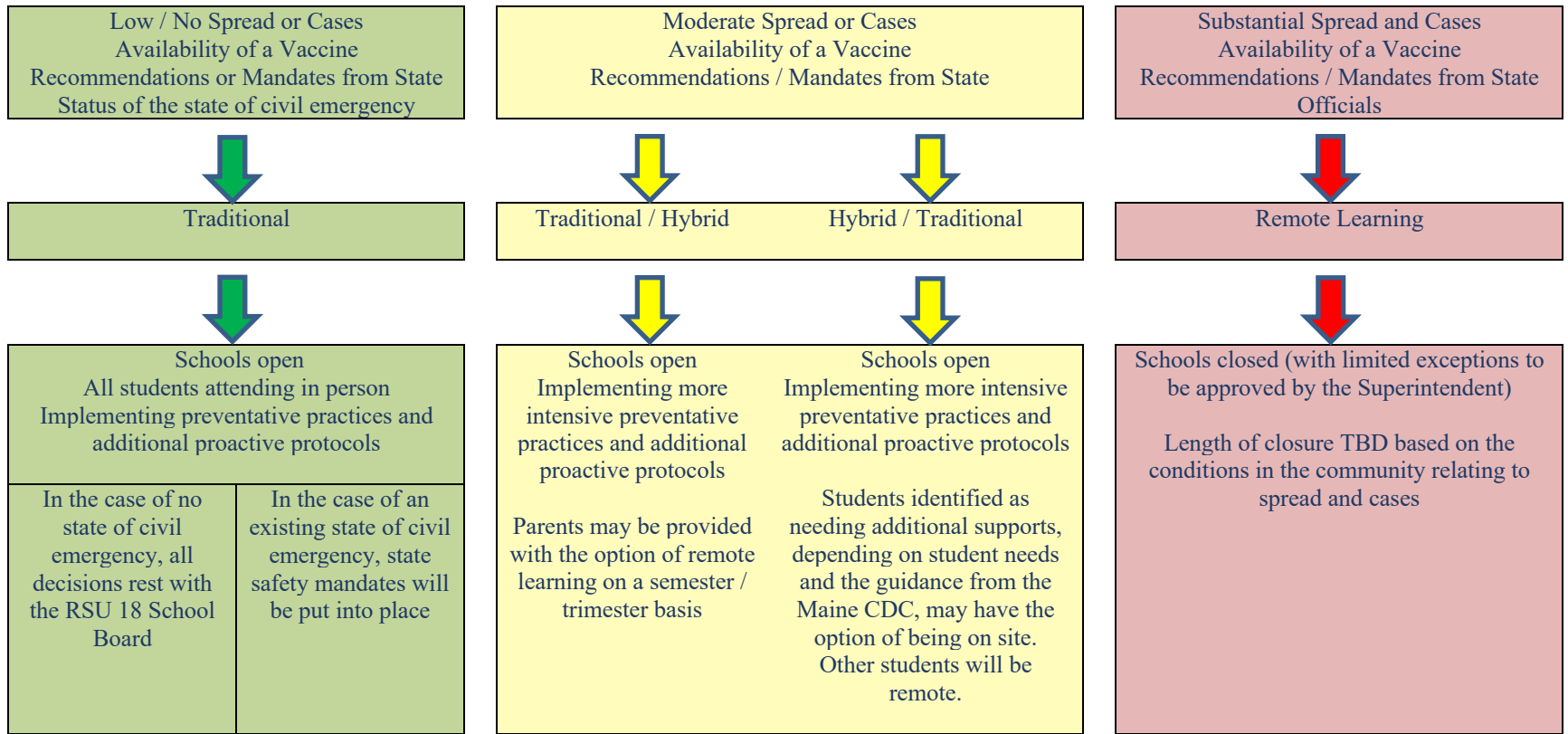
*Regional School Unit No. 18 has developed a systemic approach to reopening our schools based on the guidance from local health officials, the Maine Center for Disease Control (MCDC), the Maine Department of Education, the American Academy of Pediatrics, our professional staff who served on collaborative committees to identify a safe approach to opening schools, and parent feedback from surveys and district-wide meetings.*

