

REOPENING PLANS

# DASSEL- COKATO SCHOOLS

2020-2021

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# Introduction

**On July 30th Governor Walz delivered guidance for schools to use in determining how to return to school this fall.** Since then we have been hard at work creating plans, implementing safety measures and getting ready to welcome students back.

**Based on the current COVID-19 case numbers in our communities, Dassel-Cokato Schools will be returning to In-person Learning on September 8, 2020.** Learn more about how this decision was made in Section 03 of this document.

As a district, we will follow the health requirements created by the MN Department of Health. We know our days will look different, but we are confident we can maintain a familiar, friendly, and safe learning environment. Our full building plans will be posted online no later than one week prior to the start of school.

How will my student's school day be different this fall?

- Staff and students will be required to wear masks in accordance with Executive Order 20-81.
- Multiple doors will be used for entering and exiting the buildings.
- Students will arrive at school and go directly to their classrooms.
- Classrooms have been rearranged to allow as much spacing as possible.
- Lunch lines will be socially distanced, tables will be spread out through the cafeterias, additional eating spaces may be utilized and meals will be prepackaged when possible.

- Hand washing and sanitizing opportunities will be increased throughout the day.
- Custodians will follow increased cleaning procedures throughout the day and evening.

How will my student's school day remain the same this fall?

- Students will maintain their daily class schedule.
- Students will not be required to wear masks during gym class or while playing afterschool sports.
- Students will eat lunch together and have recess during the day.
- Students will see their friends and have the ability to socialize.

## Virtual Learning is an Option

Regardless of the scenario advised, we understand there are families uncomfortable with or unable to send their students to school this fall. Dassel-Cokato Schools will be offering a Virtual Learning program for these students. This option offers the same daily content being taught in the classroom through a virtual format. It is not intended to be a short-term solution, such as Distance Learning would be, but for students intending to be away from in-person learning for an extended period.

Although COVID-19 is continuing to uproot our daily lives, we are hopeful one day soon we will be able to confidently say the worst is behind us. Sticking together as classmates, community members and families will keep our schools strong. We are here for you, please hang in there with us. Continue checking the website for more information and updates as we approach the start of school and move throughout the year, especially the COVID-19 UPDATES pages, where information, updates and resources will be housed.

# SAFE LEARNING PLAN

**On July 30, 2020, Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan shared the SAFE LEARNING PLAN with the state of MN.**

Created by the MN Department of Education and the MN Department of Health this plan outlines three learning scenarios for the coming school year, in-person, hybrid and distance learning.

As part of the Safe Learning Plan, all MN school districts have been assigned to a Regional Support Team which will facilitate communication between the school district and state levels in the event of a confirmed COVID-19 case within a school building.

These partnerships (local public health departments, the MN Department of Education, the MN Department of Health, and our regional service cooperative- Resource Training and Solutions) will provide support while navigating the impacts of COVID-19 throughout the school year. One of the primary roles of these support teams is to help with the ongoing evaluation of Dassel-Cokato School's current learning model.

## Safe Learning Plan Goals:

1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners
3. Consider infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level

## Safe Learning Plan Details

"The decision-making process for determining which model to start the school year should first center on local data that takes into account the viral activity in the surrounding community." *Safe Learning Plan, p5.* The bi-weekly case rate by county of residence report was created to help school districts monitor ongoing transmission levels at a county-based view. A formula that equates the total cases in the past fourteen days and the county population divided by 10,000 determines the numbers recorded each week. Communities across Minnesota have experienced COVID-19 in different ways, some areas have seen significant viral activity and others (such as Dassel and Cokato) have seen relatively low numbers of cases.

As shown in the Safe Learning Plan's goals, in-person learning is prioritized for elementary learners because research shows the limited transmission of COVID-19 in younger children. That factor, coupled with the significant burden distance learning has on elementary families, enables districts to keep those younger students in-person learning where it is safe and possible. Shifting between models takes into account the county case rate numbers and student ages (grades) and consists of five combinations of recommended policy options. (this chart is located in the Determining a Safe Learning Model section.)

