

Gilford School District


Superintendent's Proposal

Phased in Approach to Safely Open Schools



August 4, 2020


Planning for reopening 2020 - 2021

1. This is unlike any school year we have ever planned for.
 2. I would like to thank all the teachers, staff members, nurses, and administrators that have spent countless hours working on reopening Gilford Schools safely.
 3. We are not only planning for reopening safely, but we must develop **flexibility** and **adaptability** in our plan so that we can shift swiftly when required to do so.
 4. In our reopening plan, we have a clear plan to reopen and a plan to respond to a case of COVID-19 in one of our schools.
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Task Force Members

- Danielle Bolduc - GES Principal / Parent
- Liz Fiore - GES School Counselor
- Katie Bryant - GES Teacher / Parent
- Carol Young-Podmore - GES Teacher
- Jen Johansson - GES Nurse
- Peter Sawyer - GMS Principal / Parent
- Liz Kovar - GMS Teacher
- Chantelle Moynihan - GMS School Counselor
- Jessica Scudder - GMS Teacher
- Beth Haddock - GMS Nurse
- Andrea Damato - GMS Teacher
- Sean Walsh - GMS / GES Assistant Principal
- Anthony Sperazzo - GHS Principal
- Tim Goggin - GHS Assistant Principal
- Rick Acquilano - GHS/MS Athletic Director
- Melissa Otis - GHS Teacher
- Amy Tripp - GHS Teacher / Parent
- Kathy Dubois - GHS Admin. Assistant
- Meg Jenkins - GHS Nurse
- Corey Nazer - GHS Library / Media / Parent
- Jessica Wallace - GHS Teacher / Parent
- Laurie Belanger - GHS Student Assistance Counselor / Parent
- Lori Jewett - GHS School Counselor
- Ken Mulleavey - Supervisor of Building and Grounds
- Esther Kennedy - Director of Student Service
- Brenda McGee - Director of Technology
- Jonathan Dupuis - Food Service Director
- Amie Leigh - Business Administrator / Parent
- Nancy Bordeau - Student Service Admin. Assistant
- Valerie Mulkhey - District Psychologist
- Kirk Beitler - Superintendent

Some Resources Used to Develop Plan

- Survey results from Gilford and Gilmanton parents and employees
 - More opportunities for input and feedback will come
 - [US DOE](#)
 - [NH Department of Education](#)
 - [School Transition Reopening and Redesign Taskforce](#)
 - [Governor Sununu](#)
 - [NH Department of Health and Human Services](#)
 - [Center for Disease Control](#)
 - [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
 - [World Health Organization](#)
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Gilford Summer Successes over a 3 to 7 week period of time

- Gilford summer camp was successful
 - We had cohorts of nine campers working with one counselor
 - We had equipment and supplies for each cohort of children
 - Campers were outside the majority of the day
- Gilford Kindergarten screening was successful
 - We had individual students working with teachers
 - Each student had their own manipulatives
 - Six students worked with six teachers 45 minutes - one hour
 - The screening happened outside
- Gilford Title One program was a success
 - We invited 38 students to participate in the summer program
 - Student and teacher work 1:1
 - Tables are six feet in length to keep the social distance
 - Work for 45 minutes and use 15 minute to disinfect tables
- Special Education services in person
 - OT, PT, Speech and academics
 - 23 students participated



More Gilford Successes

- Gilford Middle School summer math and literacy academies were a success
 - Offering both in person and remote work opportunities
 - In person was a 10:1 ratio of students to staff
 - 57 students total
- Gilford High School competency recovery and summer school were a success
 - Offered both in person and remote opportunities
 - 57 total students - 13 students in person
 - In person 9 students credit recovery
- Gilford High School athletic teams summer workout sessions have been a success
 - We started with small groups (nine) athletes working with a coach
 - We continue to work outside with the athletes and coaches
 - After 2 weeks we increased the size of the groups and remained outside for the sessions
- We know the guidance for summer camps and sports has been to work with small groups of children to start these processes
- Screening, disinfecting, personal hygiene (hand washing, mask wearing, hand sanitizing) and social distancing were in place throughout our summer programming
- Belknap County, Gilford and Gilmanton have a limited number of cases of COVID-19

