

Southland School District

Return To School Safe Learning Plan

2020-2021

Updated March 15, 2021



Southland School District

March 15, 2021

Dear Southland Families,

Southland School District will be moving from our current “Flexible Learning Day” model to an in-person learning model with K-12 students attending school 5 days/week (or all scheduled school days) for the 4th quarter starting April 6th. Southland believes that in-person learning is the most effective way to educate our students. The number of students choosing or required to learn via distance learning has remained low over the past several weeks.

We fully understand that there is still the risk of positive COVID-19 cases at school requiring large numbers of students to move to distance learning for a period of time. In these situations, it may be necessary to move a specific group of students back to the “Flexible Learning Day” model to allow teachers adequate time to prepare lessons for both in-person students and distance learning students.

Our staff is preparing to welcome our students back to school full-time for the 4th quarter and look forward to the additional in-person instructional time.

Sincerely,

Scott Hall

Superintendent, Southland School District



Southland School District

2020-2021 Return To School Planning Process

- Collected feedback and input from parents, students, and staff
- Consulted with local, regional, and state level health officials
 - Consultation with health officials will be ongoing throughout the school year
- Collaborated with area school districts to generate ideas
- Created back-to-school planning team
 - Tasked with developing the best plan possible that takes all factors into account
 - PreK-12 Staff, Administration, Transportation, Food Service, School Nurse, Facility Management
- School board considers approval of back-to-school plan
 - August 17th, 2020



Southland School District

Communication

- Southland Website: Primary source for information; updated regularly
 - Parent Portal: Email updates to parents will be delivered through the Parent Portal
 - Social Media: The Southland Facebook page will be updated frequently
- *Notification of Positive Cases: Staff and students exposed to COVID-19 will be notified as quickly as possible. Personal information will not be shared.



Southland School District

Instructional Model Scenarios

- **In-Person Learning**

- All students attend school with additional health and safety procedures in place.

- **Hybrid Learning**

- 50% capacity and 6 foot physical distancing must be maintained at all times.
- School transportation must operate at 50% capacity.

- **Distance Learning**

- All students learn remotely.

*All families have the option to choose distance learning for their student(s)



Southland School District

Learning Model Determination

- The Southland back-to-school planning team and school board engaged in the 5 recommended steps to determine our safe learning model.
- County-level health data and consultation with MDH officials supported and In-Person Learning Model to start the 2020-2021 school year.

How do schools determine their safe learning model?

STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.*

STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.



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Southland School Model (4th Quarter)

- We plan to start the 4th quarter with an **In-Person** model for all PreK-12 students
 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: Regular schedule 8:15 AM-3:00 PM
 - Enhanced health and safety precautions will be in place
 - The safety of Southland students and staff is a top priority
 - Precautions will reflect the guidance of local, county, and state health departments and the CDC



Southland School District

In-Person Model Overview

- Students will attend school in-person and follow traditional schedules
- Implement as much physical distancing as feasible
 - *Not required to maintain 6 feet of physical distancing at all times*
- Learning spaces will be maximized to allow as much physical distancing as feasible
- Limited use of shared instructional supplies
- Learning spaces may be modified
- Arrival and dismissal times and locations will be staggered based on transportation schedules
- Lunches and recess will be staggered
- Drinking fountains will be disabled, but water bottle filling stations will remain operable
- Elementary recess schedules will be modified to allow increased physical distancing
- Traditional grading will continue



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In-Person Model Health and Safety Requirements

- Masking Policy
- PPE for direct support student services
- Routines of hygiene education and practices
- Daily and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day
- Building Level COVID-19 program coordinator to monitor situations
- Limit non-essential visitors/volunteers/external groups
- Discontinue large gatherings that do not allow for social distancing
- Monitor and exclude for illness



Southland School District

In-Person Model Schedule

	MONDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM	TUESDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM	WEDNESDAY 8:15 AM-2:00 PM	THURSDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM	FRIDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM
Elementary: K-5	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON
Middle School/High School: 6-12	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON	IN-PERSON



