

Esko Public Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies Fall 2021

Esko Public Schools remains committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff and visitors to our buildings as we look forward to a more typical but transitional year of in-person learning, five days a week, in 2021-22.

As we have done throughout the pandemic, the District will continue to consider guidance from the state, reviewing recommendations and implementing requirements from state or other regulatory agencies, making appropriate changes based on data related to local conditions.

Face Coverings

- Face coverings are required on all district provided transportation in accordance with federal guidelines. This includes all pre-K through 12th grade students, drivers and other staff, and extends to extracurricular trips.
- Face coverings are required indoors for all students Pre-K through 6th grade and the staff, visitors and volunteers who work with this population or students, regardless of vaccination status. This requirement is for school hours only. Students will be permitted to remove masks while eating and at recess. Pre-K through 6th grade staff members may remove masks or alternately use a face shield in unique, educationally necessary circumstances.
- Face coverings, while indoors, are recommended but not required for students and staff in grades 7-12.
- In unique circumstances where K-12 students may be commingled in a single space, building administrators will assess the need for appropriately adjusted masking measures.
- Symptomatic people will be required to wear a face covering and isolate while waiting to go home or visiting the nurse.

Physical Distancing

- All learners will attend school in person five days a week.
- We will maximize physical distancing in learning spaces to the extent possible.

Cleaning and Sanitizing Protocols

- Cleaning and sanitizing protocols from the 2020-21 school year will continue.
- Hand washing routines will continue.
- Hand sanitizer will continue to be available.

Daily Health Screening

Parents are required to pre-screen their children daily for symptoms of COVID-19 prior to their arrival at school or the bus stop. In accordance with Minnesota Department of Health standards and the Esko Public Schools Health Plan, students with the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should not come to school:

- Fever greater than or equal to 100.4 F *

- New onset and/or worsening cough
- Difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell
- OR at least two of the following:
 - Sore throat
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting *
 - Diarrhea
 - Chills
 - Muscle pain
 - Excessive fatigue
 - New onset of severe headache
 - New onset of nasal congestion or runny nose

****Please Note: The standard illness policy states that students must stay home for at least 24 hours after the last incident of vomiting or frequent diarrhea and/or resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.***

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

- Confirmed COVID-19 cases will continue to be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Quarantine

- Quarantine due to a COVID-19 exposure is **not required if**:
 - Individual(s) are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms.
 - Individual(s) have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and do not have symptoms.
 - Individuals were masked at the time of exposure (this will apply to all Pre-K-6 students and staff and any 7-12 student who is unvaccinated but masked at the time of exposure).
- Learners or staff are required to quarantine for 10 days, if they:
 - test positive for COVID-19 or
 - have COVID-19 like symptoms or
 - live with someone who tests positive/displays COVID-19 like symptoms unless:
 - Individual(s) are fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms.
 - Individual(s) have tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 90 days and do not have symptoms.

- Quarantines may be shortened to 7 days after exposure if individual(s) provides proof of a negative PCR test taken at or after day 5 from exposure. Documentation is to be provided to the school nurse.
- Families and staff will be notified of an exposure in an ISD 99 setting and should monitor for symptoms of COVID-19.

Transportation

- Masks are required on all district provided transportation in accordance with federal guidelines.
- 3 feet of physical distance will be maintained between drivers and riders.

Changing Circumstances

If the CDC and/or Minnesota Department of Health issues new requirements at any point throughout the year, ISD 99 will make any necessary adjustments and communicate those with staff and families as soon as possible.

Additionally, the Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with the Board of Education Chairperson, will make and communicate safety and health-related decisions as they deem necessary and appropriate due to the changing circumstances of the pandemic.

Activities and Athletics

We continue to review recommendations and follow any requirements outlined by Minnesota Department of Health in conjunction with the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Academics

- There will be no Monday half-days in 2021-22, but Wednesday 2:30 p.m early dismissals for staff development will resume.
- The option for elective full distance learning will not exist for the 2021-22 school year. Staff will, however, prepare students with skills and knowledge required for full distance learning as the possibility for school wide full distance learning persists as a result of changing local or statewide conditions or requirements.
- Students who are isolated as a result of illness will have access to learning materials as they would in a typical school year. Live streaming of classes and daily interaction with teachers is not required for students who are isolated or quarantined.
- Esko Publics Schools extensive experiences with digital learning, one-to-one devices, and learning management systems will ensure high-quality education in the unanticipated event that our schools must quickly transition to distance learning as a result of changing local statewide conditions or requirements.