**Many factors will be considered when making determinations to transition between models,**

however, it is impossible to plan for every possible scenario the school district may encounter over the course of the school year. Using the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 and the local impact within our communities, the process to determine a shift in learning models will take into account several factors: school-based impact, tracing and isolating close contacts, testing capacity, staffing, and safety protocols.

In general, in-person learning occurs when a community and/or school's viral activity is low. Positive cases may be occurring but can be traced to the source of exposure, close contacts can be identified, and quarantine recommendations exclude potentially contagious people from the school buildings.

The shift into hybrid learning assumes that substantial community spread or clusters within are occurring. Higher numbers of cases are occurring but close contacts are still being identified and are quarantining. The focus at this time aims to reduce student capacity and increase health and safety measures to help further mitigate the virus spreading.

Should the virus reach a point of having substantial impact with uncontrolled spreading and large scale outbreaks among students and staff, distance learning will be implemented. After a period of time, and consulting with the Regional Support Team, the learning model will transition back into hybrid and then in-person learning as appropriate. (Further details about Hybrid and Distance Learning can be found in subsequent sections below.)

**Dassel-Cokato Schools will follow MDH guidance:**

What To Do When Notified of a Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a School or Child Care Setting

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/casenotify.pdf>

Decision Tree for People With COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, or Childcare Programs

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

**COVID-19 CASES**

"In the event a confirmed COVID-19 case is identified within the school community, Dassel-Cokato Schools will work with our Regional Support Team to determine if the person was on school grounds while infectious and if there were any close contact exposures between students and staff.

To preserve in-person learning, whether district-wide in-person or any variation, it is important these determinations are made as quickly as possible. Informing students, staff, and families of close contact exposure, the need to quarantine at home or to seek testing are all important factors that will directly impact our ability to keep students in the classroom.

Close contacts are defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from 48 hours before illness onset until the time the patient is isolated. The MN Department of Health recommends all close contacts seek testing. At no time will testing for COVID-19 occur within the schools.

# Determining a Safe Learning Model to Start the School Year

THE NUMBERS BELOW REPRESENT BI-WEEKLY CASE RATE NUMBERS AS OF JULY 30, 2020

School districts consisting of more than one county are directed to use the county with the highest bi-weekly case rate number to inform the learning model. When first announced, on July 30th, the COVID-19 impact of Meeker County's number was low enough to allow in-person learning for all students in grades K-12. However, the impact within Wright County was high enough to dictate in-person learning for grades K-6 and hybrid for grades 7-12.

After discussing with both Meeker and Wright County Public Health Departments and an epidemiologist from the Emerging Infections Unit of the MN Department of Health, it was determined Cokato's local case levels within Wright County supported in-person learning for all grades.

5.63

Meeker County

12.88

Wright County

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

On August 6th, Dassel-Cokato Schools announced the return of all grade levels to begin the 2020-2021 school year. This decision is made possible by the ability to successfully implement safety protocols within several factors including social distancing, face coverings, food services, transportation, school-age care, cleaning and disinfecting, and the ability to offer both in-person and virtual instruction. With the declaration of returning to school in-person learning this fall, the school district will focus on school-based and community impacted COVID-19 case activity. **The decision to shift between learning models will maintain awareness of county-level data through continued review of the bi-weekly case numbers but will center decisions based on the school-level impact of COVID-19. The bi-weekly county numbers will NOT be the sole determiner.**