# 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>RSU 18 will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community</li> <li>• Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school</li> </ul>	<p>RSU 18 will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community</li> <li>• Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>• Implement enhanced social distancing measures</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school</li> <li>• Clean impacted classrooms and spaces</li> <li>• Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness</li> </ul> <p>RSU 18 will have the flexibility to close school buildings and utilize distance/remote learning as needed.</p>	<p>RSU 18 will...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish and maintain communication with local and state health officials as well as the school community</li> <li>• Participate in contact tracing efforts and specimen collection efforts as directed by local health officials (to the extent feasible)</li> <li>• Schools that are closed, remain closed. Implement distance/remote learning</li> <li>• Close off affected areas and if possible, wait 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting.</li> <li>• Consider ways to accommodate needs of children, teachers/staff, and families at higher risk for severe illness</li> </ul>


## RSU 18's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools





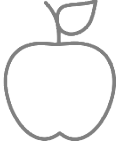

The above District Decision Tree provides a menu of instructional models that the district can adopt to ensure the continued success and safety of students and staff members.


# RSU 18's Path to Recovery for K-12 Schools

Level of Community Spread

	RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p><b>Practicing Prevention</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and <b>no-touch trash cans</b> in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas</li> <li>• Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces regularly</li> <li>• Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff and require the use of PPE to the extent that it is mandated by the state. Masks will either be optional or required for any unvaccinated people.</li> <li>• Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Conduct cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning each day; schedule periodic cleanings during school breaks . (to the extent practicable)</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teach and reinforce good hygiene measures</li> <li>• Provide hand soap and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, and <b>no-touch trash cans</b> in all bathrooms, classrooms, and frequently trafficked areas</li> <li>• Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Clean/disinfect frequently touched surfaces</li> <li>• Provide masks and other appropriate PPE to staff and require the use of PPE to the extent that it is mandated by the state.</li> <li>• Take steps to ensure all water systems and features are safe</li> <li>• Allow students and staff to bring water bottles from home and provide safe protocols for water fountain use</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• Conduct cleaning of schools prior to students/staff returning each day; schedule additional cleanings when possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use district communication protocols to inform parents, students, and staff about COVID-19 symptoms, preventative measures, good hygiene, and school/district specific protocols</li> </ul>

<p><b>Transporting</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers</li> <li>• Follow any state mandates requiring face covering to be worn on buses.</li> <li>• Limit field trips (to areas of limited/low transmission)</li> <li>• Inspect buses prior to students returning and as part of a regular rotation</li> <li>• Clean frequently touched surfaces on the bus</li> <li>• Air out buses when not in use</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and bus drivers</li> <li>• Follow any state mandates requiring face covering to be worn on buses.</li> <li>• Ask students (parents) to use a screening tool for symptoms of illness prior to boarding the bus</li> <li>• Utilize spaced seating (to the extent practicable)</li> <li>• Consider eliminating field trips</li> <li>• Clean frequently touched surfaces on the bus</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <p>Adhere to CDC and MDOE practices for transportation</p>
<p><b>Entering Schools</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff</li> <li>• Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for students/staff who feel ill/experience symptoms when they come to school</li> <li>• Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100.4°F when determined appropriate after consulting with the school nurse or other medical professional</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for visitors</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate staff and students on strategies to curb the spread of COVID-19.</li> <li>• Ask students (parents) to use a screening tool for symptoms of illness prior to entering school</li> <li>• Isolate and send home if temperature is over 100.4°F when determined appropriate after consulting with the school nurse or other medical professional</li> <li>• Consider safety and privacy concerns (confidentiality should be maintained)</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for visitors: Restrict non-essential visitors in the building, calling front office before entering, screening any approved visitors, etc.</li> <li>• Establish a protocol for student pick/drop up: staggered entry and release (by grade, class, or bus numbers), marked spacing for pickup</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virtual tools and platforms will be used by district staff to deliver instruction.</li> <li>• Exceptions for students to be in a school building will only be made by district administrators.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Serving Meals</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow time for student hand washing before and after meal service</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff</li> <li>• Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow time for student hand washing before and after meal service</li> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff</li> <li>• Consider the use of disposable plates, utensils, when students are eating in their classrooms</li> <li>• Monitor serving lines and traffic paths to ensure spacing</li> <li>• Conduct cleaning of cafeterias and high-touch surfaces</li> <li>• Utilize alternative serving models and locations to increase social distancing when applicable</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice established social distancing protocols to the greatest extent practicable</li> <li>• Have meals available-during a designated time at our meal sites</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transitioning</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct cleaning of high-touch surfaces</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit mixing between groups (to the extent practicable)</li> <li>• For class changes and other transitions throughout the school day: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Designate areas of the hallway (i.e. lanes) as flow paths to keep students separated students to minimize congregation of students</li> <li>○ Plan staggered class (ex: by hall, odd/even room numbers, grade/ discipline) changes to decrease number of students in hallways at one time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>School buildings are closed to students. Any exceptions must be approved by district administration.</b></p>

