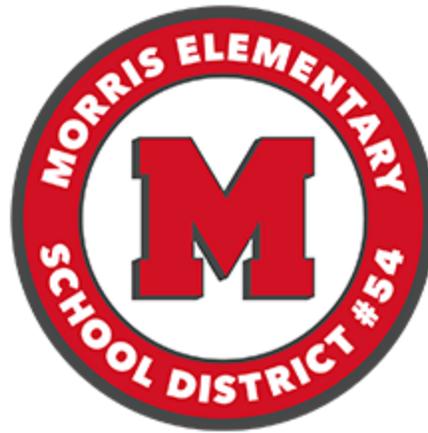


Morris Elementary School District #54

2021-2022 School Year



Return to School Plan

Dear Parents, Community and Staff of Morris Elementary School #54:

On Friday, Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order that all in the K-12 setting shall be universally masked at all times, except in certain circumstances. The main purpose of our School District is to create the conditions and environment for children to learn and teachers to teach. As a Superintendent and Board of Education our service to this School District is to the extent practical and possible to protect the education of our community's children.

As of now, subject to change, our school district will begin the school year universally masked. This decision was not made lightly. According to the local health department, if there is a positive COVID-19 case within the classroom, a close contact will be defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. If the child and/or staff member is a close contact, the local health department has the legal authority to impose a 7 to 10 to 14 day quarantine to which the school will have to impose. If all are universally masked and maintain safe social distancing of 3-6 feet, the individual will not be a close contact and will not be subject to quarantine/school exclusion. Accordingly, since our ultimate goal is to keep our children in school where maximum learning can occur, masking will support this effort.

Please know that this is a controversial decision and I, as Superintendent, yearn for a day where this is not our reality. The School Board and I remain committed to diligently reviewing local transmission rates and vaccination availability to examine the ability to phase out certain preventative measures revolving around universal masking and social distancing. Until that day, we respectfully request cooperation and grace while we try to create conditions that maximize student learning and ability to keep our doors open with low to non COVID-19 transmission.

Please note that our reopening plan includes the following preventative measures:

- All students will be provided a full day of in-person instruction.
- Universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status.
- Students and staff will not be required to disclose their vaccination status to school district officials. Parents and/or students may wish to voluntarily disclose their vaccination status to avoid a mandatory quarantine for close contact with a COVID-positive person.
- Masks will be required for all students/staff while on a school bus.
- Remote learning will only be offered to those students under a quarantine order by a local public health department or the IDPH. The remote learning experience will be at the discretion of the individual teacher(s).
- Currently, students under age 12 are not eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Therefore, to reduce opportunities for virus transmission, students in grades K-5 will remain in cohorts as much as possible. Students in K-5 cohorts may be required to temporarily mask in the case of a COVID-positive case(s) within the cohort.

- All schools will continue with other health and safety prevention strategies such as:
 - social distancing of at least 3 feet
 - encouraging parents/guardians to self-check their children daily for COVID symptoms prior to school and keep them home if they display any symptoms.
 - mandatory quarantines for COVID-positive students and staff
 - mandatory quarantines for unvaccinated individuals in close contact with a COVID-positive person
 - encouraging and practicing proper hand and respiratory hygiene
 - ensuring proper ventilation in all schools
 - practicing proper cleaning and disinfection of learning spaces
 - voluntary community-based or in-house COVID testing program for symptomatic students/staff
 - in accordance with CDC guidance, age eligible students (currently age 12 and older) are encouraged to receive a COVID-19 vaccine

Please note the definitions of close contact and current quarantine guidelines of Grundy County Health Department.

Please also note that if Staff and/or students are vaccinated this is rules that apply at Morris Elementary School District #54.

We look forward to August 18, where we can welcome our children back for an amazing year of learning. We appreciate your cooperation and the trust you have in the School District, its Administration and Staff to educate our most precious individuals, our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannon Dudek".