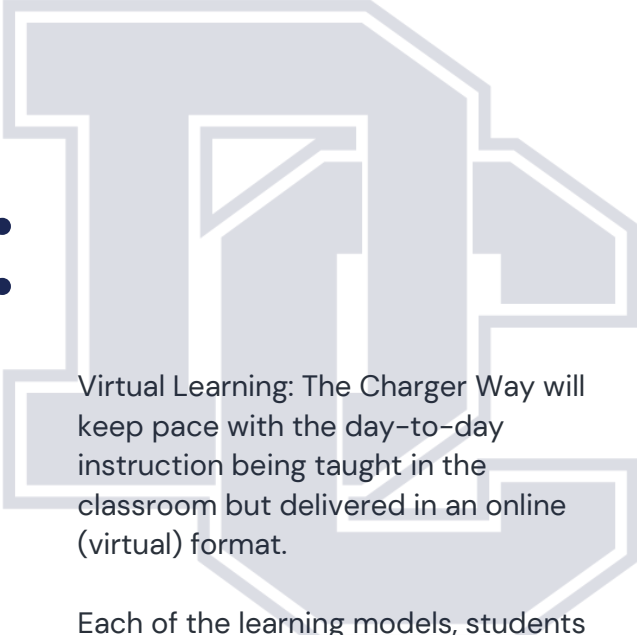


# VIRTUAL LEARNING: THE CHARGER WAY

**The Safe Learning Plan instructs districts to provide a distance learning option for families to opt-into regardless of the learning model.**

This past July a survey was sent to all families in an attempt to gather information regarding parent's feelings about students returning to the classroom this fall. This survey achieved a 67% response rate amongst families and based on the information gathered, we were able to estimate almost 330 students being unable or unwilling to return to in-person learning this fall. Reasons cited included: concern for the student's health, concern for a family member's health, overall concern about COVID-19, and not wanting students to have to wear face coverings as currently required (Executive Order 20-81).

Taking into consideration the varied needs of our students and staff, we have worked to create three-learning scenarios as well as a virtual learning opportunity that will carry us through the 2020-2021 school year. Dassel-Cokato Schools will debut Virtual Learning: The Charger Way as an option for families with students who are unable or uncomfortable returning to school in-person. It is not intended to be a short-term solution but for families whose students are planning to be away from the classroom for an extended period of time.



Virtual Learning: The Charger Way will keep pace with the day-to-day instruction being taught in the classroom but delivered in an online (virtual) format.

Each of the learning models, students and teachers will continue using common learning platforms to provide consistency. Grades K-8 will use Google Classroom and Grades 9-12 will use Schoology. Infinite Campus will be used for daily attendance purposes, assignment tracking, and grading. Parents are able to access Infinite Campus through Parent Portal. Tutorial videos will help provide easy access instructions as well as the Digital Learning Specialists available to students in each building.

The daily schedule is flexible for these students as they are able to access pre-recorded lessons at times convenient to them. Students are expected to keep current with assignments and due dates as the rigor does not change in Virtual Learning. A smooth transition back into the classroom will occur when students are able and ready to do so because they will be at the same academic learning place as their classroom peers.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
VIRTUAL LEARNING:  
THE CHARGER WAY:  
[WWW.ISD466.ORG/DOMAIN/111](http://WWW.ISD466.ORG/DOMAIN/111)**

# Learning Scenarios

## 1

### In-Person Learning

In-person learning brings students back into the classroom on a daily basis. Additional health and safety requirements are implemented to align with the MN Department of Health. The ability to offer in-person learning takes into account the COVID-19 viral activity of both Meeker and Wright Counties but also centers on school and community based COVID-19 case levels.

All students returning to school will be required to wear the appropriate face covering as set forth in Executive Order 20-81. Both students and staff will work to continually practice social distancing and will be reminded of such through the use of floor markings and signage. Daily cleaning, increased hygiene standards and opportunities, limiting visitors, and monitoring for illness will help offer a safe and healthy environment and directly contributes to the ability to keep students in-person learning.

