

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT THIRTY-NINE

Amherst, Mont Vernon, and Souhegan Cooperative School Districts



ADAM A. STEEL
Superintendent of Schools

CHRISTINE M. LANDWEHRLE
Assistant Superintendent –
Elementary Education

STEVE CHAMBERLIN
Assistant Superintendent –
Secondary Education

MARGARET A. BEAUCHAMP
Director of Student Services

AMY FACEY
Business Administrator

To: Stephen O’Keefe, Chair, SAU #39 Board

From: Adam Steel, Superintendent of Schools

RE: School Safety Plan for FY22

August 25, 2021

Dear Chairman O’Keefe,

After the SAU board meeting of 8/19/2021, the ASB meeting of 8/23 and the MVSB meeting of 8/24, I have adjusted my recommended plan to incorporate the changes adopted by the SAU board. In addition, the community case count metric has been updated to better represent appropriate numbers of cases affecting the metric system.

Status Level System

We will continue with our use of a five-color status system for our schools. New to this year, the status level can be different for each individual school based on conditions for that particular school. Below is a table that describes the overall system.

Status	In-Person Campus	Safety Protocols	Indoor Masks	Indoor Masks at Souhegan
Red	Closed	N/A		
Orange	Open	Strictest	Required	Optional
Yellow	Open	Required	Required	Optional
Green	Open	Recommended	Optional	Optional
Blue	Open	Encouraged		

Red – Campus Closed

When conditions are severe, the entire school campus will be closed much like the spring of 2020. This status will be reserved for the most intense safety concerns for the school community or due to an executive order by the Governor or decree from DHHS.

Orange – Strict Safety Protocols

- Masks will be required indoors for all staff and students and optional at Souhegan;
- The daily COVID symptom screening questionnaire will be required for access to the in-person environment but will not be required in the PowerSchool system but will not be required to be submitted by parents each day;
- There will be no access to the buildings by visitors or guests;
- All parent meetings that can be done remotely will be done remotely;
- Several smaller protocols (such as limiting use of band instruments) will be put into place; and,
- Lunch will be in classrooms and in building travel will be limited.

Yellow – Required Safety Protocols

- Masks will be required at MVVS, C-W and AMS and optional at Souhegan;
- Lunches will rotate outdoors and in classrooms for the purpose of limiting the number of students in the lunch room;
- Designated volunteers will be allowed to access the building; and,
- Parent meetings can be done remotely or in-person with masks.

Green – Recommended Safety Protocols

- Masks will be recommended indoors, but not required; and,
- Parent meetings will be allowed to take place in school, but parent will be given the option for remote meetings.

Blue – Near Normal Operations

When conditions warrant, school conditions will return to near-normal operations with no mask recommendations or requirements, or any other COVID-related safety protocol.

Factors Affecting Status Level

We have established a list of factors that affect our status levels as described below:

Factors	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue
School Cases	>10%	8-10%	2-8%	<2%	Near 0%
Vaccination Availability		Not Available	Limited Availability	Available	
Rate of Active Cases per 100k	>4000	3001-4000	1001-3000	251-1000	0-250
Test Positivity Rate by Public Health Region	>10%	5-10%	3-5%	1-3%	<1%
Vaccination Rate by Town	<50%	50-55%	55-65%	65-80%	>80%

The factors listed are in priority order meaning the factor affecting the status level the most is the number of active cases in a school followed by vaccination availability. As of August 10, the table below displays current information and what the status level for each school would be if school started this week:

Current Status	MVVS	C-W	AMS	Souhegan
School Cases	0 - Blue	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Vaccination Availability	Not Available - Orange	Not Available - Orange	Limited - Yellow	Available - Green
Rate of Active Cases per 100k	0 - Blue	Green		
Test Positivity Rate by Public Health Region	6.5% - Orange			
Vaccination Rate by Town	51.8% - Orange	57.9% - Yellow		
Current Status	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green

Remote Student Support – VLACS & Interventionist

Some parents might want a remote option for some or all of this school year. Through a partnership with VLACS, our students can remain in our schools, but use VLACS courses while remaining connected to us through a Federally funded interventionist position. As the Board approved this last night, we will move forward with this plan and I will update the board on the progress.

Other Factors

- All students are required by Federal regulation to wear masks on our school buses.
- There will be a “sign-off” field on paperwork reflecting acknowledgment and acceptance of the District policies and procedures.