

COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Summer School: Executive Summary

5/27/2021

This guidance provides a brief summary of the [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Summer School](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/summer.pdf) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/summer.pdf) for pre-K through grade 12 schools that have completed the 2020-2021 school year. This document also references a limited number of requirements from the federal government, existing Minnesota Rules, and Stay Safe Minnesota Universal Business Guidance found on [Stay Safe Guidance for All Businesses](http://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp) (staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/all-businesses.jsp).

Schools that have not completed the 2020-2021 school year must continue to comply with the requirements in the [Safe Learning Plan](http://mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/safe-learning-plan/overview.jsp) (mn.gov/covid19/stay-safe/safe-learning-plan/overview.jsp). The Safe Learning Plan no longer applies after the last teacher contact day of the 2020-2021 school year, or after June 13, 2021 for year-round schools.

Federal government, Minnesota Rule, and universal business guidance requirements

- **Face coverings:** All people are required by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) order to wear face coverings on all public transportation conveyances (airports, public buses, etc.), including school buses.
 - [CDC: Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html) (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html)
- **Handling a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19:** Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 requires any person in charge of any institution, school, child care facility, or camp to cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
 - [Reportable Disease Rule](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html) (www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html)
- Executive Order 21-11, as amended by Executive Order 21-21 and 21-23 (“EO”), requires all businesses and entities to follow the [COVID-19 Universal Guidance for All Businesses and Entities](http://staysafe.mn.gov/assets/covid19-universal-guidance-for-all-businesses-and-entities_tcm1152-480317.pdf) (staysafe.mn.gov/assets/covid19-universal-guidance-for-all-businesses-and-entities_tcm1152-480317.pdf) through June 30, 2021 or until 70% of Minnesotans aged 16+ receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, whichever is earlier.

Recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 transmission in K-12 schools

The following sections briefly highlight recommended strategies that reduce the risk of getting sick from or transmitting COVID-19. K-12 schools are encouraged to consider these recommendations when crafting local policies and plans. Minnesota also recommends following CDC K-12 guidance: [CDC: Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080084165\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#anchor_1616080084165).

For a summary of evidence on the impact of COVID-19 among children and adolescents, as well as what is known about preventing transmission in schools, school communities are encouraged to review the [CDC Science Brief: Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in K-12 Schools \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html\)](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html).

Face coverings

- It is strongly recommended that all people present in school buildings and district offices wear a face covering.
 - The face covering recommendation does not apply to children under 2 years of age or people of any age who are unable to tolerate wearing a face covering because of a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability.

Physical distancing and cohorting

- Keep students and staff in small cohort groups that stay together as much as possible throughout the day and from day to day, particularly among student groups who are not currently eligible for vaccination (e.g., elementary age students). Keep cohorts together and limit unnecessary mixing between cohort groups as much as possible (e.g., during lunch, bathroom breaks, arrival and dismissal, free periods, recess).
- Evaluate classroom capacity with the goal of creating as much space between students as possible.
- Stagger arrival and dismissal times to minimize crowding.

Cleaning, disinfection, and hygiene practices

- Establish a daily schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common spaces. Schedule routine environmental cleaning when students and teachers are not occupying the space.
- Ensure the availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, and tissues) and strategically place supplies in areas where they will be frequently used.
- Build routines of hand hygiene into the daily school schedule for all students and staff, including handwashing and sanitation breaks during or between classroom activities. Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol by staff and older students.

Health screening, isolation, and quarantine

- Follow the [Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf) to determine who should stay home and when staff or students may return.
- Educate staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when their children should stay home, and when they can return to school.
- Develop policies to prevent the spread of disease including:
 - Staff and students staying home if they have tested positive for COVID-19, have symptoms of COVID-19, or are ill and waiting for a COVID-19 test result.
 - Staff and students staying home when they have had close contact with a person with COVID-19. For more information, visit [CDC: When to Quarantine \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html).

Handling a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19

- Put systems in place to allow staff and families to self-report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or recent close contact to someone with COVID-19 in a manner that is consistent with applicable laws and privacy policies, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- Immediately isolate symptomatic people in a designated space at school and send them home.
- Develop policies for notifying MDH about the positive case, managing case follow-up, and notifying exposed people, consistent with [Recommendations for Handling a Confirmed Case of COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/casehandle.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/casehandle.pdf).

Delivering direct student support services

- Personal protective equipment is strongly recommended for staff providing direct student support services to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in situations that involve close, physical, or prolonged contact. Schools should review MDH guidance on the recommended personal protective equipment for the provision of these services: [Recommendations for Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Delivering Direct Student Support Services \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/directsupport.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/directsupport.pdf).

Resources for music, sports, and other activities

- Review [Recommendations for Music Activities and Performances During COVID-19 \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/musicguide.pdf) and the Music, Choir, and Performing Arts Teachers section of the [CDC: Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19 \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-staff.html) for guidance on music and performing arts activities.
- Review [CDC: Considerations for Youth Sports Administrators \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports.html) and [CDC: Sports Program FAQs \(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports-faq.html\)](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/youth-sports-faq.html).
- Review MDH's [COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Certified Child Care, Youth Programs, and Camps \(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/youthguide.pdf\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/youthguide.pdf) for guidance on operating other extracurricular activities.



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