Students will continue to socialize with friends, they will eat lunch together and have the ability to enjoy recess and the outdoors to the extent possible. After school youth recreation and enrichment opportunities are being made available through the Activities Department and Community Education. All programs will be offered in accordance with MDH/MDE guidance. More information can be found regarding health and safety building protocols at [www.isd466.org/domain/96](http://www.isd466.org/domain/96)

#### Required for In-Person and Hybrid Learning

- ☐ Masking Policy
- ☐ PPE for direct support student services
- ☐ Build routines of hygiene education & practices
- ☐ Daily cleaning and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day
- ☐ Building level COVID-19 program coordinator, with optional student counterpart
- ☐ Limiting nonessential visitors/volunteers/external groups
- ☐ Discontinue large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing
- ☐ Monitoring and excluding for illness





# Learning Scenarios

## 2



### Hybrid Learning

The Hybrid learning scenario will reduce the number of people in our school buildings by 50%. In addition to the health and safety parameters required for In-Person learning, it will also have additional requirements, such as strictly enforcing social distancing and reducing the number of students riding school district transportation vehicles by 50%. Students will be limited to smaller group sizes including time at lunch, recess, and within certain classes.

The Hybrid learning scenario will have students attending school either Monday/Wednesday or Tuesday/Thursday with each group attending every other Friday. Students will be split alphabetically to keep families together on the same learning days. The days spent learning from home will not require students to do distance learning but instead they will bring home assignments to complete on those in-between days.

School-age childcare for children of Tier I critical workers will be implemented during Hybrid and Distance Learning. For more information, see the district website at [www.isd466.org/domain/116](http://www.isd466.org/domain/116).

#### Required for Hybrid Learning

- ☐ Social distancing of 6 feet at all times in school buildings
- ☐ School facilities at 50% capacity
- ☐ Transportation at 50% capacity
- ☐ Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the model

# Learning Scenarios

## 3



### **Distance Learning**

Last spring the school district had a mere four days to transition into distance learning. Instituting this completely new method of teaching and delivering meals/materials was an overall success. Staff, through the help of family input, have since been able to reflect and make changes to further enhance this method of instruction. Students who have chosen Virtual Learning: The Charger Way will merge with those who have chosen in-person learning. All student schedules and classes will follow the same format while Distance Learning.

- The school district website will contain a single "Distance Learning" page as a central source for all grades. This will provide easy access for both parents and students with regards to pertinent information such as assignments, updates, and links to specific buildings and/or class sites.
  - Google Classroom will be the Learning Management System used for elementary and middle school students.
  - Schoology will be the Learning Management System used for high school students.
  - Instructional materials will be delivered weekly.
- Attendance will be taken daily as specified by building.
- Contactless delivery or pickup of meals will occur daily or weekly as decided upon by the district.
- Student Schedules:
  - Schedules will be based on family needs and will consist of required, recommended, and optional learning tasks for differentiated instruction for all students.
- Instructional materials will contain weekly/daily layouts that will help students and families prioritize learning time within a schedule that meets their needs.
- Teachers will have designated hours for students to contact them for teaching, learning, questions, and support opportunities.

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 1

### Bussing

**Students and drivers will be required to wear face coverings while on all school district transportation vehicles.** *\*In accordance with Executive Order 20-81.*

- Busses will be disinfected daily.
- Students will be seated 6 feet back from the driver.
- Students will be seated to maximize social distancing and will load the bus from back to front.
- Students of the same family may be asked to share seats.
- Busses will unload one bus at a time to avoid crowds of students entering the building.

#### HYBRID:

During the hybrid scenario, the number of students riding buses/vans is reduced to 50% occupancy.

Students of the same family will be asked to share seats.

*\*If you are able to transport your students to and from school, please contact the transportation office at 286-4105. This will help reduce bus crowding.*

## 2

### Cleaning and Disinfecting

#### IN-PERSON AND HYBRID LEARNING:

- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout common areas/entrances in each of the buildings.
- High-touch surfaces will be prioritized for cleaning/sanitizing throughout the day.
  - doorknobs, handles, light switches, tables, chairs, dispensers, work areas, faucets, keyboards.
- Buildings will be disinfected nightly through the use of ionizing aerosol foggers.
- All sanitizing and cleaning supplies will be used in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets, and manufacturer specifications and will be stored away from students.
- All cleaning and sanitizing will be done in accordance with CDC and OSHA guidelines.