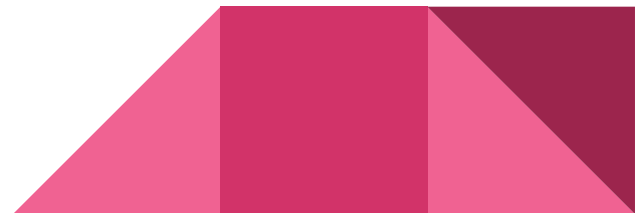
Goals and Understandings

- The safety of our students, faculty, and community is our priority.
- Optimal learning takes place when students interact in-person with their peers and teachers.
- Reopening school scenarios are intended to mitigate, not eliminate, risk. No single action or set of actions will completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19 transmission, but implementation of several coordinated interventions can greatly reduce that risk.
- All of the scenarios must be flexible and adaptive to the current epidemiological data.



A Review of the Data

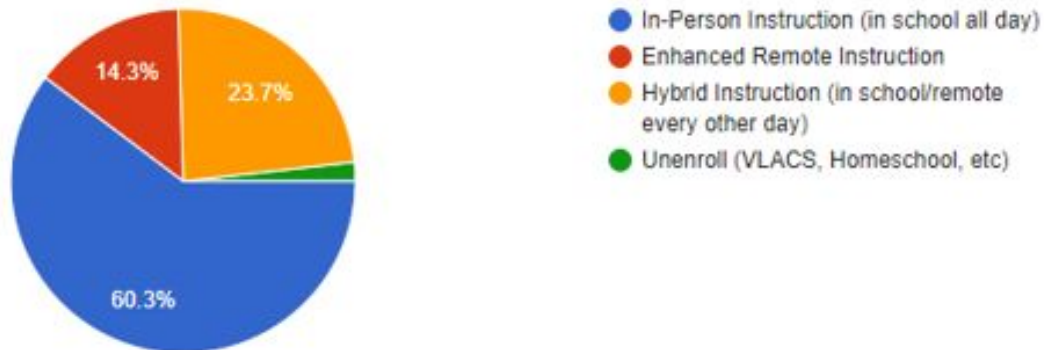
- Surveys sent to parents and employees in July
- 766 parents across all three schools responded to the survey
- 144 employees across all three schools responded to the survey
- Approximately 603 open responses from parents
 - These have all been read
 - Many supportive comments and many questions
- Employees were presented with a few open response questions
 - These have all been read
 - Many supportive comments and more questions



GES Return-to-School Family Survey Results - Model Preference

In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

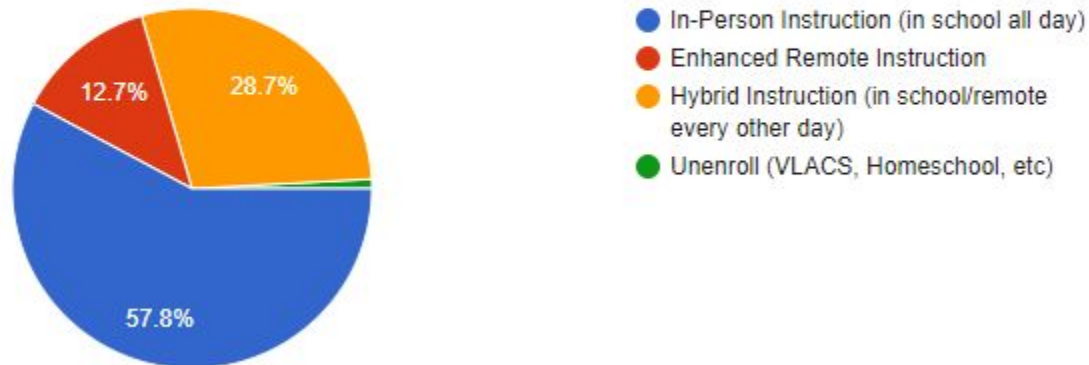
224 responses



GMS Return-to-School Family Survey Results - Model Preference

In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

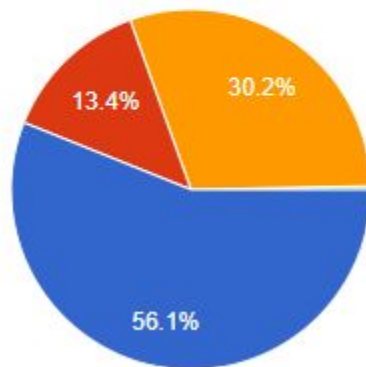
237 responses



GHS Return-to-School Family Survey Results - Model Preference

In order for us to plan our return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below for your family.

