

# RETURN to SCHOOL

In Person Learning &  
Continuation of Services Plan  
2021-22



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# INTRODUCTION

As we enter the 2021-22 school year, our Return-to-School Plan centers around student achievement, well-being and engagement. Our dedicated team of educators and support staff is committed to providing in-person learning in a safe and healthy environment for all. In alignment with recommendations from the CDC, MDH, MDE and local health officials, and as a measure to reduce quarantines and help

keep students in school, the plan includes universal masking of children and adults while inside district buildings and using district transportation as well as the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies such as social distancing when possible, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, and enhanced cleaning protocols. We will continue to monitor and adjust as needed throughout the school year.

## STUDENT LEARNING OPTIONS

Preschool - Grade 12 students will return to learn in person five days a week, prioritizing relationship building with learners, establishing a positive classroom community, and supporting a culture of continuous improvement.

There is no distance learning option currently offered; however, there are districtwide digital learning days scheduled throughout the school year. That information can be found on the District and school websites.

## HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS

### MASKING

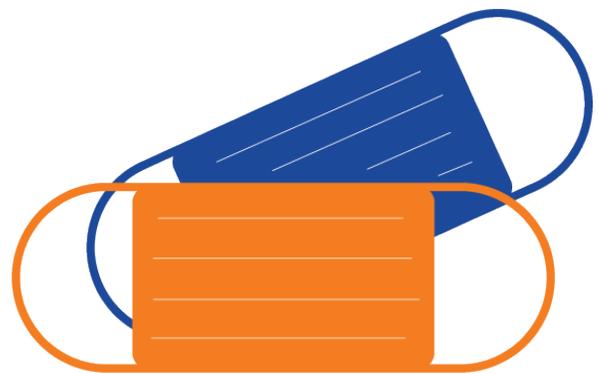
All children and adults, regardless of vaccination status, are required to wear masks while inside district buildings and utilizing district transportation.

As a district, we are universally masking, therefore the risk of contracting COVID-19 is greatly reduced.

Masks are required indoors.

Parents/guardians may request an exemption from a medical doctor. If granted, the doctor's note with the given reason for the exemption is turned into the principal for review. Parents/guardians will then be notified of the status of the request.

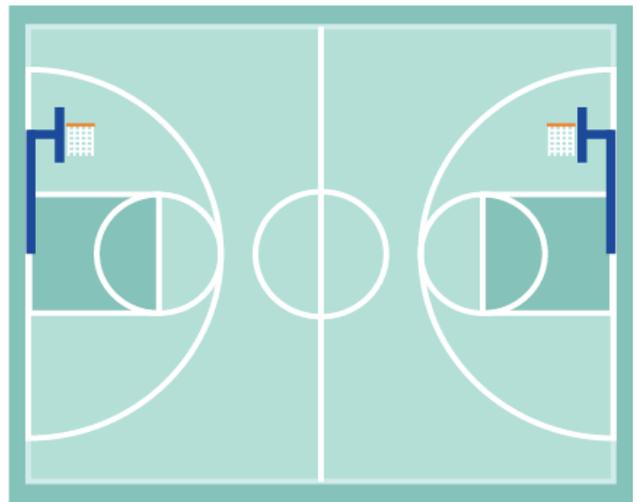
In the event that a student refuses to wear a mask when inside, they will be dismissed from school and the absence will be considered unexcused. No one will be permitted to enter our school buildings without a mask. Ongoing refusal may result in suspension. For further information about non-compliance, please review the Code of Conduct: Rights and Responsibilities document found on our district website under Families > Code of Conduct: Rights and Responsibilities.



## MSHSL/CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

District 742 requires face coverings when inside district facilities and using district transportation.

For activities sponsored by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), we require masks for all District 742 participants when not actively practicing or competing in their sport or activity. District 742 student participants and coaches must be masked when on district transportation, on the bench or in team huddles, in locker rooms and hallways, or any other location inside our schools. We request all visiting teams and spectators at MSHSL indoor events wear masks consistent with our district protocols.

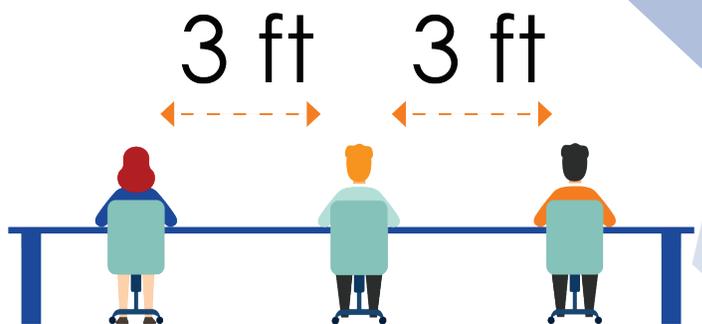


## MIDDLE LEVEL ACTIVITIES

Middle level activities participants, coaches, and spectators will follow the same protocols as outlined above.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING

The CDC recommends at least 3 feet of physical distancing between students whenever possible in classroom settings. In addition, seating charts and podding (grouping students in cohorts) will continue to prevent exposures.