#### **If a student or staff member are suspected of having COVID-19 related symptoms:**

The impacted area will be disinfected including prioritizing high-touch surfaces.

#### **If a positive case is identified while in the building:**

The impacted area will be closed while custodial services thoroughly disinfect the entire area and any other potentially affected areas.

#### **In the event a building is required to close due to a COVID-19 outbreak:**

Custodial services shall disinfect the entire building in accordance with CDC and OSHA guidelines as well as following guidance from the MN Department of Health.

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 3

### Communication

**COVID-19 continues to rapidly change and evolve within our daily lives.** Because of this, Dassel-Cokato Schools will regularly update information, details, and protocols on the district website and COVID-19 UPDATES web pages.

- Campus Messenger notices are sent directly to families through email, text, and occasionally by phone. It is important all families make sure their contact information is current so as to receive these messages. Families are encouraged to access their Parent Portal account on a regular basis. Questions regarding the Parent Portal can be directed to each building secretary or by emailing: [Support@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:Support@dc.k12.mn.us)
- Input from families has been and will continue to be gathered primarily through Campus Surveys. The information gathered through these surveys is vital as we continue to plan, implement, and make decisions.

- In accordance with the MN Department of Health's guidance, families will be notified of positive cases while respecting all individual privacies.
  - Depending on tracing and the ability to identify close contacts, the risk of exposure to individuals will range from low to high.
  - County and State Public Health Departments as well as a Regional Support Team will work with DC School Administrators to implement protocols such as informing the need to quarantine or recommend testing.
- Each principal will act as their building's COVID-19 coordinator in coordination with their Health Services department. The Licensed School District Nurse will act as the District COVID-19 Nurse. The principals and District COVID-19 Nurse will work with the District COVID-19 Coordinator who will communicate concerns, challenges, and lessons learned related to COVID-19 preventive activities as needed with staff, families, the administrative team, and local health officials.
  - Dassel-Cokato District COVID-19 Coordinator: Abbey Lang
  - Dassel-Cokato District COVID-19 Nurse Coordinator: Jenny Heidecker
  - Building COVID-19 Coordinators: Brian Franklin (Cokato Elementary), Alisa Johnson (DCMS), Chris Meisch (DCHS/ALC), Debbie Morris (Dassel Elementary)

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 4

### Community Education

**Dassel-Cokato Community Education is excited to continue to offer opportunities to our community members.** While our year continues to look different than any other we've experienced, we are committed to providing the best experience possible.

- We will continue to follow all requirements set forth by the MN Department of Health and the MN Department of Education.
- Participating students must have a parent/guardian complete the Student Agreement in the registration process prior to the start of any program.
- We invite you to stay up-to-date with all that we are offering by following us on Facebook at Dassel-Cokato Community Education and our website at [www.isd466.org/domain22](http://www.isd466.org/domain22).

### School-Age Childcare (Charger Kids Club)

**IN-PERSON LEARNING:** Charger Kids Club will continue offering school-age childcare before and after school for grades PreK-5 students. Preschool students must be age 4 and currently enrolled in DC's Play and Learn Preschool program.

- Morning hours are 6:00am-8:00am
- Afternoon hours are 3:00pm-6:00pm

Charger Kids Club maintains pods of 15 of staff and students, promotes a safe program environment that follows social distancing of at least 6 feet whenever possible, good hygiene and cleaning standards in accordance with CDC and MDH guidelines.

Charger Kids Club adheres processes and protocols as set forth by Dassel-Cokato Schools.

#### **HYBRID and DISTANCE LEARNING:**

- Executive Order 20-82 requires school-age care for eligible children of Tier 1 workers during regular school instruction hours. Applicable fees apply to time spent in care outside of regular instruction hours.
- School-age care for children of Tier 1 workers is intended for extreme circumstances in which no parent or guardian is at home due to employment as a Tier 1 worker. Free child care is to be made available when the only parent or both parents in the household are employed as Tier 1 workers.
  - Tier 1 critical workers are defined in Appendix A. ([www.isd466.org/domain/116](http://www.isd466.org/domain/116))
  - Families who qualify for childcare or free childcare during HYBRID and DISTANCE LEARNING will be required to provide Tier 1 employment verification prior to transitioning into these learning models.
  - Transportation will be made available for students participating in school-age care for children of critical workers, in accordance with our local student transportation requirements, as it was this past spring, March-May 2020.