Dr. Shannon Dudek, Superintendent of Schools

Morris Elementary School District #54 Transition Plan

| PLANNING | |
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| Topic | District Plan |
| Remote Learning Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no Remote Learning Options for the 2021-2022 school year. |
| BLENDED REMOTE LEARNING DAYS | |
| Identify Students with Higher Risks when Exposed to Coronavirus (more vulnerable students) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Nurses and Administration will contact families of any students who have underlying health conditions which may cause them to fall into a high-risk group and help in making the best educational placement for these students. Instructional planning will be based on the appropriate developmental needs for varying age-groups of students. Classroom sizes will be reduced to the lowest possible number based on staffing and physical space. School Nurses will meet with grade level teams and relevant support staff who work with high-risk students to assure plans are put in place to accommodate their increased needs. |
| CALENDAR CONSIDERATIONS | |
| Evaluate Calendars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School calendar will remain the same as planned. E-Learning Days will take the place of Snow Days. This will allow the last day of school to stay the same as it is currently scheduled (May 26th). |
| INSTRUCTIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS | |
| Back to School Nights | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will have an in-person Meet the Teacher/Supply Drop-Off Night on Tuesday, August 17th. Students in grades K-4 come from 4:30-5:30 pm and 5th-8th Grade students should come from 5:30-6:30 pm. All Back to School/Curriculum Nights will be done remotely this school year. These videos will be available to be watched live-streamed or recorded. A class syllabus will be shared with families by the individual teacher. |
| Assessing Students' Skill Levels | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will conduct Fall Benchmarking in September and school personnel will use this data to make decisions moving forward. |
| Addressing Learning Loss | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tentative schedule <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4-5 weeks of School Recovery for all 1-2 weeks of benchmark testing/regrouping Regroup students for the next 6 weeks Tentative Groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 3- for those who we already know need a SPED evaluation Push in/School Recovery groups for the rest Review of concepts during a "Daily Math Review" during Math Lessons |

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| Instructional Best Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cross-curricular classroom projects will be suspended until it is safe to resume these types of activities. Classes may use Google Meet to interact with other classes (allows teachers to teach students how to effectively use Google Meet). ● Students in grades 6th-8th Grade will resume switching classes. ● In specific or necessary situations teachers may use face -shields and tabletop shield-guards for instruction that requires students to focus on mouth movements. |
| Special Education Considerations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff will adhere to timelines for annual IEP meetings and required evaluations. Google Meet will be used as the primary tool for virtual meetings. ● IEP teams will meet to determine whether any amendments to student IEPs are necessary to address students' current levels of performance and make individualized determinations regarding placement and where special education students receive services based on their blended or remote learning experience for the 2020-2021 school year. |
| Grading | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will resume traditional grading practices as per the Parent/Student Handbook. Grading will have consequences on grade-level promotion in subsequent years. ● There will be changes to the report card to help it reflect updated ELA and Math Standards. ● Parent/Teacher Conferences will most likely be held in a blended format (face to face AND virtual options) in November 2021. |
| Technology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student devices will stay in the classrooms. Students will be assigned one device in grades K-5th. Jr High Students will be assigned a device for each room. Students will disinfect the devices prior to and after handing the devices. |