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Hybrid Model Overview

- In addition to the In-Person requirements, the hybrid model requirements include:
- Limit overall number of people in school facilities and transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy
- Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at all times
- Transportation will operate at 50% capacity
- Traditional grading will continue
- In-person learning and distance learning activities will reinforce and complement each other.
 - Teachers will use the Zoom Pro platform that will allow distance learning students to interact and learn remotely with their teachers and peers
 - Distance learning components may include “flipped” instruction with short mini-lessons, multimedia-enhanced content, learning practice, virtual discussion boards



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Hybrid Model Health and Safety Requirements

- These requirements are in addition to the health and safety requirements for the in-person model:
 - Physical distancing of 6 feet must be maintained at all times
 - School facilities and transportation operate at a maximum of 50% occupancy capacity
 - Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the hybrid model



Southland School District

Hybrid Model: Elementary

- Students will be assigned to a “Blue Group” or a “Red Group”
 - Group designation will be made at the beginning of the school year based on class numbers and transportation needs
- The “Blue Group” and “Red Group” will attend school in-person with their teacher on designated days a
 - “Blue Group” attends in-person Monday and Thursday
 - “Red Group” participates in distance learning on Monday and Thursday or attends in-person if transportation is arranged
 - “Red Group” attends in-person on Tuesday and Friday
 - “Blue Group” participates in distance learning on Monday and Thursday or attends in-person if transportation is arranged
- All students will do distance learning from home on Wednesday



Hybrid Model: Elementary Continued...

- School transportation will be provided for students on their designated days.
 - A “Red” student will have school transportation on “Red” days.
- Elementary students may attend school in-person on their opposite day if parents provide transportation to and from school.
 - A “Red” student may attend school in-person on a “Blue” day.
- Students choosing to attend school on their opposite day may receive synchronized instruction from a learning space apart from the regular classroom if physical distancing can not be achieved in the main classroom.
 - A “Red” student may need to learn in an alternate (supervised) learning space on a “Blue” day if the appropriate physical distancing can not be achieved in the main classroom.



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Hybrid Model Middle/High School

- Students will be assigned to a “Blue Group” or a “Red Group”
 - Group assignments will be made at the beginning of the school year based on class numbers and transportation needs
- The “Blue Group” and “Red Group” will attend school in-person with their teacher on designated days
 - “Blue Group” attends in-person Monday and Thursday
 - “Red Group” participates in distance learning on Monday and Thursday
 - “Red Group” attends in-person on Tuesday and Friday
 - “Blue Group” participates in distance learning on Monday and Thursday
- All students will do distance learning from home on Wednesday



Southland School District

Hybrid Model MS/HS School Continued...

- School transportation will be provided for students on their designated days
 - A “Red” student will have school transportation on “Red” days.
- The learning spaces will be flexible and potentially modified to allow for continuous instruction
- Distance learning students are expected to follow the regular schedule and be present virtually via Zoom for their classes



Southland School District

Hybrid Model Schedule

	MONDAY 8:15 AM- 3:00 PM	TUESDAY 8:15 AM- 3:00 PM	WEDNESDAY 8:15 AM- 2:00 PM	THURSDAY 8:15 AM- 3:00 PM	FRIDAY 8:15 AM- 3:00 PM
Elementary: K-5	RED DAY	BLUE DAY	DISTANCE LEARNING	RED DAY	BLUE DAY
Middle School/High School: 6-12	RED DAY	BLUE DAY	DISTANCE LEARNING	RED DAY	BLUE DAY



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Distance Learning Model Overview

- This is the least favorable model and will only be implemented if current local health conditions decline to the point that health officials require schools to use the distance learning model
- Students and teachers follow typical schedule
 - Schedule may be modified based on staff/student/parent feedback
- All students will become virtual learners
 - Student are required to attend virtual classes for attendance purposes
- Traditional grading will continue



Southland School District

Operations

- Social and Physical Distancing
 - During in-person learning we will create as much space between students as is feasible.
 - During hybrid learning social distancing of at least 6 feet between people will occur at all times.
- International Travel
 - Students and staff who travel outside of the United States must follow CDC quarantine guidance
- Facility Use
 - Facility use will be restricted to school/student groups only during the school day.
 - Visitors will be limited. If feasible, visitors will be asked to stay outside for child pick-up/drop-off.
 - Athletic events and activities may be held per MDE guidelines as of 10/8/2020 (See Page 43).



Southland School District

Operations Continued...

