

COVID Protocols & Safe Learning Plan 2023-2024

**Grand Meadow
Public School**



Board Approved: July 18, 2023



Health and Safety

Safety

The health and safety of our students and staff will remain a top priority. Our protocols and procedures are built upon guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Flexibility

Although much progress has been made in our efforts to mitigate COVID-19 in our community, it continues to effect the health of many of our friends and neighbors. As the situation changes, it will be important for us to remain flexible. We may need to change our protocols with the changing pandemic environment.

Responsibility

We have a responsibility to the community to develop plans that ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all employees and students while staying within our budgetary resources.



Our Goal

During this difficult time of a global pandemic, our goal is to safely return to schools under the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health. Given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant, the CDC has updated the guidance for fully vaccinated people. CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place.



A full return of students for in-person learning

All students will be returning to school for in-person learning 5 days a week.

Requirements and recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Education and Department of Health will be followed.

Protocols and procedures have been put into place for each of our spaces to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and the community.

Physical Spaces

Signage

Signs will be posted for increased awareness of hand hygiene, physical distancing, and symptoms of COVID-19.

Hand Sanitation

We will encourage handwashing regularly with soap and water.

Hand sanitizer will be conveniently located and available throughout district buildings.

Water Bottle Filling Station & Drinking Fountains

It is recommended that water bottle filling stations be used to fill personal water-bottles. Drinking fountains will also be available for use.

Cafeteria

UV filters will be installed in the cafeteria.

Daily Health Screening Process

Families will be responsible for daily health screening prior to their student entering district school buildings.

Staff will be responsible for their own health screening prior to entering district school buildings.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.

Hygiene

Faculty and staff will be reinforcing handwashing practices, and other hygiene procedures.

Shared Objects

District will encourage increased use of individual supplies.

District will meet all sanitation requirements.

Face Coverings

Based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC), face coverings are no longer required. Individuals who choose to wear face coverings will supported in their decision to do so.

Visitors

Visitors are asked to follow all requirements and recommendations

Positive COVID-19 Cases: Isolation

People who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home until all three of these are true:

1. They feel better, and their symptoms have resolved.
2. It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive, OR if they have had a negative test after day 5. (May return but should mask from the day they test negative through the end of day 10)
3. They have no fever for at least a 24-hour period without medications.

Close Contacts of COVID-19 Cases

Close contacts include anyone who was within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.

The school will notify parents if a student has been a close contact at school.

Exceptions:

In the K-12 classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet of an infected student where:

The student is fully vaccinated; or

Both students were correctly wearing well-fitting masks; and other prevention strategies were in place in the K-12 setting (e.g., ventilation, cleaning and disinfecting, respiratory hygiene and etiquette)

Quarantine/Isolation

People who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days and fully vaccinated people are not recommended to quarantine in most situations.

Quarantines/isolations after an exposure to COVID-19 will be 10 days-based on parent choice unless they were a close contact and develop symptoms.

1. A shortened quarantine/isolation is possible with a negative COVID test after the 7th day, OR if they have had a negative test after day 5. (May return but should mask from the day they test negative through the end of day 10)

Transportation

Face Coverings

Face coverings will not be required on transportation. Families are to provide their students with a mask to wear if necessary. The district will provide face covering for students if necessary.

Health and Safety

The school will increase ventilation and circulation.



Co-Curricular Activities

MSHSL Guidance

We will rely on and implement activities based on guidance from Minnesota State High School League to safely hold athletic practices, competitions, and events.

Some decisions may also be made at the conference/section level.

Safety protocols and procedural requirements and recommendations will be followed.

During times of higher rates of transmission, the requirements or recommendations for mitigation strategies may increase.



A Full Return of Students for In-person Learning

Overview

Physical distancing

Schools will create as much physical space between students and teachers as is feasible during the day. However, schools cannot guarantee six feet of physical distance at school.

Face Coverings

Based on the Center for Disease Control (CDC), face coverings are not required. Masks will be available at school.

Transportation

Face coverings will not be required on school transportation.

Return to the classroom

Students and staff will practice safety procedures such as regular hand washing, cough etiquette, and distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Schedules

Students will attend five days a week with a regular schedule following the school calendar. Distance learning will not be available as an option.

Communication

We will provide ongoing and systematic communication from school to staff and families.

COVID-19 Close Contacts

Close contacts include anyone who was within 3 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes over a 24-hour period. Fully vaccinated people are not considered close contacts. Situations where both individuals were properly wearing face coverings are also exempt. The school will notify families when a student has been considered a close contact.

Quarantine/Isolation

People who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days and fully vaccinated people are not recommended to quarantine in most situations. Quarantines/isolations after an exposure to COVID-19 will be 10 days based on parent choice, unless they were a close contact and develop symptoms. A shortened quarantine/isolation is possible with a negative COVID test after the 7th day, OR if they have had a negative test after day 5. (May return but should mask from the day they test negative through the end of day 10)



Frequently Asked Questions

Are Vaccines required for staff or students?

No, Vaccines are not required, but are highly recommended.

Are face masks required?

Face masks or face coverings are not required in school buildings.

Will students attend 5 days a week?

Yes, all students will attend all day, 5 days a week

Is Distance Learning still an option?

No, with changes in state guidance, distance learning is no longer an option.

****The possibility of an online option is available; however, classes will not be taught by Grand Meadow Staff. Please contact Mr. Rosaaen, MS/MS Principal for more information****

If I'm vaccinated, will I still have to quarantine if I'm exposed to COVID-19?

In most cases it is not necessary to quarantine if you are fully vaccinated.

Will the district still notify us if our student is exposed to COVID-19?

Yes, we will be doing contact tracing and providing notification when a student has been exposed at school.

Are you still doing regular cleaning and disinfecting?

Yes, there will be daily cleaning and disinfecting practices in place.

Are activities back to normal schedules and seasons?

This is decided by the Minnesota State High School League. We are expecting to have normal schedules and seasons.

Are events still limited to a certain capacity?

No, this requirement has been removed

If I test positive for COVID-19, how long do I need to stay out of school?

People who test positive for COVID-19 must stay home until all three of these are true:

1. They feel better, and their symptoms have resolved
2. They have no fever for at least 24 hours without medications.
3. It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive, OR if they have had a negative test after day 5.