



FAIRMONT AREA SCHOOLS

Inspired Learning for Life

Parent/Teacher/Community Member Meetings Q&A

August 3, 2020

1. Are we planning on returning to school on September 8, 2020?

Yes, we will be returning to school on September 8th. We will use the state of Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan to guide our decision making for which scenario of learning we will begin the school year in.

2. If your son/daughter has a documented health concern or a family member has a health concern what are my options, and is there an online option?

Your options are to have your child participate in distance learning only, or attend school following the in person or hybrid model. If you choose distance learning only, we ask that you contact an administrator at your child's school to discuss the parameters of a distance learning only model.

3. Are masks required throughout the school day?

Per Governor Walz's executive order: all students, staff, and other people present in school buildings and district offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear a face covering. Please see the complete executive order for detail on instances allowing for temporary removal of face coverings.

4. Will my son/daughter be transported to and from school?

The school will provide transportation to and from school. Face coverings will be required to be worn on all school transportation. Parents will continue to have the option of transporting their students to and from school. More details will be available in the near future regarding student drop off and pick up procedures.

5. Are teachers required to wear masks?

Yes, all teachers will wear a mask or a full face shield throughout the school day.

6. Are students required to wear masks?

Yes - All students Kindergarten to 12th grade are required to wear a mask. Preschool students will be encouraged to wear a mask while on the bus or entering the school building, and can remove it once in the classroom.

7. Are visitors allowed in the building when school resumes?

Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities for external groups will be restricted during the school day. The vestibule inside Door #1 (FES) and Door #14 (FJSHS) will be accessible, and visitors will then need to communicate with the main office via phone. Use of classroom volunteers and parent visitors will (i.e. lunch, treats, etc.) not be permitted until further notice.

8. What if my child does not feel well and is running a temperature?

We encourage you to keep your student home until they are symptom free. If your son or daughter arrives at school with a temp or other illness related symptoms, parents/guardians will be called immediately to pick up the student. The student will still be responsible for making up missed schoolwork.

9. What if a family member is exposed to someone with COVID-19 and is in direct contact with their son/daughter?

If that parent, sibling, or someone in the household becomes symptomatic and or tests positive, the school will then contact the MN Department of Health for guidance on next steps for individual students and overall school response and planning.

10. What if a student at our school tested positive for COVID-19?

In the event a student at school tests positive, the school will contact the MN Department of Health for guidance on reactive steps to be taken. Students may need to be absent from school, and be symptom free before returning. Students are still responsible for the work being done while they are home, and the school will work with individual families to ensure proper supports are in place for this to be accomplished.

11. What if a staff member at our school tested positive for COVID-19?

These instances will be handled on an individual basis. We will work in close consultation with our regional support team and the MN Dept. of Health to determine appropriate responses. A staff member diagnosed with COVID 19 may need to be isolated for a period of time, and showing improving symptoms before returning to in person instruction..

12. What will school look like this fall when we return?

Fairmont Area School has worked under the guidance of the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education to plan for providing all students with a safe and quality learning experience this fall. The primary focus for this planning has been 1) keeping our students and staff safe; and 2) educating students to the best of our ability given these challenging circumstances.

With those objectives in mind, our return in the fall will be different. The Minnesota Department of Education has asked school districts to plan for three models of delivering education based on possible scenarios, which include: face-to-face learning on-site at school, distance learning with students learning at home, and a combination of both. Fairmont Area Schools will use modeling provided by the MN Department of Health for determining which method of instruction will be provided to our students.

13. Under what conditions would you consider distance learning the most appropriate option for students and staff?

The main objective of Fairmont Area Schools will be to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff in whatever scenario is used. We will implement our plans using modeling provided by the MN Department of Health for determining which method of instruction will be provided to our students. Each school site will work with families of students that may choose for their student to receive distance learning only from FAS. Families indicating this preference will need to follow the process for families to notify the school district in writing of intent to have student(s) participate in distance learning instead of hybrid or in person learning.

- [FES Distance Learning Form](#)
- [FJSHS Distance Learning Form](#)

14. I understand that the governor, Minnesota's public health officials, and the district have come up with guidance they feel will allow school to open in the fall. But what if I still don't feel safe sending my child back to school?

We want your student's educational experience to be as positive as possible this year despite the circumstances we are all dealing with related to Covid-19. We will work with those families who have concerns about their student(s) coming back to school for in-person or hybrid learning, and will attempt to work out a plan that everyone is comfortable with. We know that some students and staff have special health concerns that make the decision to return challenging. We want to partner to work through those situations and provide each student and staff member with the best possible educational experience.

15. What steps will the district take to monitor current COVID-19 activity in our area?

The school district will collaborate with the Minnesota Department of Health, local health officials, and our District Health and Safety Committee to continue to track area metrics for our school district, county, and surrounding area.

16. In the event a student or district staff member tests positive for COVID-19, how will the district notify those that have potentially been exposed?

In the event a student or district staff member tests positive, the school will contact the MN Department of Health for guidance on reactive steps to be taken. School district administration will implement the provided guidance, and will work directly with our school nurses to notify those who may have had exposure.

17. How will the district monitor students' health?

Fairmont Area Schools will be proactive when any symptoms of illness are present in students and staff. We expect parents to monitor the health of their child, and keep their son/daughter home if she/he is showing any symptoms of illness. Additional screening protocols may be implemented for the start of the school year (i.e. temperature screening). If a student shows symptoms at school, parents will be notified and the student will be sent home until symptom free. Fairmont Area Schools has also increased cleaning/sanitizing efforts, increased the availability of sanitizing products, emphasized proper hygiene habits/handwashing, and have increased our space utilized to respond to individuals exhibiting signs or symptoms of illness.

18. What symptoms should we be aware of prior to sending our children to school?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, individuals with COVID-19 can have a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild to severe. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with the following symptoms **may** have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (temperature of 100 F or above)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- Recent loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*****This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.*****

19. Who should I contact if I have additional questions

Fairmont Area Schools will continue to provide information and updates as we continue to receive information. If you have any additional questions, please reach out to a school nurse or site COVID-19 coordinator:

- Fairmont Elementary: 507-238-4487
 - School Nurse: April Tordsen
 - Site COVID-19 Coordinator: Andy Traetow
- Fairmont Jr.-Sr. High School: 507-238-4411
 - School Nurse: Nancy Backer
 - Site COVID-19 Coordinator: Alex Schmidt