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 5

### Face Coverings

**On Saturday, July 25th Executive Order 20-81 went into effect requiring Minnesotans to wear a face covering in indoor public settings.**

All students in grades K-12, staff, and visitors are required to wear a face-covering while inside the school buildings and riding school transportation vehicles.

#### **Types of allowable face coverings include:**

*\*In accordance with Executive Order 20-81*

- Paper or disposable mask
- Neck Gaiter
- Cloth face mask
- Bandanna
- Religious face covering

The covering should cover the nose and mouth completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear.

Cloth face coverings should be washed daily.

#### **Types of masks not allowed:**

- Those that incorporate a valve designed to facilitate easy exhaling
- Mesh Masks
- Masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material
- Masks with vents

A face covering is not meant to substitute for social distancing, but is especially important in situations when maintaining a 6-foot distance is not possible.

#### **Face Shields:**

A face shield (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face) allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception and may be used as an alternative to a face covering in the following situations:

- By teachers (all grades), when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.
- Among students in Kindergarten through grade 8, when wearing a face covering is problematic.
- For staff, students, or visitors who cannot tolerate a face-covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition of which is documented by a medical doctor.
- For staff providing direct support student services, when a face covering impedes the service being provided.

A face shield must extend below the chin, covering the nose and mouth completely, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield's headpiece.

Face shields that do not fit these parameters are not allowed and should not be worn to school or on school district transportation vehicles.

**In order to use a face shield as an alternative in the above specific situations, preapproval is required by the building principal.**

Face coverings may be temporarily removed while:

- Eating or drinking
- During indoor practices such as singing or playing musical instruments
- While engaging in physical activities where the level of exertion makes it difficult
- During classes or activities held outdoors

Families who do not support their students wearing face coverings, according to the above parameters should choose Virtual Learning, for their students.

All face coverings must comply with district policy #504 – Student Dress & Appearance



# Health and Safety Protocols

## 6

### Food Services

#### IN-PERSON LEARNING:

- Disposable foodservice items (i.e., utensils, dishes) will be used. Self-serving lines will be eliminated.
- All non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher.
- Foodservice staff will wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
- Proper PPE will be worn at all times while preparing food and interacting with students.
- Seating areas will utilize additional areas in order to accommodate social distancing.
- Lunch lines will allow sufficient social distancing space through the use of floor markings.
- Students will be directed to complete proper handwashing processes (use of hand sanitizer) prior to and when leaving the lunchrooms.
- The number of checkout lines may be increased when possible to reduce the wait time.

- Student lanyards will be used to eliminate the need for manually typing student ID numbers.
- Second Chance Breakfast has been temporarily suspended.

#### HYBRID:

- Breakfast/Lunch will be sent home packaged or frozen at the end of the day as "heat and serve" meals for students who chose to purchase them.
- On days students are in school, social distancing will continue during lunch periods as well as serving prepackaged meals.

#### DISTANCE LEARNING:

In the event we are required to Distance Learn again at some point, Dassel-Cokato Schools will implement a contactless pick up and/or delivery system for meals. Details will be shared at such a time Distance Learning is required.

#### VIRTUAL LEARNING STUDENTS:

Students who have chosen Virtual Learning: The Charger Way are able to purchase and pick up breakfast and/or lunches. Similar to this past spring, meals will be prepackaged.

For questions and details regarding this option please contact the Food Services secretary, Tracy Clark at 286-4100 ext. 1013 or by email: [tracy.clark\[at\]dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:tracy.clark[at]dc.k12.mn.us).