- Face Coverings
 - Southland students and staff must wear a face covering when indoors or in school vehicles
 - A limited number of cloth and disposable masks will be available for students
 - Students are encouraged to provide their face covering
- Cleaning and Disinfecting
 - Increased frequency of daily disinfecting
 - Staggered use of communal spaces to allow for disinfecting
 - Sharing of objects between staff/students will be minimized
 - Cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms



Southland School District

Operations Continued...

- Cleaning and Disinfecting Con't...
 - Hygiene education will be delivered to all students and staff on a continual basis
 - Signage to remind and reinforce physical distancing and hand washing will be displayed throughout the building
- Custodian schedules will be modified to allow high touch surfaces to be cleaned on a repetitive cycle during the school day



Health and Safety

- COVID-19 affects different people in different ways
- Infected people have a wide range of symptoms—from mild to severe
- School staff and visitors will be screened daily
- CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screening for students at school
 - Parents will be the fundamental part of the student screening process
- Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure
 - Fever/chills
 - New or worsening cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Fatigue
 - Body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion/Runny nose
 - Nausea/Vomiting
 - Diarrhea



Southland School District

Health and Safety Continued...

- Students found to be ill at school will be screened according to the most current Decision Tree Guide
 - Students that have symptoms (per the Decision Tree guide) will be in an isolation room until they can be picked up by a parent or caregiver.
 - The isolation room is not intended to hold students all day—It is a waiting area isolated from non-symptomatic students.
- It is absolutely imperative that your phone numbers are up-to-date as well as the emergency contact phone numbers.
- Make sure you have a BACK UP PLAN for your student(s) in the event they need to be sent home (per Decision Tree guide) and/or your student(s) need to be sent home by the school nurse or other delegate.

