



Independent School Dist. No. 857
100 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952
(507) 523-2191

Gwen Carman, Superintendent
Cory Hanson, High School Principal • Dave Riebel, Elementary/Intermediate Principal

2021-22 Return to School Safe Learning Plan

August 23, 2021

This Plan is in place because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and that it may remain ongoing for an unknown time.

The Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information that are included in this Plan. This plan was approved by the School Board August 17, 2021. The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement the Safe Learning Plan and the plan will be adjusted accordingly.

DISTRICT GOALS AND PRIORITIES IN OUR SAFE LEARNING PLAN

- Keep students in classrooms with school staff as much as possible (including avoiding quarantines)
- Re-establish as much 'normalcy' in routines and student activities as possible.
- Protect students and staff from COVID-19/Delta or other variants – **especially to avoid in-school transmission**
- Prioritize protecting students who are unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination
- Implement as many layers of COVID-19 mitigation strategies as possible.

POSITIVE CASES of COVID-19

- Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 10-days before returning to school.

QUARANTINE INFORMATION

Close Contact Definition: An unmasked person within 6 feet for a cumulative of 15-minutes in 24-hours OR if both persons are masked less than 3 feet for a cumulative of 15-minutes in 24-hours.

	Vaccinated Close Contacts	Masked and Unvaccinated Close Contacts	Unmasked and Unvaccinated Close Contacts
Contact tracing in situations when a positive case IS NOT wearing a mask	Do not need to quarantine.*	Not required to quarantine but must take COVID-19 test on Day 5 after close contact.	Must quarantine for 7 or 14 days (see quarantine details).
Contact tracing in situations when a positive case IS wearing a mask	Do not need to quarantine.*	Do not need to quarantine.*	Must quarantine for 7 or 14 days (see quarantine details).

REQUIRED QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS FOR DIRECT CONTACTS (for all school sponsored activities)

- *Vaccinated individuals will NOT need to quarantine UNLESS they develop symptoms. (Recommend testing 5-7 days after exposure)

Unvaccinated

- 7 Days: Close contact (non-family member) with a documented negative PCR test on day five or later after last contact with positive case. Must wear a mask while indoors at all school activities until 14 days is over.
- 14 Days: If the person chooses not to test, the person must quarantine for 14-days.

FACIAL COVERINGS INDOORS**

- All **PK-12 unvaccinated staff** must appropriately wear a mask indoors unless in a room by themselves.
- **PK-6 vaccinated staff** must appropriately wear a mask OR a face shield.
- **PK – 6 students** must appropriately wear a mask indoors (see meal guidelines).
- **Grade 7-12 students and Gr. 7-12 vaccinated staff** are strongly recommended to wear a mask or face shield. This includes athletics practices and competitions, and other school sponsored activities.
- All students and all staff must wear a mask **on school buses and in school vans** per existing Federal Mask Requirements for Transit (currently through January 18, 2022). This includes upon getting on the bus, when riding the bus and until the student departs the bus. Eating and drinking on school buses is not allowed.

**All mask requirements are subject to change pending school, local and Winona County COVID-19 case and full vaccination rates data.

FACIAL COVERINGS OUTDOORS

Masks are recommended but not required outdoors for all district sponsored activities when social distancing cannot be maintained.

FACE MASK AVAILABILITY:

The school district is unable to provide students or staff a mask to wear every day. The district will provide a mask for occasional circumstances when a mask is forgotten or becomes unusable, but students and staff are generally responsible for having a mask available for use at all times. Offices may have masks for sale.

CLASSROOM COHORTS/PODS/CLASSES

PK, Elementary & Intermediate:

- While indoors, students remain in class pods as much as possible.
- Intervention and Special Education may have mixed groups with distancing within their classrooms. Grade level classrooms can mix outdoors for recess.

PK-12: Teachers must develop and students adhere to seating charts for the purpose of contact tracing.

INSTRUCTION

- K-6 students whose families prefer remote learning vs receiving instruction in classrooms with face to face learning will be able to enroll full-time for online instruction through our district. A L-A teacher will be the contact in daily communication with the student to assure daily attendance and course progression are happening.

- After it is determined that a student must quarantine, parents will receive a communication from each teacher by 4:00pm the following school day.
- Students who are absent from school for quarantines will have a “Continued Instruction Plan.” Teachers will determine most appropriate strategy(ies) to support student – may include live instruction from classroom, video recorded lessons, copies of class notes, assignments available via Schoology or SeeSaw, etc.
- Special Education Recovery Plans will be completed per MDE requirements. Meetings will be scheduled by December 1st.
- IEP Meetings – Parents may choose face-to-face vs. online or telephone meeting, but we will consider group size prior to scheduling a room (conference room at high school not conducive to most meetings)
- High School students participating in on-site work experience: Pending the work site requirements, if the student is vaccinated s/he does not need to wear a mask; unvaccinated students must wear a mask.