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 7

### Health & Safety Protocols

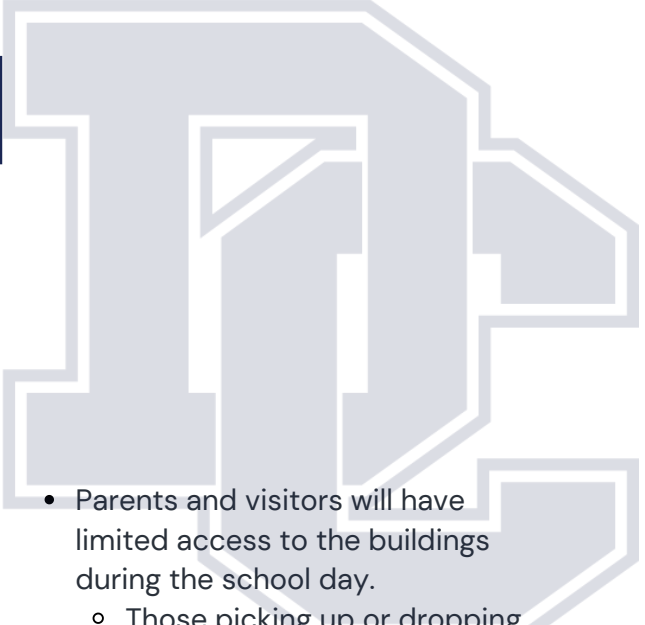
**Families and staff are being asked to complete the Daily Health Assessment prior to arriving at school each day.**

Upon completing the Daily Health Assessment, if you answer yes to any of the questions accordingly you should stay home, contact your healthcare provider and then the school.

DC's Decision Tree, created in accordance with the MN Department of Health's Decision Tree provides guidance for returning to work/school.

**WHILE ATTENDING SCHOOL OR RIDING ON SCHOOL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES:**

- Students and staff are required to wear face coverings in accordance with Executive Order 20-21 and MN Department of Health requirements.
- Multiple entrances and specific door designations (declared by use of signage) will be used to minimize crowding.
- Busses will unload one at a time.

- 
- Parents and visitors will have limited access to the buildings during the school day.
    - Those picking up or dropping off students are asked to wait in their cars or social distance outdoors while waiting.
  - Teachers and staff will work with students to provide education about healthy hygiene practices, social distancing, and general safety precautions throughout the day.
    - Staff will receive continual updates and information related to the above as new recommendations and requirements become available.
  - Hand sanitizing stations are available at various points throughout the buildings and in classrooms.
  - The use of signs and dots will help educate and remind students and staff about safety procedures and social distancing.
  - Classrooms will be arranged to accommodate for as much social distancing as is feasible.
  - Student traffic flow may be redirected to minimize student gatherings.
  - Teachers may utilize the outdoors for instructional purposes so long as weather permits.

# Health and Safety Protocols

## 8



### Student Support/ Teaching and Learning

- Teachers will focus on building relationships, identifying learning gaps from last spring and summer, and helping students feel supported and connected to their classmates and school.
- To the greatest extent possible, instruction will look and feel like it did prior to COVID-19.
- Classrooms have been arranged to allow for as much social distancing as is feasible.
- Alternative spaces may be utilized for some classes. For example, the Performing Arts Center may be used for choir classes to allow more social distancing while singing. Gym classes are being encouraged to utilize the outdoors as much as possible.
- Field trips have been suspended until further notice.
- Activities that bring large groups of people together will be discontinued or reconfigured to consist of smaller groups who are able to maintain proper social distancing.
- Nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups/organizations have been restricted.
- Social workers will work with staff to provide education and awareness of signs students may display who need social, emotional, and/or mental health support.
- Families are encouraged to reach out to school social workers with any concerns about their children.
- All staff will prioritize and help students adjust to being in school.

# Student Arrival Time



## Arrival Time

Due to COVID-19, students will not be participating in outside recess prior to the start of school each day nor will they be able to congregate in the school common areas.