305 responses

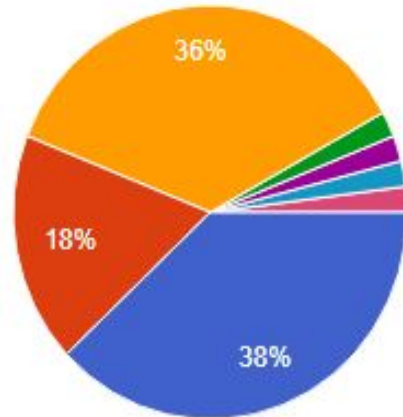


- In-Person Instruction (in school all day)
 - Enhanced Remote Instruction
 - Hybrid Instruction (in school/remote every other day)
 - Unenroll (VLACS, Homeschool, etc)
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GES Return-to-School Staff Survey Results - Model Preference

In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

50 responses

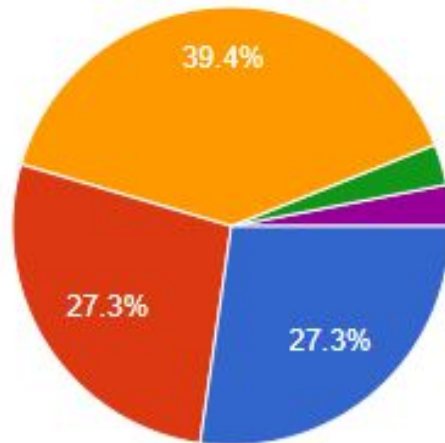


- In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- Enhanced Remote Instruction
- Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- Hybrid or Remote
- In person as long as everyone, staff and students, wear masks.
- I find it difficult to check any of these b...
- This is a challenging question to answ...

GMS Return-to-School Staff Survey Results - Model Preference

In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

33 responses

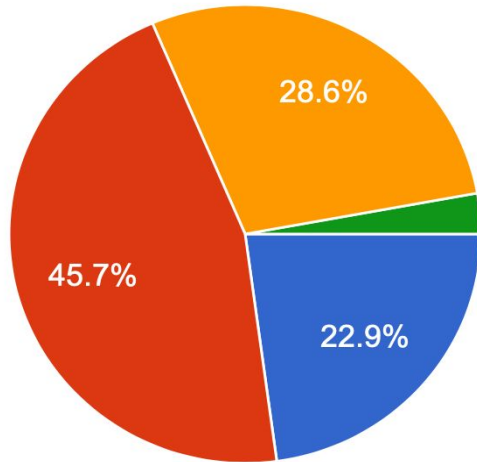


- In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- Enhanced Remote Instruction
- Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- I am in favor of Hybrid instruction, but grouping days two in a row (Monday/Tuesday & Thursday/Friday) rather than every other day.
- one week in person/remote the rest

GHS Return-to-School Staff Survey Results - Model Preference

In order of us to plan a return to school (with current State/CDC Guidelines), please select one option below that you are most comfortable with (at this time).

35 responses



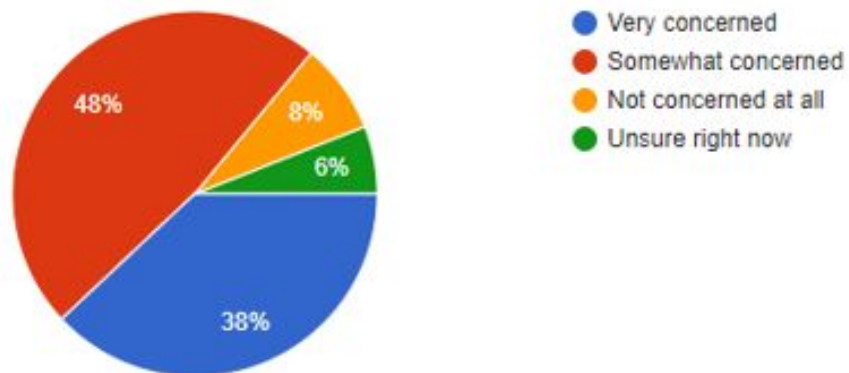
- In-Person Instruction (all students in school all day)
- Enhanced Remote Instruction
- Hybrid Instruction (in-school/remote every other day)
- Heard this on VPR today. Half the class shows up Mon & Tue, Wednesday is a remote learning day with the whole class, the other half of the class comes in on Thurs & Fri. Sounds good to me.