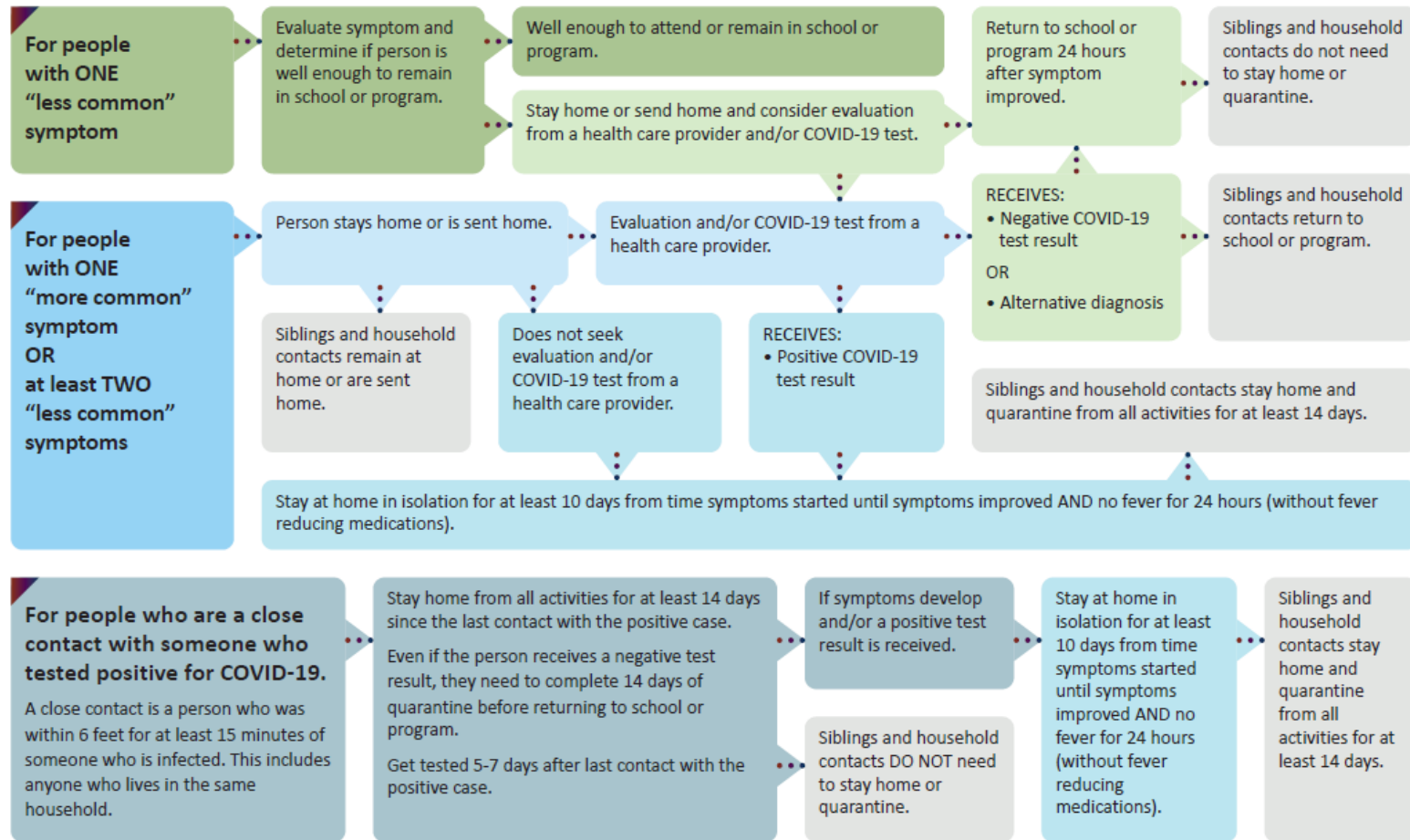


Southland School District

COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

- **More common:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4° F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- **Less common:** sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.



m MINNESOTA

STAY SAFE MN

Minnesota Department of Health | health.mn.gov | 651-201-5000
 625 Robert Street North PO Box 64975, St. Paul, MN 55164-0975
 Contact health.communications@state.mn.us to request an alternate format. | 8/31/2020

Southland School District

Parent/Student Expectations

- Parents are expected to conduct a DAILY screening of their students
- It is critical that parents, students, and staff comply with the daily health screening check list on a daily basis
 - Screening measures won't prevent all transmission, but the goal is to minimize transmission as much as possible
- It is strongly recommended that all students have 5 reusable masks labeled with the child's first and last name
- While there will be access to masks at school, they will likely be in short supply
- Students should wear a fresh, clean mask each day



Southland School District

Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information [INSERT YOUR SCHOOL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS] in the morning before your child leaves for school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework
<input type="checkbox"/>	Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework) while the school remains open



Southland School District

Early Childhood Programming

- Southland's Early Childhood Center will continue with its regular programming
 - Increased physical distancing will be implemented when feasible.
 - In the event the K-12 building needs to operate under a hybrid model, arrangements will be made to ensure 6 feet social distancing.
 - Wearing face coverings for Early Childhood students is optional.
- Pre-School: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Play and Learn: Tuesday, Thursday



Southland School District

School-Age Care

- Southland's School-Age Care will be available for all qualifying students
 - Additional physical distancing measures will be implemented
 - Additional health and safety precautions are in place
- Southland will provide school-age care for children of Tier 1 Essential Workers at no cost during typical school hours
- Additional staffing is planned to accommodate those families in need of SAC on Wednesday afternoons due to the early release schedule



Southland School District

Special Education Services

- Southland's special education department and our partnership with SMEC will continue to provide educational services for students with disabilities by meeting their unique needs in alignment with state and local regulations.
- Special education staff will communicate with families to reconvene IEP teams, when necessary, to discuss the most appropriate placement and method of providing services.
- Access to education may need to be reconfigured to meet physical distancing guidelines while meeting individual needs.
- Caseloads may need to be redesigned to provide access to individual learning to the IEP.



Southland School District

Distance Learning Option

- Families who choose not to send their children to school during in-person or hybrid learning can choose a distance learning option.
 - This decision must be made at the beginning of the each quarter or at mid-quarter
- Students will be required to follow the regular school schedule virtually for attendance purposes
- Traditional grading will be used
- Families who choose to start the year with the distance learning option should commit to keeping their child in that model for a full quarter of the school year
 - Students choosing to move to an in-person or hybrid model from the distance learning option can do so at the quarter breaks



Southland School District

Distance Learning Option Continued

- Movement to distance learning for families requesting to move to distance learning from in-person or hybrid for reasons other than a health issue will only be allowed at quarter or mid-quarter
 - Movement back to in-person or hybrid learning will be allowed at the quarter or mid-quarter



Southland School District

Transportation

- In-Person Model

- During in-person learning we will create as much space between students as is feasible on buses and vans.
- Vehicles will be disinfected after each use

- Hybrid Model

- During hybrid learning the number of students on transportation vehicles will be limited to 50% capacity
- Bus/Van routes will likely be different than the in-person model routes
 - Hybrid model bus routes are being developed based on the information from the transportation forms distributed to families.