## COMMUNICATION & CONTACT TRACING

As appropriate, families will be notified of positive cases within a school site and of actions taken. Depending on the circumstances, the risk to others may range from low to high, and protocols will vary accordingly. District 742's Public Health Coordinator will serve as the district's COVID-19 Coordinator and will partner with each school's nursing team to track and report daily any suspected COVID-19 infections. The District 742 COVID-19 Response Team will meet weekly, or as needed, to determine appropriate action and communication regarding positive cases.

All staff and students should self-screen at home prior to entering a District 742 building. If anyone presents

symptoms, they should stay home and seek medical attention. Students who present symptoms at school will be escorted to a Care Room to await a ride or be asked to leave the building immediately. It is recommended that people who present symptoms be tested.

In the case that a COVID-19 positive individual is present at a District 742 building or activity during their infectious period, the Public Health Coordinator will collaborate with the school's nursing team, administration staff, activities staff, transportation services, and other staff as necessary to identify all close contacts of the positive case. The Public Health Coordinator and nursing staff will work together to quickly inform families of COVID-19 exposures and the appropriate quarantine measures determined by District 742's COVID-19 Response Team.

## QUARANTINE

Due to our universal masking policy, District 742 will not mandate quarantines for students who are identified at school as close contacts as long as those students do not have symptoms. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be quarantined. Students who have symptoms and/or close contact outside of school may be quarantined.

Despite the layered mitigation measures employed, we know that students will be quarantined this year due to COVID-19. The District COVID-19 team will monitor quarantined students weekly to provide high levels of engagement for students and support for teachers during high quarantine periods. We reserve

## QUARANTINE FOR PRESCHOOL

### Daily Instruction Plan

Preschool teachers will provide choice boards for preschool students to complete with their adults, as they are able, during quarantine. Different choice boards will be available for students and their adults. Teachers will send a paper copy of the choice board home with the student prior to quarantine when it is possible. Teachers will also send the choice board to the child's adult contact through Seesaw. The teacher will communicate with the child's adult through Seesaw to answer any questions and to provide feedback on activities that have been completed on the choice board.

## QUARANTINE FOR GRADES K-5

### Daily Instruction Plan

Elementary students will access Seesaw for their daily instruction. In addition, Choice Boards at home may be utilized. Specific elementary teachers will be assigned as remote teaching staff. There is no expectation for synchronous or concurrent instruction during the 2021-22 school year. Remote teaching staff will provide focused, daily instruction and assign lessons daily based on Wonders and My Math in collaboration with the student's classroom teacher. Additional lessons will also be posted for students to engage in other content areas. The remote teaching staff will also schedule 90 minutes each day to be available for individual student needs. Classroom teachers will review for participation and/or completion of Seesaw Assignments. Classroom teachers will also check in daily with their students utilizing Seesaw message, phone or Google Meets.

the right to request medical documentation for student excessive absences requiring quarantine. Our support plan for quarantined students includes the following opportunities and expectations. Students with disabilities who must be quarantined will be accommodated on a case-to-case basis by their individual case manager.

View the Student COVID-19 Decision Tree on the District website for more information.



### School Day Academic & Engagement Support

School administration will work in collaboration with preschool teachers to provide support for students and their families. Quarantined preschool students will also have access to staff members including outreach specialists and bilingual communication support specialists to provide continued academic engagement and social/emotional support when deemed necessary by the school administrator.

### School Day Academic & Engagement Support

School principals or administration will work in collaboration with remote and classroom teachers to provide support for students and their families. Quarantined elementary students will have access to staff members including behavior resource specialists, elementary counselors, bilingual communication support specialists, and deans of students to provide continued academic engagement and social/emotional support when deemed necessary by building administrator(s). Elementary school teams will monitor and support the building administrator(s) in assigning additional intervention for quarantined students.

Students with Individualized Education and 504 Plans will be provided these same supports with the addition of the School Social Worker to serve as the liaison between the case manager and family as needed.