HEALTH & SAFETY PROTOCOLS – IDPH GUIDANCE

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| Prepare for sick student/staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Morris 54 will use the IDPH Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals to address any and all student/staff symptoms. ● Communicate with families and staff that any individual who tests positive for COVID-19 or who shows any signs or symptoms of illness should stay home. ● Families and staff should also report confirmed or possible cases to the School Nurse or Administration. ● Collect symptom reports when absences are reported-call to the parent. ● School Nurses will meet with grade level teams and relevant support staff that work with high-risk students to assure plans are put in place to accommodate their increased needs. ● If a student has a temperature of 100 degrees or higher, they will immediately be sent home. Students must be picked up within an hour of parents being notified (phone call, voice message, email, etc) or they may be transported home by school personnel. ● If a student is sent home with an elevated temperature, they must be fever-free for 24 hours prior to the return to school. Upon returning to school, students must be driven to school and checked by a School Nurse or Administrator before being allowed to return to the classroom. ● Those who had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 must isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 7-14 days. This will be at the determination of the Grundy County Health Department. |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The School Nurse will contact Maintenance to come and implement the cleaning protocol for that space. |
| Face Coverings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Everyone must wear a face covering at all times, regardless of vaccination status. ● Face coverings must be worn at all times in school buildings even when social distancing is maintained. ● Face coverings must be worn over the mouth AND nose. ● Face coverings do not need to be worn outside if social distance is maintained ● For the safety of others, students who do not comply with the school facecovering guidelines will be subject to consequences, which could include being placed in a remote learning setting. |
| Social Distancing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District is developing procedures to ensure 3-6-foot physical distance from other persons as much as possible in all areas. |
| Symptom Screenings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Parents/Guardians agree to monitor their student(s) for symptoms each morning. If symptoms are present, the child should stay home and the Parent/Guardian should contact the school immediately. ● Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100 F, or known symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea) may not enter buildings. ● The beds in the Nurses' Office will only be used for students with a temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Curtains will be drawn and students monitored until parent arrival. |
| SCHOOLWIDE CLEANING & DISINFECTION | |
| Sanitation Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Every classroom will be cleaned 2x at night (using different methods of cleaning) regular cleaning and then mister/fogger after. Supervisor will check rooms at night. ● Electrostatic cleaner- for all common areas (not near electronics) used daily ● Quad 64-mister/fogger- use daily in all classrooms and several times per day on all touchpoints(railings, entry door handles) ● Bus-phenofogger after each route ● No cloth-based couches, beanbags, student chairs, etc... in the classroom ● 11 pedestal hand sanitizer dispensers to be located at all entrances ● Hand sanitizer dispensers in all classrooms ● Products must be at least 70% alcohol based ● School/classrooms will strive to achieve negative pressure (outside air in--classroom air purged out). |
| Classrooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide assigned seating for students and require students to remain in these seats to the greatest extent possible. ● Develop a marked path of travel inside the classroom to maintain social distancing from the entry point of the classroom to the student's assigned seat ● Rearrange desks so that there is a 3-6-foot distance in all directions between the desks and face desks in the same direction if possible. ● Open windows if possible ● Limit who is in classrooms to those required for instruction |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Build in time for hygiene |
| Shared Objects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit student-to-student borrowing or sharing of any items. ● Clean and sanitize shared staff objects after use (Smartboards/Chrombooks). |
| Music-related Courses | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students should wear face coverings while singing and avoid touching, choreography, and singing/playing in circles ● Sanitize hands and instruments before using ● Do not share instruments ● Wear masks whenever possible ● Conductors should face students from more than 6 feet away from the first row of singers/band members. |
| Hallways, Lockers and Traffic Flow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face coverings must be worn at all times. ● Adhere to social distancing requirements and IDPH limitations on gathering sizes when possible. ● Limit the number of persons within hallways at any given time to the greatest extent possible. Extended passing time. ● Limit the use of lockers and cubbies. ● Provide hallway supervision using hall and bathroom monitors to ensure a limited number of persons enter bathrooms at one time. ● Place floor markings to delineate 6-foot distance between students in locations where they line up. |
| Restrooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain social distancing in restroom areas. ● Post signs encouraging hand hygiene procedures. ● Enhanced nightly cleaning procedures for these areas. ● Ensure supplies are available for hand hygiene. |
| Drinking Fountains | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be encouraged to use their own personal, reusable water bottles. ● Drinking fountains will be replaced with water bottle filling stations. ● Classroom/hallway drinking faucets will be covered and not allowed for use. |
| Cafeteria/Food Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All meals will be served in a lunch sack type fashion. ● Tables in the cafeteria seating area will follow IDPH social distancing guidelines. ● Students may eat outside, if the weather allows. ● Extra staff will be used to monitor these areas to assure students eat and return to class in a safe and orderly manner. |
| Visitors/External groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations, as possible. ● Restrictions on where visitors can go in the building. ● Hand hygiene for visitors ● Maintain accurate records of visitors ● Parents/Guardians must stay in the office if picking up children from in-person learning. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Seniors Supporting Schools program has been postponed until it is safe to resume. ● Sit, Stay, Read! Program is postponed until it is safe to resume. ● Secure drop boxes will be available in the vestibule for parents only needing to drop-off paperwork. This may limit the need to enter the office. |
| Admin. Offices, Staff Workspaces/Lounges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Employee workstations should be properly distanced so that employees may maintain a 3-6-foot distance from one another, when possible. ● Shield-Guards installed within main offices. ● Provided cleaning materials and hand washing supplies. ● Maintain a regular cleaning and disinfection schedule of frequently touched items. |
| Student Transportation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and employees will be required to wear masks while on school buses. Students and employees are expected to provide their own appropriate mask. ● Students will be expected to use hand sanitizer which will be provided when they enter the school bus. ● Buses will load and unload in the front of the school and cars will load and unload in the back of the school. ● Buses will be disinfected after each route. |
| Physical Education, Gymnasiums, Pools, and Locker Rooms | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jr High will not change into PE uniforms for class or use PE locker rooms. ● If the weather permits, the teacher may take the class outside in a safe and orderly fashion. ● Any shared equipment must be cleaned between each student's use and disinfected at the end of each class. ● Perform hand hygiene at the start and end of each class period, after using equipment, or when hands are visibly dirty. |
| Napping/resting time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6 feet apart ● Use bedding that can be washed weekly ● Store individual bedding separately |
| Medically Fragile, Behavioral, Developmental, or Emotionally Challenged | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Risk of infectious disease exposure may be much higher for staff providing care for medically fragile students. ● Social distancing may not be possible in some situations, contact and Administrator for specific guidance in each situation.. ● Use appropriate (District Provided) PPE for continuous wear and during procedures along with hand washing. |
| Related Services for Students (OT/PT, Speech, Social Work Services, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Desktop shield-guards and face shields may be used when deemed necessary and appropriate ● Face coverings must be worn and social distance must be maintained |
| Before- and After-Care and Other Programs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organizations and groups that wish to access a school's facilities should submit a plan that addresses procedures for program implementation during COVID-19 and must align to school and IDPH guidelines. |

