

Nashwauk-Keewatin School District
NK Safe Schools Plan
2021-22



The information contained in this plan will be updated as needed due to new information, guidance, and/or requirements. Plan will be reviewed at least every 6 months.

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For more return to school 2021-2022 information, please visit our website at <https://www.isd319.org/> or call 218-885-1280.

Please contact the following staff with any questions or concerns:

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Local Decisions & ESSER

Local Decision Making & ESSER Funds Requirements

According to Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), many COVID related decisions for 2021-2022 will be made locally beginning summer 2021 and moving into the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, districts having a safe return to in-person learning plan is a condition of accepting the ESSER III award. The education commissioner stated districts may choose to use the 2020-2021 plan as a foundation if there was a process for development and board approval. NK did go through a process during the summer of 2020 and received board approval August 2020. The 2020-2021 plan has been adjusted to reflect current guidance with flexibility for potential upcoming recommendations and requirements.

The updated 2021-2022 plan will be included on the June 16, 2021, board agenda for public comment, which fulfills the District's obligation for public comment within 30 days of receiving ESSER III funding on June 21, 2021. It will also be posted on the District website. The plan will be reviewed at least every 6 months, which is an additional condition to accepting the ESSER III funding.

Requirements for ESSER III NK Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan are:

1. Plan how the District will maintain the health and safety of students and staff surrounding each of the following topics:
 - a. Masks
 - b. Physical distancing
 - c. Handwashing
 - d. Cleaning & sanitizing
 - e. Contact tracing including quarantining and isolating
 - f. Testing
 - g. Vaccination efforts
 - h. Accommodations for students with disabilities
 - i. Coordination with state & local health officials
2. Describe how the district will ensure continuity of services such as addressing students' academic needs, students'/staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services.
3. The district must periodically review and revise its plan:
 - a. No less frequently than every six months.
 - b. Must seek public input for adjustments.
 - c. Plan must be aligned to address updated CDC recommendations in each of the above categories.
4. The district plan must be in an understandable, uniform format written in a language parents can understand and in an alternative format (such as a hard copy) if requested by a parent or community member.



Requirements vs Recommendations

MDE/CDC guidance in the future may include required and recommended elements:

- **Required** elements must be included in every district plan.
- **Recommended** practices are additional optional strategies to be used as appropriate to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

Learning Model

Nashwauk-Keewatin specializes in providing in-person, needs-based instruction based on strong relationships between students and adults. Since March 2019, executive orders have required we offer different learning models for our students. Nashwauk-Keewatin staff offered quality instruction through several different modes. Currently, the district follows two mandates: face coverings on school transportation and reporting COVID-19 cases to the Minnesota Department of Health. All remaining decisions fall under the authority of our local Board of Education.

Our goal is to provide in-person instruction in as safe a learning environment as possible. There is no scenario in which in-person instruction can be offered without some risk of exposure to COVID-19 or other communicable diseases. The school year will begin on September 7 with buses and schools at full capacity. In the event of local public health data that necessitates a change in instruction model, we will consider the following options:

- Face coverings may be required, temporarily, as a mitigating measure depending on the situation.
- Temporary closure of a classroom/grade level or school campus. Students would continue to complete daily assignments utilizing their Learning Management Systems (LMS) during the temporary closure. Keewatin Elementary students will use a teacher-determined system (SeeSaw, Remind, Google Classroom, Dojo) and High School students will use Schoology and/or Google Classroom as their LMS. Attendance will be derived from participation in daily assignments.
- If circumstances prevent the reasonably safe continuation at full occupancy, a classroom or school campus may be designated to schedule most students on an every other day basis. At approximately 50% occupancy, most students would attend school on an alternating day schedule. Students would remain at home on the opposite day and participate through their LMS.
- There is currently no option for Nashwauk-Keewatin students to participate in full-time or alternating day online instruction this year, except for regular high school online programming options offered through the Itasca Area Schools Collaborative (IASC). Families who believe that an online program is the best match for their child (short or long term) should contact their child's principal for guidance. We will be returning to our early dismissal schedule on Wednesdays to facilitate professional learning communities.