## QUARANTINE FOR GRADES 6-12

### Daily Instruction Plan

Secondary licensed staff are expected to follow the District 742 Instructional Expectations. These expectations detail use of Schoology including posting timelines, content and format. Adherence to these expectations will be paramount because quarantined students will access Schoology for their daily instruction. There is no expectation for synchronous or concurrent instruction during the 2021-22 school year. However, teachers may choose to provide additional support to quarantined students through e-mails, Schoology messages, calls or Google Meets as needed to meet their professional obligations to students.

As in any case, when a student misses a class, the teacher is responsible to ensure the student has access to the learning and showing they learned it. This could be done in a variety of ways including posting notes, lecture slides, alternative assignments, etc.

### School Day Academic & Engagement Support

Quarantined secondary students will have access to virtual, live-time academic and engagement support during the school day through the Instructional Support Technology Assistant or school counselor at Kennedy and McKinley. This staff member will provide online academic and technology support through a Google Meet, Schoology messages or phone calls. This support will also be available for in-person assistance for students returning from quarantine.

## CLEANING PROCEDURES & VENTILATION

Enhanced daily cleaning protocols will continue this year with frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces. HVAC systems will operate in "COVID mode" which increases the intake of outside air to provide for increased ventilation.

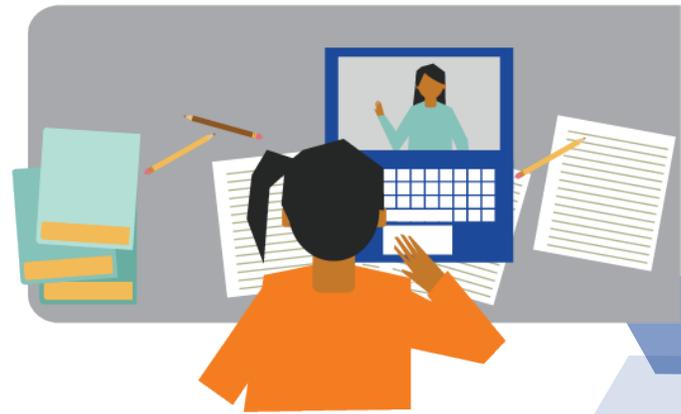
## WASHING HANDS & RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

Students and staff are reminded to practice proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) to prevent spreading infectious diseases. Schools will monitor and enforce these behaviors and provide hand washing and sanitizing supplies.

Students with Individualized Education and 504 Plans will be provided these same supports with the addition of technology and accessibility support specialists to serve as liaisons between the case manager and family as needed.

### After School Academic & Engagement Support

Quarantined secondary students will have access to virtual, live-time academic support when quarantined, and in-person upon their return, after the school day through the academic support advisor. This staff member will serve two functions: to support students in accessing after-school academic supports including Dreamline, other community tutors on-site and student tutors, and to provide academic assistance to quarantined students through a Google Meet, Schoology messages or phone calls. This support will be available Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m.



## STAYING HOME WHEN SICK

Staying home when sick with symptoms of COVID-19 is essential to keep infectious diseases out of the school setting. This year, families are asked to complete the student health check-in form only if their child is symptomatic, has tested positive, or has been exposed to a positive case. The school nurse and the attendance secretary will then collaborate to contact you and record the absence.



## VISITORS & VOLUNTEERS

Because of high transmission levels, at this time no visitors will be allowed in buildings except for those who are critical to student instruction and direct student support services. All volunteers and partners are required to be vaccinated to be in our schools.

## VACCINATIONS

The CDC, MDH, MDE and local health officials strongly recommend people over the age of 12 be vaccinated for COVID-19, but it is not mandated. To promote prevention, District 742 is partnering with CentraCare Health System to offer free COVID-19 (Pfizer) vaccines to students 12 and older, and their family members, on site at Apollo, Tech and McKinley High Schools. First vaccine doses were offered on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1. Second vaccinations will be provided on Sept. 29 and 30. For questions about the vaccine, contact CentraCare at: 320-200-3200.

# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING/MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

All students from early childhood through grade 12 will be asked to engage in social-emotional learning. For elementary students, this will include lessons around self-awareness, self-management and responsible decision-making. For secondary students, this will include mental health and suicide awareness education. Students receiving additional services in school through a school social worker, chemical health counselor, school counselor or behavioral support staff will continue those connections during this school year.



# SCHOOL MEALS

Due to a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, District 742 students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost again this school year. Families, however, are still encouraged to complete an Educational Benefits Application.

Elementary school meals will be served either in the cafeteria or lunchroom depending upon the distancing needs at each school. Secondary school meals will be served in the cafeterias.



# TRANSPORTATION

Masks are required to be worn at all times on buses. School buses are classified as public transportation and fall within the federal mandate for masking on public transportation.

Assigned seats will be maintained on buses.

