

Health & Safety Protocols

We are excited to welcome students back to the 2021-2022 school year. Our first priority is for students to be safe and in school. With that said, it will be vital for our Watertown-Mayer families to be the first line of support in making sure our students come to school ready to learn. In this document we have provided you with additional information and protocols that support our Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan. Please know we will continue to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on our school operations and make timely decisions and adjustments to this plan as needed.

Each year, we see students come to school with symptoms of allergies and illnesses such as colds, strep throat and the flu. During this pandemic, we will evaluate these cases and send students home as needed. If your student is experiencing symptoms of illness, they will need to be kept home from school. In some instances, we will encourage you to consider having your child tested for COVID-19. Our district is currently looking into on-site COVID-19 testing options for students and staff.

The district will continue to monitor levels of illness in buildings throughout the district. Changes in COVID-19 protocols and The Safe Return to Learning Plan will be adjusted as necessary. If needed, additional mitigation measures may include masking requirements, quarantining of classrooms, and testing requirements for ill students.

Daily At-Home Screening

Parents will continue to be the first line of defense in our Health & Safety protocols. Symptoms, even mild, pose a risk of COVID entering our schools. Parents/caregivers are expected to perform a **daily** health screening for their children **before** sending them to school. Students will need to remain at home if they have any of the following:

One of the following “more common” symptoms:

- Fever (100.4 or higher)
- New cough or a cough that gets worse
- Difficulty/hard time breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

OR

At least **two** of the “less common” symptoms:

- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- Excessive fatigue/feeling very tired
- Gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
- New severe/very bad headache
- New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose

DO NOT come to school or work if a student or staff:

- Has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 10 days
- Awaiting COVID-19 test results for themselves due to symptoms
- A household member has tested positive for COVID-19 and student or staff is not vaccinated

Please notify the attendance line and report if any of the above symptoms are present:

- Community Learning Center
 - Community Education/Early Childhood - 952-955-0280
 - Kids Company & Caring Hands Childcare - 952-955-0291
- Elementary School - 952-955-0321
- Middle School - 952-955-0421
- High School - 952-955-0621

Preventing the Spread

The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends anyone with one of the more common or two of the less common symptoms listed above either be tested for COVID-19, get an alternative diagnosis, or remain out of school and activities for 10 days. Following these recommendations is the best way for all buildings to remain open for in-person learning. Please do your part to keep everyone safe and healthy!

Students exhibiting any signs of illness during the school day will be sent home. Parents will be asked to pick up their students in a

timely manner. Students exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19 will be asked to wear a disposable mask while in the health office and until picked up by parent or guardian.

Returning to School

Symptomatic students, regardless of vaccination status, will be allowed to return to school when they have:

1. Improvement of symptoms AND
2. 24 hour fever free without fever reducing medication (Tylenol, Motrin, Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen) AND
3. 24 hour free from diarrhea/vomiting
4. **The Minnesota Department of Health strongly recommends anyone with one of the more common or two of the less common symptoms listed above either be tested for COVID-19, get an alternative diagnosis, or remain out of school and activities for 10 days.**
5. **Families can also order an at-home test at no cost or find a location offering no cost testing**

Elementary Protocols

Currently, elementary students are not able to be vaccinated, however, we anticipate changes soon. In the meantime, we have added some additional mitigation measures for K-4 students and staff already in place.

Positive COVID-19 Classroom Cases	Mitigation Measures
1	Masks will be required for 14 days for students and staff in that classroom from the last day of exposure. This is being done to help reduce the spread within the classroom.
2	Masks continue to be required for the full 14 day incubation period (date based on most recent case exposure).
3 (date based on most recent case exposure)	Entire classroom shifts to a maximum 10 day quarantine from the last date of classroom exposure <i>providing</i> additional cases are not identified.

Please be advised that all things are subject to change - any changes in protocol will be posted on our school website under our 'Safe Return to School Plan'.

WM Community Learning Center Protocols

Positive COVID-19 Classroom Cases	Mitigation Measures
2 or more cases (date based on most recent case exposure)	Entire classroom shifts to a maximum 10 day quarantine from the last date of classroom exposure <i>providing</i> additional cases are not identified.

Please be advised that all things are subject to change - any changes in protocol will be posted on our school website under our 'Safe Return to School Plan'.

Quarantine

Situation	Protocol
Vaccinated student/staff has a household member that tested positive for COVID.	May attend school/activities, monitor themselves closely for symptoms. If symptoms present, isolate immediately and get a COVID test. Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure even if no symptoms are present. If a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms <i>at any time within 14 days of exposure</i> , a COVID-19 test is REQUIRED prior to return to school/activities. It will be required to share your test result with the building nurse prior to returning to school.
Unvaccinated student/staff member has a household member that tested positive for COVID.	Unvaccinated students/staff members can begin their quarantine period the day after the last day of contact with the person with COVID-19.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the student/staff can separate from the household member they should do so. Quarantine can begin the day after separation. • If the student/staff can not separate from the positive household contact their quarantine can not begin until the isolation period (10 days) for the positive person is complete. <p>MDH strongly recommends testing immediately for all household members. If negative, testing again in 3-5 days after last exposure is recommended.</p> <p>7 Day Shortened Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>PCR Testing required after day 5.</u> • <u>Close contact can return on day 8 with a negative PCR Test Result.</u> <p>10 Day Shortened Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Does not require testing, may return on day 11.</i> <p>14 Day Quarantine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MDH continues to recommend this as the safest option to prevent the spread of COVID due to how long it can take others to get sick after being exposed to COVID
<p>Vaccinated student/staff student/staff member is a close contact to a non household member.</p>	<p>May attend school/activities, monitor themselves closely for symptoms. If symptoms present, isolate immediately and get a COVID test. Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure even if no symptoms are present</p> <p>If a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms <i>at any time within 14 days of exposure</i>, a test is REQUIRED prior to return. It will be required to share your test result with the building nurse prior to returning to school.</p>
<p>Unvaccinated student/staff member is a close contact to a non household member</p>	<p>No quarantine is required, but one is recommended. Close contacts will be notified by email notification. Testing is recommended 3-5 days after exposure even if no symptoms are present.</p> <p>If a close contact develops COVID-19 symptoms <i>at any time within 14 days of exposure</i>, a test is REQUIRED prior to return. It will be required to share your test result with the building nurse prior to returning to school.</p>