

September 17, 2021

Dear BES Families,

As we wrap up week three of our school year, I wanted to touch base on a few important points. First and most important, our students seem very happy to be at school. Staff and students alike are taking full advantage of being in school and learning together.

We continue to have in place many layers of Covid protection for our students and staff:

- Mask wearing inside the building. Mask breaks of no longer than twenty minutes are taken inside ONLY with at least three feet of physical distance, students working silently and facing in the same direction. Students may remove their masks when outside.
- Students and staff are sent home immediately if they are showing any new and unexplained symptoms. We also expect children with any symptoms to be kept at home and get tested for Covid or isolate. A return to school can only happen with a negative Covid test and improved symptoms.
- Ventilation systems are located throughout the school and are up and running.
- Students are expected to wash or sanitize their hands often.
- We continue to practice recommended cleaning protocols.

The safety decisions we are making are based on the most recent State of New Hampshire Coronavirus Disease 2019 School and Childcare Toolkit from August 11, 2021, provided by the NH Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health.

<https://www.covidguidance.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt381/files/inline-documents/sonh/k-12-back-to-school.pdf>

Tammy Reardon, school nurse, participates in monthly webinars (soon to be biweekly) with Dr. Chan, our state epidemiologist. BES's Safety Committee meets

monthly with Jack Anderson, Bethlehem's Emergency Services Representative. Our team continues to stay up to date on what is happening in our area.

As I mentioned back at the beginning of August, decisions are made based on the local Covid numbers which are tracked daily. In the event that the numbers of cases rise, we may make adjustments. If we have a case in the building, we will inform you immediately. As always, our primary goal has been and continues to be keeping everyone safe.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns. Communication is key to ensuring that everyone is heard and questions are answered.

Be well!

Sue Greenlaw