MEALS AND WATER PROTOCOLS

- Water fountains will only be used for filling water bottles.
- Staff must sit at least at least six feet apart when eating.

Elementary & Intermediate:

- Breakfast: In classrooms to allow for scheduled start of day.
- Lunch: Classrooms will eat in the cafeteria and sit every other seat, but classrooms will be separated. We will follow grade level schedules for recess/lunch.

High School:

- Water Bottles may be used in classrooms.
- Breakfast and lunch in cafeteria and in the gym bleachers.
- Four students per table with a seating chart and eating in bleachers. If there is a positive case at a cafeteria table, all at the table may be identified as a direct contact.
- No open gym after meals

SCHOOL BUS AND VAN TRANSPORTATION PROTOCOLS

- Masks are required for all students and adults at all times on bus rides. No food or drink on buses.
- Students must enter bus wearing a mask and keep it on until off the bus. Parents, staff (ISD #857 and parochial) must consistently enforce and support this.)
- Intentional violations of this will be treated as a bus behavior incident. Riding a school bus is a privilege, not a right.
- Buses will be sanitized after morning route.
- Seating Charts are required. Buses at full capacity. Drivers that are not vaccinated must have 6ft distance from the driver. Vaccinated drivers can have full seat capacity.

ABSENCES, REPORTING SYMPTOMS IN THE CASE OF ABSENCES and COVID-19 TESTING:

- Students and staff should stay home if they have signs of any infectious illness and should contact their health care provider for testing and care.
- Parents and staff must provide the office complete and accurate information for the purpose of an absence from school. Incomplete or inaccurate information may result in the absence being recorded as unexcused.
- If an unvaccinated student or staff member is awaiting results from a COVID-19 test due to a possible exposure, the person may not be in school.
- Students and staff experiencing COVID like symptoms must stay home.
- If a staff member is required to quarantine, staff member must use paid or unpaid leave in accordance with his/her Work Agreement/Contract. Teaching from home will be allowed by administration only if there are circumstances of a whole class quarantine.

VACCINATION VERIFICATION (for purposes of determining masking and quarantine requirements)

- All staff will be asked to provide School Nurse/Safe Schools Coordinator Michelle MacPherson volunteer permission to access MIIC (statewide database) to determine individual's vaccination status.
- If voluntary permission is denied, or the staff member is not fully vaccinated, the staff member must wear a mask while indoors at work.

HEALTH SCREENING/ARRIVAL

Elementary & Intermediate: Staggered arrivals, then straight to classrooms for breakfast, sanitize hands upon entry, thermometer available at the office

High School – Sanitize upon entry strongly encouraged; thermometers available at the office. 9/10 C-gym and 7/8 B-Gym, 11th/12th spread out in hallways prior to 1st bell.

HAND HYGIENE PRACTICES

- Students and staff expected to sanitize upon entry to each building.
- Sanitization throughout the day is encouraged, especially when entering a new room or space.
- Students will wash hands prior to lunch.

PHYSICAL/SOCIAL DISTANCING

- All students and staff recommended to maintain a 3' distancing as much as possible throughout the day.

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Classrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned and sanitized one time per day at the end of the school day.
- Lunch areas will be cleaned and/or sanitized between lunch sessions.
- Buses will be sanitized between morning and afternoon routes.

VISITORS

- Elementary and Intermediate Schools: All visitors and parents in the buildings must wear a mask.
- High School: All visitors and parents in the building during the school day must wear a mask, unless proof of vaccination is provided.
- Spectators of after school/evening indoor school events are strongly encouraged to wear masks.

VENTILATION

- Air exchange practices in all buildings will continue as done in 2020-21.

STAFF & PARENT ONGOING INPUT & RESPONDING TO CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES

- Building principals are the first contact for staff, parent and student questions or concerns regarding COVID-19 protocols. These discussions may be held individually and also as a regular part of staff meetings.
- Superintendent is also available to address broader concerns and will have ongoing communication with principals regarding concerns brought to them.

- School Nurse/Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator will review situations and determine quarantine requirements. She will also provide updates on COVID-19 case rate data and other relevant information at least bi-weekly.
- Superintendent, Building Principals and School Nurse will continue to monitor district and local COVID-19 case rate data, positive COVID-19 cases or any changes in COVID-19/Safe Learning guidance or mandates for schools.
- Superintendent will consult with School Board on any proposed significant changes to the Safe Learning Plan.