GES Staff Survey Results

How are you feeling about returning back to school in "full opening" mode this Fall?



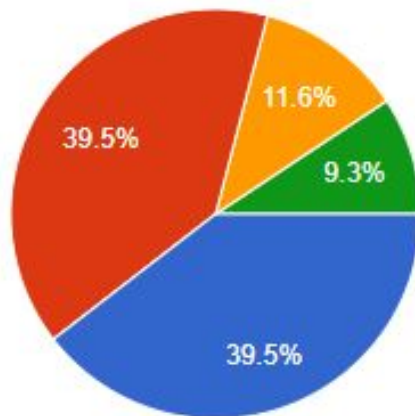
50 responses



GMS Teacher Survey Results

How are you feeling about returning back to school in "full opening" mode this Fall?

43 responses

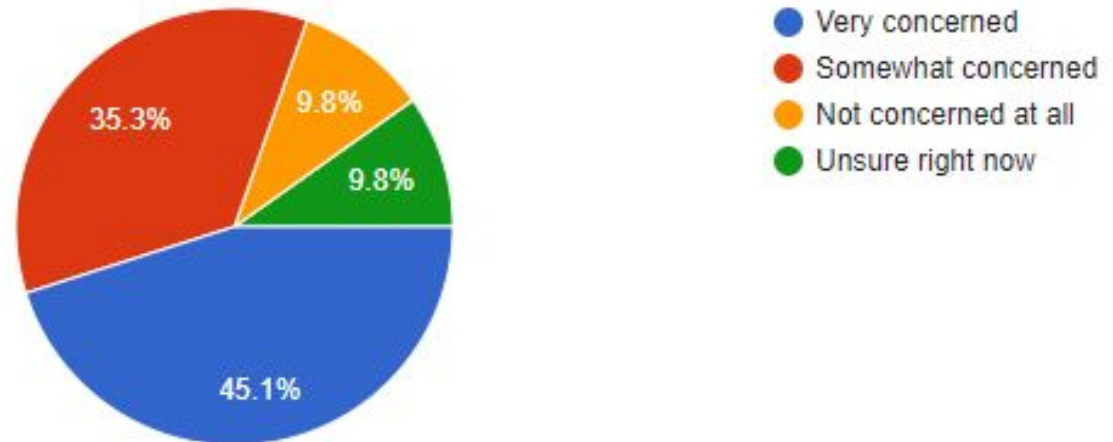


- Very concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not concerned at all
- Unsure right now


GHS Staff Survey Results

How are you feeling about returning back to school in "full opening" mode this Fall?

51 responses



Recommended Safety Precautions

- A daily self screening of students and staff will be required
 - Parents and staff must do this at home
 - A Screening Protocol will be provided
 - Students and staff that do not meet the criteria must stay home
 - Students and staff who feel sick must stay home
 - If a student becomes symptomatic or sick at school, parents must provide transportation home
 - Face Coverings / Masks will be required
 - The District has purchased masks and PPE for all students and staff
 - This is non-negotiable
 - Mask breaks will be built into each student's schedule
 - Parents and schools must partner on this requirement to ensure the safety of all
 - Schools will be cleaned and Sanitized daily
 - Duct work has been inspected in all three schools
 - Water bubblers will be turned off, but bottle filling stations will be turned on
 - Electrostatic sprayers will be used each night to disinfect
 - Custodial staff schedules will be flexed to accommodate day time sanitation
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Classroom and Hallway Safety Precautions

