



MORA PUBLIC
SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT 332

District Office
400 Maple Avenue East
Mora, MN 55051
320-679-6200
Fax 320-679-6209

Mora High School
400 Maple Avenue East
Mora, MN 55051
320-679-6200
Fax 320-679-6238

Mora Elementary
200 Ninth Street North
Mora, MN 55051
320-679-6200
Fax 320-679-6249

December 23, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This past week Minnesota school districts received some updated guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) regarding the Safe Learning Plan. Specifically, school districts are being asked to look more closely at school level and community specific data when determining a safe learning model.

MDE also provided additional mitigation strategies to help return students safely to school. After January 18, MDE is allowing elementary schools across the state to choose to operate an in-person or hybrid learning model. MDE allows districts a rolling start guideline to bring students back safely, three grade levels at a time, beginning with our youngest elementary age students. Mora Schools also has tentative plans to get our high school students back in a hybrid model beginning January 21st.

Recent declines in Kanabec County COVID-19 rates along with a reduction in community and school case rates has allowed us to consider reopening our schools to in-person and hybrid learning. Mora Public Schools will continue to provide our Family Flex Option to students who choose distance learning.

Our goal is to gradually have all of our students return to in-person learning beginning with our youngest students and gradually moving from a hybrid to an in-person model throughout our grade levels. Since MDE has provided us the flexibility and framework to bring our students back to some level of in-person/hybrid learning, our school team has created a new plan to reopen our schools in January of 2021. Mora schools current plan is outlined below.

Mora Elementary School

- Tuesday, January 19 - (PK-2 In-person) and (3-6 Hybrid)
- Monday, February 1 - (PK-6 In-person)
- Wednesdays will continue to be distance learning for all students PreK-12.

Mora High School

- Tuesday & Wednesday January 19 and 20th (7-12 Student Academic Support Day)
- Thursday, January 21 (7-12 Hybrid)
- Monday, February 1 (7-9 In-person) and (10-12 Hybrid)
- Tuesday, February 16 (7-12 In-person)
- Wednesdays will continue to be distance learning for all students PreK-12.

Distance Learning has been successful for most students this fall due to the exceptional work of our students, parents, teachers, and school leaders. Many students, especially at the high school, have struggled with distance learning and are not making adequate academic progress. These students will be required to attend school on January 19 and 20th. The high school will provide more details to students and parents after winter break.

Staff Planning Days

- Students will not have school the following days as school staff prepares for enhanced safety protocols and prepare to transition back to in-person.
 - Friday, January 15 - No School for Students.
 - Monday, January 18 - No School for Students.
 - Wednesday, January 27th will be a grading day for staff.

Health and Safety Protocols

- Hybrid Model - Students will need to wear a mask and continue 6 ft. distance.
- In-Person Model - Students will need to wear a mask with a modified social distancing with additional safety protocols as required by MDE and MDH.

We all need to continue to do our part by following these recommended health and safety guidelines:

- Wear a face covering and social distance at least 6 feet apart.
- Frequently wash hands and clean frequently touched surfaces.
- Avoid large gatherings outside of your household.
- Regularly screen for symptoms of illness and stay home if you have any symptoms.
- Anyone who is a close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home or quarantine for 14 days or get tested 5-7 days after last contact.

It is extremely important that families continue to report any illness to our school health office, even during distance learning. Please follow this document for symptoms and close contact: [\(MDH Decision Tree for People in Schools\)](#)

Mora Schools will continue to provide free meals to ALL students, ages 18 and under, and child care to Tier 1 families. During Phase 5 - Distance Learning, we will be providing more information through our Food Service Department and Community Education. Please visit our [Mora Schools Website](#) to find the most current and up to date information. [Link to Return to School Gateway Document,](#)

As we all prepare for winter break, I want to thank all Mora students, staff, and families for their continued cooperation and partnership this school year. I wish each of you a safe and happy holiday season and new year. We are truly better together, and we are Mora Mustang Strong!

Respectfully,

Dan Voce
Superintendent
Mora Public Schools