<p><b>Supporting Teaching and Learning</b></p> 	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide hand sanitizer for students and staff</li> <li>• Conduct cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces each day</li> <li>• Develop a district assessment calendar</li> <li>• Utilize either Seesaw (pre k - grade 2) or Google Classroom (grades 3 -12) to facilitate instruction</li> <li>• Support the development of grade level academic topics</li> <li>• Provide additional instructional supports to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ students at-risk of not graduating on time</li> <li>○ students with disabilities</li> <li>○ students who struggled in the prior distance/remote learning environment</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement strategies and interventions to re-engage students who developed this need during the pandemic</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize either Seesaw (pre k - grade 2) or Google Classroom (grades 3 -12) to facilitate instruction</li> <li>• Balance class numbers as much as possible – remove unused desks and furniture in classrooms; maximize social distancing (to the extent practicable)</li> <li>• Limit physical interaction through partner or group work</li> <li>• Establish appropriate distance between the teacher’s desk/board and students’ desks</li> <li>• Identify and utilize large spaces (i.e. gymnasiums, auditoriums, outside spaces – as weather permits) for social distancing</li> <li>• Implement strategies and interventions to re-engage students who developed this need during the pandemic</li> </ul>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a Distance Learning Plan</li> <li>• Utilize either Seesaw (pre k - grade 2) or Google Classroom (grades 3 - 12) to facilitate remote learning</li> <li>• Provide technology tools and support to families</li> </ul>
<p><b>Communication</b></p>	<p><b>District/School Considerations:</b></p> <p>Provide consistent forms of communication for staff and families on important issues Changes happening in the school</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandates</li> <li>• Closures</li> <li>• Educational issues</li> </ul> <p>Provide the RSU 18 community with opportunities to provide feedback into the decision-making process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What changes need to be made to our reopening of school plan?</li> <li>• What do our students / staff / school community need to do to improve educational opportunities as a result of the pandemic?</li> <li>• How can we utilize funding sources to re-engage students and improve school safety and mitigate transmission of this and other viruses?</li> </ul>		

**When a  
Child, Staff  
Member, or  
Visitor  
Becomes Sick  
at School**



**District/School Considerations:**

- Work with school administrators, school nurses, and other healthcare providers to identify a process to separate anyone who exhibits COVID-like symptoms.
- Notify local health officials of a possible case.
- Inform those who have had close contact to a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop

Any student or staff member who is diagnosed by a physician to have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to follow the current CDC guidelines for isolation.

For additional information, go to our website:

<https://rsu18.org/>

For the latest decisions on in school protocols, please see the updates on the superintendent update page: [Last revised 8 19 21](#)