- Classroom furniture (tables and desks) will be distanced
 - Goal is 6 feet and 3-6 feet will always be maintained
 - Desks/tables will all face the front, where physically possible
 - Students will be asked to sanitize/wipe down hard surfaces
 - Seating chart will be used in each classroom
- All classrooms have hand sanitizing stations
- Each student may be responsible for their own supplies and a list will be provided for each family
- Schedules will attempt to minimize student movement and passing time
- Hallway lockers will not be in use - accommodations can be made
- One directional hallways and stairwells
- Necessary passing times will be staggered
 - Face Coverings / Masks will be required during passing time
- Cafeteria and Library may be used for instruction and lunch
- An outside tent will be available on both campuses for classrooms and/or lunch


Screening Protocol

All employees and students will self screen, at home daily, prior to being admitted to the building. Temperatures will need to be taken and be recorded. If a person has over a 100.0 F temperature they will need to stay home. A screening checklist will be provided for each family.


All employees and students will answer 6 questions:

- A. Are you experiencing any of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, or runny nose?
 - B. Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the last 72 hours?
 - C. Have you been in close contact with someone with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, or who is under investigation for COVID-19?
 - D. Are you experiencing any new muscle aches or chills?
 - E. Have you experienced any new change in your sense of taste or smell?
 - F. Have you traveled in the prior 14 days outside of New England (VT, ME, MA, CT, RI)?
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COVID Response Protocol (from STRRT guidance)

- Coordinate communications with public health officials to notify staff and families, in accordance with proper legal and privacy rights
 - Inform students, families, and staff about the possible symptoms of COVID-19
 - Advise sick staff members and students not to return to school until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 and are feeling better, or have met CDC criteria to discontinue home isolation
 - Inform those who have close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 to cooperate with State or local public health officials and to stay home and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after their last exposure to the person with COVID-19, and follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop. If a person does not develop symptoms, follow appropriate CDC and state public health guidance for home quarantine and testing after an identified COVID-19 exposure
 - Per CDC, the impacted building may be closed for 2-5 days
 - Impacted students and staff will go to REMOTE learning
 - Provide guidance to parents, teachers and staff reminding them of the importance of physical distancing and good hygiene practices
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Transportation

- Gilford School District will encourage parents to drive and pick up their students
 - Survey data indicates that approximately 30% of families will access transportation in the AM and PM at all three schools
 - We will have a specific transportation registration for all families and give families an opportunity to update the registration periodically (each trimester)
 - Twenty-five students will be on the bus at one time, unless there are siblings, siblings will be allowed to double up in seats, otherwise one student to one seat
 - There could be double runs on some bus routes
 - Masks will be required on the bus
 - Buses will have hand sanitizer
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School Calendar 2020-2021 Proposed Adjustments

- January 22, 2021 - move this Professional Development Day to September 1, 2020 providing more time at the beginning of the year for schools and staff
- September 16, 2020 Early Release move this day to September 30, 2020 and pair with half day from Governor Sununu's allocation of 3 PD days to give us a full PD day on September 30, 2020 as we prepare for October 5th
- October 9th and November 6th are Parent Teacher conference days - Propose one District Virtual Parent Teacher conference day October 30, 2020



School Calendar 2020-2021 Proposed Adjustments


- October 14th, November 18th, and December 9th Early Release days - take these three days and pair with half day from Governor Sununu's allocation of 3 PD days and create November 23rd and 24th as full PD days for staff
- There may be periodic days that we need to move to remote learning for a day or two. All snow days would be considered remote learning days
- We will revisit early release dates for the second half of the year in December




Proposed Calendar Segments

Segment	Start Date	End Date	Decision Date	Parent/Staff Notification Date	Number of Weeks	School Days
1	9/8/2020	10/2/2020	August	August	4	19
2	10/5/2020	10/30/2020	9/21/2020	9/23/2020	4	19
3	11/2/2020	11/27/2020	10/19/2020	10/21/2020	4	16
4	11/30/2020	1/3/2021	11/16/2020	11/18/2020	5	18
5	1/4/2021	1/29/2021	12/21/2020	12/23/2020	4	19
6	2/1/2021	2/26/2021	1/19/2021	1/21/2021	4	15
7	3/1/2021	4/2/2021	2/15/2021	2/17/2021	5	25
8	4/5/2021	4/30/2021	3/22/2021	3/24/2021	4	15
9	5/3/2021	5/28/2021	4/19/2021	4/21/2021	4	20
10	5/31/2021	6/22/2021	5/17/2021	5/19/2021	3	16

