

DEAR FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF SPARK,

After consultation with MCC leadership, Spark will be returning to in-person instruction next week. Though our teachers and students brought a great effort toward making our week of remote instruction effective, we welcome the opportunity to work with our students face-to-face.

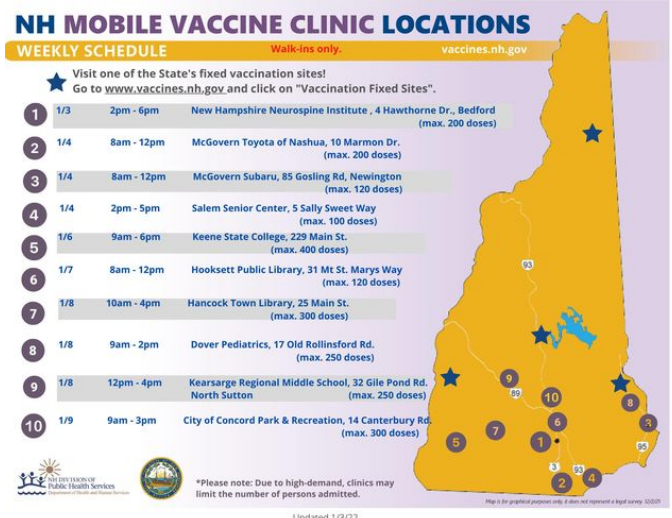
With the current level of Covid spread, it will be most important that we follow our protocols without exception.

1. Masks must be worn at all times with the exception of time outdoors and lunch when students may remove their masks to eat but **must** remain in their seats.
2. Distance must be maintained from others to the greatest extend possible in classes, hallways, etc.

There will be no exceptions to these rules. We all value in-person instruction. However, Covid spread within our school may result in our having to move back to remote instruction. Students who fail to follow protocols completely will be required to remain at home until we have met with the family to make sure both the student and parents understand and fully agree to adhere to this policy.

The following is from the NH HHS site as of January 6, 2020:

- Students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction continues to be a priority.
- Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all* students (ages 2 years and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- New CDC guidance has reduced the recommended time for isolation and quarantine periods to five days. For details see CDC's page on [Quarantine and Isolation](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#quarantine) at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html#quarantine>. The CDC also provides a video on this topic at https://youtu.be/l3s75_X8Xjs.
- In addition to universal indoor masking, CDC recommends schools maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk. When it is not possible to maintain a physical distance of at least 3 feet, such as when schools cannot fully re-open while maintaining these distances, it is especially important to layer multiple prevention strategies, such as screening testing.
- Screening testing, ventilation, hand washing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention to keep schools safe.



- Students, teachers, and staff should stay home when they have signs of any infectious illness and be referred to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- This guidance emphasizes implementing layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, staff, visitors, and other members of their households and support in-person learning.
- Localities should monitor community transmission, vaccination coverage, screening testing, and occurrence of outbreaks to guide decisions on the level of layered prevention strategies (e.g., physical distancing, screening testing).

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE...

Laptops and all equipment taken home for remote instruction are to be returned to the school on Monday, January 10. It is imperative that the students return this equipment for the return to in-person instruction.

We want to remind students and parents that Wednesday, January 12, will be a **workshop day** for the faculty. There will be no classes on that date.

Our next **board meeting** will be taking place on Wednesday, January 12, from 5:30 to 6:30. Parents and students are

PARENT GROUP NEWS...

Parents, please consider attending our next meeting on Thursday, February 3rd, at 6 PM, in Room 300. Our parents are an important aspect of our school community, and your participation can make a huge difference!

Please contact Katie McQuaid at katiemcquaidnh@gmail.com for more information.

TUTTLE THOUGHTS...

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday break and I hope the extra week at home worked out well for everyone. I understand that this was not a planned event, but thank you all for working with us during these strange times. As you know, MCC closed all of their buildings for an extra week to help prevent the spread of COVID. This was a proactive plan so that we could continue to come to school. It is also important that we remind everyone of the safety precautions that are in place and need to be followed. 1) Masks must be worn at all times when in the building. This is not our rule, it is the college's and we need to follow this at all times. We have had a few students that have been having a hard time following this expectation and we could use your help in letting them know the importance of wearing the mask. 2) We will be conducting safety drills starting this month and every month going forward. This includes Fire Drills and LockDown drills. If you have any questions with regard to these drills, please feel free to give me a call.

Again, I want to thank you all for your support!

John Tuttle

always welcome to attend the public session of each board meeting.

DONATIONS...

We are seeking cash donations for miscellaneous supplies. Please visit Spark's "**Donate**" tab on our website to make your donation vis PayPal. Our wish list may be found on the same page.

Though Covid continues to challenge us, we can all work together to make our new year a great one! We appreciate your commitment to our school community's efforts to maintain a safe and productive school environment!

Wishing everyone a great new year,
John Tuttle & Denis Mailloux
Directors