Health & Safety

While fewer children overall have become seriously ill with COVID-19 than adults during the pandemic, children can be infected/sick with the virus that causes COVID-19, spread the virus to others, and have severe outcomes. Vaccine eligibility has been expanded to include some school-aged populations, however, children under 12 years of age are still ineligible to be vaccinated. For these reasons, MDH continues to recommend the use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in school communities, especially for the younger learners.

Monitoring for Symptoms

During face to face learning, it is very important for the schools and parents/guardians to work together to help decrease the spread of this disease. Parents/guardians are asked to:

- Please monitor your child every day before coming to school.
- It is recommended parents/guardians check their child's temperature before bed and prior to school.
- Children MUST stay home if fever is 100.4 or greater.



Handling Suspected or Confirmed Cases

The District will proceed as follows with suspected or confirmed cases:

- Person separated and held in designated isolation area until picked up by a parent/guardian.
- While waiting, they will be under supervision of a staff member.
- Monitoring staff member and person waiting may wear face mask, especially in the case of someone not being fully vaccinated.
- If it is determined the person needs transportation home and a parent/guardian cannot transport, the District may use district transportation methods to bring the person home.
- A 14-day quarantine for unvaccinated close contacts is still considered best practice (see: [COVID-19: When to Quarantine](#)). A positive test or not getting tested will mean 10 days at home from the first day of symptoms. A negative COVID test or an alternate diagnosis could mean attending school sooner.
- Positive cases must be reported to the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Anyone with symptoms will be sent home. This is based on the Minnesota Department of Health Decision Tree. The Decision Tree will be posted on the school website.
- Positive cases in an elementary classroom will result in an Exposure Notice sent home. Parents may choose to have their child wear a mask for 10 days.
- Positive cases in the high school will result in families being notified.

Reporting Methods

The District requests parents, guardians, and staff to self-report if they or their student have COVID-19 symptoms, a positive test, or have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19.

During the 2021-2022 school year, the NK COVID Coordinator, who is also the District Nurse, will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and assist in coordinating with local health authorities regarding positive COVID -19 cases. In addition, the COVID Coordinator will use the most up-to-date MDH Decision Tree to determine next steps for COVID related issues.

Health & Safety

Masks

Face Coverings in Schools

Face coverings are optional, but strongly recommended, for everyone regardless of vaccination status. However, if a family wants their child to wear a mask, the district will support their decision. Surgical masks will be available to students, staff members, and visitors as they offer more protection than cloth masks.

Facemask Requirements on School Buses

Traveling on public transportation increases a person's risk of getting and spreading COVID-19 by bringing people in close contact with others, often for prolonged periods. Staying 6 feet away from others is difficult to impossible on school buses. In accordance with CDC Orders:

- All passengers and drivers **must wear a mask on school buses**, including on buses operated by public and private school systems.
- This order includes those who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and those who have recovered from COVID-19.

Vaccination

Every Minnesotan age 12 years and older can get vaccinated. According to MDH, vaccination is one of the best things you can get to prevent getting or spreading COVID-19.

If someone is fully vaccinated and exposed, they don't need to quarantine if both the following are true:

- COVID-19 exposure was at least 14 days after their vaccination series was fully completed.
- Do not currently have any symptoms of COVID-19.

If someone is not vaccinated (including children), they should:

- Keep at least 6 feet away from people from other households.
- Wear a mask indoors and outdoors when you cannot keep 6 feet away from others.

Nashwauk-Keewatin recommends that all people eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine get vaccinated. Increased vaccination rates will help limit the spread of the disease and reduce the need for mitigation measures. There is no requirement to obtain a vaccine.

Physical Distancing

Although physical distancing and cohorting provides added protection, it is no longer required. It is recommended groups evaluate classroom/facility capacity with the goal of creating space between individuals. The following applies:

- Limit unnecessary mixing of multiple groups.
- When indoors, no more than 25 individuals per cohort/group if possible.
- Outdoors no restrictions.
- Maintain daily attendance records.

