



MORA PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 332

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August 26, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our team here at Mora Public Schools is working extremely hard to prepare for the upcoming school year. We are balancing our two top priorities:

1. keeping our students and staff safe while at school.
2. Prioritizing in-person learning during the 2020-21 school year.

The Coronavirus has been very unpredictable, and this creates challenges for schools across our state and country. As a school community we have to be prepared to adapt and support one another as we navigate through this challenge together.

Our elementary and high school principals have shared their return to school plans with families and students. In order to keep our students and staff safe, school will look differently this year. We want to share what each part of the day will look like, and, as always, we will need your support to help educate your students:

- **Before School** - We will be asking parents to screen student(s) for symptoms and keep students home if they are showing symptoms of being sick. ([Link to MDH Decision Tree](#))
- **Transportation to and From School** - We encourage families to provide transportation to and from school if possible. We will have separate elementary and high school bus times to allow distancing on the bus. See our [Return to School Webpage](#) for transportation times. For planning purposes, Mora Public Schools is going to a “one address” stop for each family. Therefore, the bus assigned to each student will be the only ride to and from the school. If you have specific questions or needs please contact Gayle Stassen at 320-679-6230.
- **During School** - Conditions will depend on the Phase and Learning Model. In-person learning students will be required to wear masks, distance as much as possible, and have more structured recess, lunch, and transitions between classes. During a Hybrid model, we will operate at 50% capacity; students will be required to wear masks and we will have strict social distancing requirements. Students will be assigned to an “A” group or a “B” group and will attend school two days a week with distance learning three days a week.
- **Before and After School** - Tier I workers will be able to access child care before and after school from 6:30-7:45am and 2:00-4:15pm. We will continue to evaluate our child care during the school year. Some student activities will continue this fall, and some have moved to the spring. Please check with your school to find out more information.
- **Family Flex Option** - We know some families have students who are at-risk medically or who prefer not to return to in-person learning. The Family Flex option allows students to distance learn even if school returns to in-person or a hybrid Learning Model. If you are still interested in the Family Flex option please contact your student(s) main office.
- **Transitioning to different Phases and Learning Models** - Mora Public Schools may need to adjust the base learning model being used during the school year and will give families as much notice as possible. Announcements will be sent via School Messenger

to all voicemail accounts, emailed via Synergy to all registered email addresses, and posted on social media and the district website. Please ensure your contact information is up-to-date. School may have to close for 1 day to make any necessary adjustments. You may find this information on our [Return to School website](#).

Schools are required to follow the guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the [Safe Learning Plan](#). We continue to plan for each of the three Learning Models and to prepare to move to different phases of the models based on Kanabec County COVID-19 rates and recommendations from Kanabec County Public Health.

### Learning Model Parameters

Mora Phases	Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
PHASE 1	0 - less than 10	In-Person Learning - PreK-12th Grades
PHASE 2	10 - less than 20	In-Person Learning - PreK-6th Grades Hybrid Learning - 7th-12th Grades
PHASE 3	20 - less than 30	Hybrid Learning - PreK-12th Grades
PHASE 4	30 - less than 50	Hybrid Learning - PreK-6th Grades Distance Learning - 7th-12th Grades
PHASE 5	50+	Distance Learning - PreK-12th Grades

At this time, COVID-19 rates in our county are increasing. Currently, we are planning to return to school on September 8th using **Phase 1 - In-Person Learning Model**. However, if rates increase or we have a community outbreak, we may need to move to **Phase 2 - Learning Model** where the high school students would move to a Hybrid Learning Model. Here are some descriptions of **Hybrid Learning Model (Phase 2 for High School Students and Phase 3 for Elementary)**:

- The **Hybrid Learning Model** is a balance of In-Person and Distance Learning.
- Students in **Group A** will attend In-Person learning on Monday & Tuesday and do Distance Learning three days a week (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday). Students in **Group B** will attend In-Person learning on Thursday & Friday and do Distance Learning three days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday).
- Social Distancing of 6 feet at all times in school and on the bus.
- Face-coverings will be required in schools.
- Students will have structured recess, physical education, lunch, and specialists and electives classes. We will be practicing social distancing at all times.
- Transportation will follow Group A & Group B schedules.

It is every person's responsibility to continue to use best practices in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Following best practices will help keep in-person learning viable and our students in our schools:

- **Wear masks or face coverings**
- **Practice social distancing**
- **Frequently wash hands and clean frequently touched surfaces**
- **Monitor for illness and stay home if you are not feeling well**

Reopening schools at the beginning of the year requires each of us to do our part and follow these guidelines.

Mora's Return to School Plan provides guidance on all three Learning Models. School staff and families will have to be ready to adapt to changing conditions and switch models at any moment. Here is a summary of important links and resources for families:

- **Mora Schools Website** - [Link to Return to School Gateway Document](#), [Mora Schools Main Webpage Link](#).
- **Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21** - [Click link](#) to access comprehensive guide to MDE's plan to reopen schools safely.
- **Health and Safety** - Mora Public Schools are working closely with Kanabec County Public Health and local health professionals to do our best to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. In addition, we are taking extra steps to set up effective cleaning, sanitization, and distancing. [FAQ on MDE's Safe Learning Plan link](#)
- **Resources** - There are many resources available for learning about Covid-19 and what each of us can do to help control the spread of the virus. For more information or resources, visit [Minnesota Department of Education](#), [Minnesota Department of Health](#), [Center for Disease Control School Decision Tool for parents](#).

We thank you for your continued support of Mora Public Schools as we all work together to prepare for the upcoming school year. We are looking forward to working with all of our students and helping them learn and grow this school year.

Respectfully,  
Dan Voce  
Superintendent  
Mora Public Schools