

2020 - 2021

Heron Lake – Okabena School District Planning Guide

The instructional delivery method selected will be based on virus transmission in our communities over the previous two weeks. The method of instruction may change throughout the year based on transmission data in our area. Just because we are open to in school instruction, this does not mean that we may not have to switch to distance learning if cases were to spike in our area. The school, teachers, and parents must prepare to be flexible in the event that the method must change. The school district hopes to maximize in-person instruction with students. The best way to ensure that, is to follow the recommendations from health officials to reduce transmission in our region.

This decision process is new. It will be put into action based on the number of cases reported in our county. At that time, discussions will begin with the county and regional health officials about where cases are located and whether or not the district should switch to another delivery method to help reduce transmission. At this time, the planning team has created protocols for each of the three instructional delivery methods.

In-Person Learning Model:

- In-school learning for all students (unless distance learning was selected)
- Maximizing space between students
- Face coverings required
- Healthy hygiene behaviors and cleaning procedures in place

*Staff and students will follow requirements of In-Person Instruction in the 2020-2021

Stay Safe MN Planning Guide for Schools: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>

Hybrid Learning Model:

- Same precautions as in-person instructions
- Strict classroom and bus capacity at 50% and 6 foot social distancing

*Staff and students will follow the requirements of Hybrid Learning Model in 2020-2021

Stay Safe MN Planning Guide for Schools

Due to the size of our student population, we are able to accommodate ALL k-12 students in our buildings at 50% capacity. The plan makes shifts in classrooms allowing for each k-12 student to attend and satisfy the safety requirements.

Distance Learning Model:

- Students will learn from home.
- Accommodations will be made for students needing additional, in-person support.

Because Heron Lake – Okabena Schools have a small school population, we are able to have students and staff in our buildings and still be at 50% capacity or less and still be able to adequately space students 6 feet apart in classrooms and other school spaces. As such, our in-person and hybrid learning models will look very similar and will have all students and staff in the building. As long as county cases stay below 30 per 10,000 people, we should be able to have all students in school while still following state guidelines for in-person or hybrid models.

HLO Schools will do its best to ensure safety measures are taken seriously and followed by students and staff when we are able to have students in the school building. HLO's plan is to begin the school year with all students attending school in-person. Whether that is the in-person model or hybrid model will be determined by county cases that are occurring closer to the September 8 start date.

All students, staff, and other people present in school buildings and district offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear a face covering. Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth face mask
- Scarf
- Religious face covering

Face coverings should cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear. The HLO District dress code applies to face masks. A face covering is not meant to be a substitute for social distancing, but is especially important in situations when maintaining a 6-foot distance is not possible.

If your child is ill, please keep him or her home. Parents/Guardians are to screen their children each morning for symptoms of illness. If you are

unsure about symptoms, utilize the “Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs” document found on our website or at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

Covid-19 Coordinator

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