Student support programs such as special education and academic intervention may pull students from their primary classrooms in order to provide essential services. Schools are encouraged to keep groups small and consistent from day to day, creating space between group members.

When physical distance of at least 3 feet can't be maintained between students in classrooms, it is especially important to layer other prevention strategies. A distance of at least 6 feet is recommended between students and teachers/staff, and between teachers/staff who are not fully vaccinated.

Health & Safety

Handwashing

Everyone should practice safe hand hygiene, cover their cough, and avoid touching their face throughout the day.

- Schools should build routines around proper hand washing and reinforce doing so.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the each building.
- Encourage hand washing during key times such as arrival/ dismissal, meals, and bathroom use.



Cleaning & Disinfection Practices

MDH and CDC recommend routine cleaning and disinfection occur to assist in prevention of the virus spreading. Although all staff can assist with this responsibility, custodial staff will primarily be responsible for handling antimicrobial products. They will be trained to understand and follow product labels and precautions.

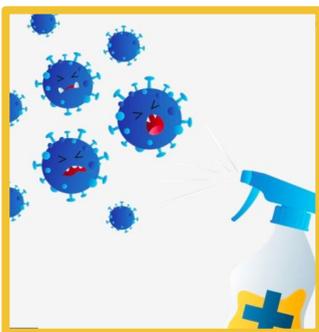
- As needed, high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common spaces will be cleaned and disinfected.
- Daily, custodians will do routine cleaning when students and teachers are not occupying the space.
- Appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors will be available and strategically placed in areas where they will be frequently used.

Custodial staff who complete routine cleaning follow these recommendations:

- Wear chemical-resistant gloves and goggles when handling concentrate as appropriate.
- Allow for air circulation, if feasible and as necessary, to ensure adequate ventilation when using products/chemicals.
- Visibly dirty surfaces should be cleaned.
- Application tools will be used appropriately when disinfecting surfaces.
- Products will be used according to their directions including drying times.
- Remove gloves, then wash hands thoroughly with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds.

MDH and CDC recommends additional cleaning measures take place should there be a known or suspected COVID-19 case within the building. Cleaning occurs in all locations where that person was present. The CDC recommends proceeding with regular cleaning if you receive this information seven days or more since the person has been in the building.

Key elements include:



- Utilize EPA approved sanitation cleaner according to label.
- Use appropriate PPE as required by the label.
- The SDS is available to staff in custodial areas in each building.
- The containers are pre-labeled with GHS compliant labels.
- Staff have received training on good cleaning practices and Employee Right-to-Know.
- Records are located in the District Office.
- When technology items are needing to be cleaned, alcohol wipes will be utilized to prevent damage to the equipment.

Social Emotional Learning

Social Emotional Learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

The District's social emotional learning efforts are driven by CASEL's core SEL competencies:

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Relationship Skills
- Social Awareness



Mental Health Services

- Staff members are encouraged to make referrals of students who may be in need.
- Principals may write the referrals and the counselor will filter to North Homes.
- A form is available on the website to allow families to note if they are in need of assistance.
- North Homes publishes monthly newsletters for staff, students and families.

The District has the following mental health professionals available:

- Rich Marcis: Mental Health Professional, LPCC
- Tat Romero: High School Mental Health Provider
- Tammy Weihr, Kay Bartram, Brandi Lautigar: Elementary Counselors
- Lisa Tucci: High School Counselor



Symptoms of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Know the symptoms of COVID-19, which can include the following:



Symptoms can range from mild to severe illness, and appear 2-14 days after you are exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Seek medical care immediately if someone has emergency warning signs of COVID-19.

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips or face

This list is not all possible symptoms. Please call your healthcare provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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Daily Home Screening for Students

Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please complete this short check each morning and report your child's information [INSERT YOUR SCHOOL REPORTING INSTRUCTIONS] in the morning before your child leaves for school.

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
<input type="checkbox"/>	New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

<input type="checkbox"/>	Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Traveled to or lived in an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the Community Mitigation Framework
<input type="checkbox"/>	Live in areas of high community transmission (as described in the Community Mitigation Framework) while the school remains open



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cdc.gov/coronavirus