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| Arrival/Dismissal Procedures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6th-8th Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Car Riders will NOT be allowed in the building until 7:50 am ○ Bus Riders will be seated six feet apart in the following locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6th Grade- A Hallway (Use the Main Stairwell) ■ 7th Grade- C100 Hallway (Use back Stairwell) ■ 8th Grade- E-Wing (Use D Hallway Stairwell) ● K-5th Grade <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Car Riders will NOT be allowed in the building until 8:30 am ○ All students will go directly to their classrooms |
| Media Centers/IDEA Studio(s) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resume normal book checkout. Virtual Check-outs will still be available for Jr High Students. ● Exceptions may be made for students with extenuating needs/circumstances at Administration approval. |
| Health Offices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain social distancing ● Provided resources to limit transmission (ventilation, barriers, curtains, etc) ● Supervised quarantine space for students/staff who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. ● Students exhibiting COVID-19-like symptoms must wear a face covering. ● Implement strategies to reduce unnecessary visits from students, staff, and visitors- Classroom Kits will be provided to Homerooms. Administration will have portable kits and scan thermometers to help avoid trips to the Health Office. ● Healthy students reporting to the health office for medical management must be treated in a separate clean designated area. ● Enhanced cleaning procedures after possible cases of COVID-19 and each night during normally scheduled cleaning. |
| Extracurriculars | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Extracurricular activities must follow the IDPH requirements set forth for the school setting, which include social distancing, appropriate use of PPE, limiting the number of individuals in one space to 50 or fewer in Phase 4, and cleaning and disinfecting to prevent the spread of COVID-19. ● IESA will provide guidance and expectations as we get closer to the school year. Please check the Morris Grade School 8to18 site for updates and current information: https://il.8to18.com/ShabbonaMS/ |
| Field Trips | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Field trips will be suspended until state and local health officials have determined that it is safe to resume them. |
| Playgrounds | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Playground equipment that is to be used should be monitored, and the number of students using each piece of equipment should be limited. ● Enhanced cleaning of playground equipment as needed. ● Students should perform hand hygiene prior to touching playground equipment and upon return from the playground. ● The playground should not be used by others outside of the normal school day. |

ILLNESS & DIAGNOSES MONITORING

Schools should institute a tracking process to maintain ongoing monitoring of individuals excluded from school

- Check in with the School Nurse upon return and prior to going to class. Students may not ride the bus until they have been cleared to return.
- Families should report positive diagnoses or exposure when reporting absences.
- Positive cases of COVID-19 will be tracked in a Google Doc to only be seen by School Nurses and Administration.
- Confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported to the local health department by the School Nurse or designee. (Contact: Grundy County Health department- 815.941.3404)
- Schools will offer assistance to local health departments when contact tracing is needed after a confirmed case of COVID-19 is identified.
- District will inform the school community of outbreaks per local and state health department guidelines while maintaining student and staff confidentiality rights.

MENTAL HEALTH

Considerations should be given to the impact that COVID-19 has had on mental health

- Access to school social workers and other supports will be readily available as possible and communicated to students.
- Students and Staff will take our SAEBRS Assessment throughout the year to monitor social-emotional well-being of students.
- Formalize the District Crisis Management Team to provide support, as needed, to staff and students.
- Continue the school’s membership in the Grundy County Behavioral Health Alliance to have continued and readily available access to outside resources for our students, staff and families.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

Develop a Communication Plan

- Signage throughout the school building
- Ongoing messaging to families
- Develop & distribute safety protocols communication and checklist
- Develop a process for families to keep contact information updated