Transportation Continued...

- Drivers and students must wear face coverings
- Vehicles will be disinfected after each route
- Students may have assigned seats
- Students will load buses from back to front
- Field trips are postponed until further notice
- Families will be notified of their in-person model bus route schedule as well as their hybrid model bus route schedule
- Transportation routes will be developed based on the responses from the transportation form sent to all families



Southland School District

Food Service

- Arrangements have been made to allow for additional physical distancing during lunch periods.
- Cafeteria tables and serving areas will be disinfected between lunch periods.
- All students and staff will wash and/or sanitize their hands before and after lunch.
- Lunches will be available for students choose the distance learning option.



Southland School District

Food Service Continued...

- Elementary
 - Grab-and-go breakfast stations will be set up in the elementary wing
 - Students will eat breakfast in their classroom
 - Lunch will be served in the cafeteria
 - A staggered lunch schedule will limit only one classroom group eating at a time in the cafeteria
- Middle School/High School
 - Grab-and-go breakfast stations will be set up in the commons
 - Students will eat breakfast in their 1st hour classroom
 - Lunch will be served in the commons to allow for increased physical distancing



Southland School District

Social Emotional/Mental Health Support

- Based on Southland parent/student/staff survey results, supporting the mental health of students and staff is a top priority
- Training and support will be delivered to all school staff through on-going in-person trainings, online courses, and information resources.
- Southland's school social worker will coordinate mental health supports for students by utilizing the resources available from national, state, and local mental health support organizations.



Southland School District

Flexible Learning Days

- Many challenges, both expected and unforeseen, have led us to develop a better way to deliver the best education possible to Southland students. Balancing the preparation and simultaneous instruction for both in-person learners and distance learners is a demanding task.
- After careful consideration with input from teachers, administration, and board members we recommend implementing Flexible Learning Days for all regularly scheduled Wednesdays starting October 21st through April 1st. All K-12 students will be learning remotely from home on Flexible Learning Days. Our Early Childhood programming will continue with its regular schedule.



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Flexible Learning Days Continued...

- The additional time on Wednesdays to assist struggling learners, challenge accelerated learners, prepare quality lessons, and contact parents will allow teachers to provide a higher-quality educational experience for our students via in-person learning on the remaining four days of the week.
- The Flexible Learning Plan may be implemented in certain circumstances as needed during the 4th quarter of the 2020-2021 school year.



Southland School District

Flexible Learning Days Continued...

- Secondary (6-12)
 - Complete pre-assigned classwork and/or coursework via Schoology
 - Secondary students should log into Schoology and complete the learning activity/assignment for each class
 - Secondary students need to check in on their Rebels Homeroom Advisor's Schoology page for attendance by 3:00 PM or they will be marked absent
 - If students are unable to participate in Flexible Learning Day activities, parents should contact the MS/HS office to excuse their child
- Elementary (K-5)
 - Complete pre-assigned classwork
 - Mainly paper/pencil projects and activities
 - iPads will not be sent home for K-3 students
 - Student attendance will be based on assignment completion
 - If students are unable to participate in Flexible Learning Day activities, parents should contact the elementary office to excuse their child



Southland School District

Use of Facilities for Non-School Activities

- Spectators must be separated by at least 6 feet for all indoor events
- No venue may exceed a capacity of 250 spectators
- Advanced reservation or ticketing must be used
- Spectators are only allowed at official competitions and events
- Names/Phone numbers/Email will be collected for quick notification if an individual develops COVID-19



Southland School District

Plan-In-Motion

- Southland's Safe Learning Plan is a work-in-progress.
- Our plan will be altered as needed based on updated health information. In addition, the procedures and routines we intend to implement may need to be modified as we navigate the beginning of the school year.
- The Southland School District is committed to providing a safe learning environment and an exceptional educational experience.



Southland School District