



August 21st, 2023

Dear Southland Families,

Southland School District will be moving forward with this updated "Safe Learning Plan" based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health, the Centers For Disease Control, and the Minnesota Department of Education for the 2023-2024 school year.

Our goal is to keep all of our students safe, healthy, and in school to have great learning experience this year while developing meaningful relationships with their peers and staff members.

Sincerely,

Scott Hall

Superintendent, 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



In-Person Model Health and Safety Requirements

- PPE is available for direct support student services
- Routines of hygiene education and practices
- Daily and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces
- Building Level COVID-19 program coordinator to monitor situations
- Monitor and exclude for illness
- All positive COVID-19 cases will be reported to MDH



In-Person Model Schedule

	MONDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM	TUESDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 PM	WEDNESDAY 8:15 AM-3:00 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



Operations

- Social and Physical Distancing
 - During in-person learning we will create as much space between students as is feasible with a goal of at least 3 feet.
- Facility Use
 - Events and activities will follow the most upto-date Southland "Safe Learning Plan" requirements



Operations Continued...

- Face Coverings
 - Face coverings are available for students and staff on school property
- 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



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 frequently
- The highest air quality standards will be maintained with increase circulation and bipolar ionization



Health and Safety

- COVID-19 affects different people in different ways
- Infected people have a wide range of symptoms—from mild to severe
- CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screening for students at school
 - Parents will be the fundamental part of the student screening process

- More common symptoms: Fever of 100.4 or higher, new loss of taste/smell, difficulty breathing, new or worsening cough
- Less common symptoms: Sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, new severe head ache, new nasal congestion, runny nose



Early Childhood Programming

- Southland's Early Childhood Center will continue with its regular programming
 - Increased physical distancing will be implemented when feasible
 - Wearing face coverings for Early Childhood students and staff is recommended
- Pre-School: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
- Play and Learn: Tuesday, Thursday



School-Age Care

- Southland's School-Age Care will be available for all qualifying students
 - Additional physical distancing and grouping measures will be implemented when feasible



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.



Transportation

- In-Person Model
 - Vehicles will be disinfected routinely
 - Students may have assigned seats



Food Service

- 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.



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 ongoing 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.



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.