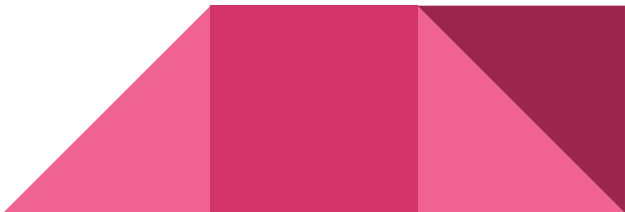
Proposed Phase In Approach To School Year

- The proposed calendar segments allow the District to focus on smaller amounts of time
 - September 8th - 11th small cohorts of students will enter school to learn more about the school year expectations and set up chromebook access to Google Classroom - prepare for possible shift to Remote Instruction - Social Emotional needs addressed
 - September 14th - October 2nd small cohorts of students working and learning together in the classrooms - District assessments will be administered - continue the work on Social Emotional needs
 - October 5th - target to start full in person teaching with all students in school for families that choose this option
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Potential Remote Instruction

- District enlists teachers to develop “online” remote instruction school
 - Students (families) that choose enhanced remote instruction will be assigned a fully remote instructor
 - The remote instructors will engage fully with students/families 5 days a week
 - Remote instructors will be on campus in Gilford
 - We will look to create opportunities for students to engage with in person learning peers
 - Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS)
 - Students and families (k-12) may choose this option for remote instruction
 - VLACS may not have all classes/grades available
 - September 8th - Remote Instruction School is Launched for families and learners
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Remote Instruction

- This option will be enhanced from the Spring with a daily schedule
 - There will be a consistent look and use of Google Classroom
 - Technology platforms used will be consistent
 - Daily responsibilities with deadlines
 - Potential remote instruction considerations
 - Remote students to be connected to an in person class
 - Remote students may be connected to group activities with their in person peers
 - Remote students may watch a livestream lesson daily
 - Students will be accountable to participate daily and meet deadlines (for attendance purpose)
 - Attendance will be taken daily
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Frequently Asked Questions

- Will Face Coverings / Masks be required?
 - Yes There will be built in mask breaks in all schools
 - Detailed plans for all schools will be developed and shared with families
 - Will social distancing be enforced?
 - Yes
 - What happens if students or adults do not follow safety protocols?
 - Adults will be handled via personnel protocols
 - Students will be handled via disciplinary procedure at each school
 - Schools need parent/home partnership to enforce these behaviors
 - Can a parent/student change their instructional model?
 - First reconsideration date will be in late October early November 2020 (trimester break)
 - Will volunteers and visitors be allowed in the schools?
 - No. We realize there is some business that must happen in person and depending on the nature of the business being conducted there will be times when people from the outside will come into the schools
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Frequently Asked Questions

- What if there is a spike of COVID cases in NH or Gilford?
 - We all (students, teachers and parents) must be prepared to transition into remote learning model
 - Will fall sports happen?
 - NHIAA has established September 8, 2020 as the start date for fall practices of high school sports
 - NHIAA is recognizing all fall high school sports
 - Middle School sports will have start practices on September 8, 2020
 - Will there be a fall musical?
 - The fall musical has been moved to spring 2021
 - Will we offer co-curricular activities?
 - These opportunities will be evaluated and offered if safety guidelines can be followed
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Next Steps

- After the School Board approves the opening concept
 - Send transportation registration to parents
 - This will have a deadline
 - Survey parents to pick an instructional model to start the school year
 - This will have a deadline
 - Connect and collaborate with employee union to finalize options, processes and details
 - Determine our staffing for a remote learning instructional model
 - Building level teams will develop building protocols and procedures
 - Continue to monitor guidance (local, state and national)
 - Continue to monitor COVID cases in NH, Belknap County and the towns of Gilford and Gilmanton
 - Continue to stock the District with PPE and cleaning supplies



Thank You!