**All school buildings will not be open until 7:45 am and students should not arrive before this time.** Students connecting to the Middle School/High School from an elementary school will need to remain outside the building, socially distanced on the sidewalks.

Upon arriving at school each day, students will go directly to their classrooms. A "Grab and Go" breakfast is available to all students every morning at 7:45 AM. Students who qualify for free or reduced lunch are entitled to receive a free breakfast. Students will eat their breakfast in Charger Time or their first hour class. Parents who think they might qualify for the free or reduced price lunch program should contact the District Office at 320-286-4100 ext. 1013.

Families seeking school-age childcare before and/or after school can contact Charger Kids Club at 286-4100 ext. 1314 or the website at [www.isd466.org/domain/72](http://www.isd466.org/domain/72).

# Signage and Safety Measures

1

FLOOR DOTS DESIGNATE PROPER SOCIAL DISTANCING



2

SIGNAGE DIRECTS TRAFFIC FLOW



3

LUNCH LINES ARE SOCIALLY DISTANCED AND WILL MOVE QUICKLY



4

PLEXIGLASS IS IN ALL RECEPTION AREAS



5

HANDWASHING SIGNS PROVIDE REMINDERS



6

SANITIZING STATIONS ARE LOCATED IN EACH BUILDING



# Frequently Asked Questions:



## 1

What learning model is the school starting the year with?

On August 6th a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Health was held to discuss the local COVID-19 numbers in our communities. After consulting with an MDH Epidemiologist, they are in agreement our numbers are low enough to support in-person learning for all grades. We are confident in our ability to safely return students to the classroom and so all students in grades PreK-12 will be returning to school in-person on September 8th!

## 2

What does bussing look like? Do my students have a place on the bus?

Bussing is available to all students who need it with in-person learning. However, we are asking parents, who are able and willing, to drive their students to do so to help reduce crowding on busses. If you are able to commit to driving your students to and/or from school, please contact the Transportation Department. at 286-4100 ext. 1005

## 3

Does my student have to wear a mask?

Yes. All students in grades Kindergarten-12 will be required to wear a face-covering while on school district transportation vehicles and while inside the school buildings. Please see Face Coverings in the Health & Safety Section 06.

## 4

Will my student be tested for COVID-19 at school?

NO. Neither the school nor the teachers will be testing students for COVID-19. We will be relying on families to self-monitor their health and keep students home if ill. We will be providing information and resources regarding self-assessments. Please contact your primary healthcare provider with any questions regarding your family's health. Students who develop symptoms during the school day will have their parents/guardians notified and will be sent home if necessary. Families should then contact their primary healthcare provider with questions regarding symptoms.



# Frequently Asked Questions:



## 5

**Will Virtual Learning be offered for the entire school year?**

If the school learning models are lifted, and the state directs schools to return to "normal" and all students are able to return to the classroom – Virtual Learning would be discontinued. If the learning models stay-in-place for the duration of the school year – Virtual Learning will continue being offered.

## 7

**If I choose Virtual Learning, does it have to be for the whole year?**

No. Families who choose Virtual Learning do not have to stay in it for the entire school year. We are asking those who feel this is the best option for them to commit for the quarter/trimester as it directly affects class schedules and the number of students in each classroom. Building principals will work with families to make the transition back into the classrooms.

## 6

**If I choose in-person learning, can I switch to Virtual Learning?**

Yes. Families with students in in-person learning are able to transition to Virtual Learning should their circumstances change. Building principals will work with families to make this transition. Virtual Learning can also be used as a way of keeping students current with schoolwork should they need to quarantine at some point. This would be a short-term solution to help keep them up-to-date until they are able to return to the classroom. What we ultimately do not want to experience is families choosing to move back and forth between the options. Please contact your building principals for discussions and help in making these decisions.

**Have a question?**

**We want to hear your questions! Please email them to:**  
**[communications@dc.k12.mn.us](mailto:communications@dc.k12.mn.us)**

# Resources



## 01

MDH (MN Department of Health)

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html>

## 02

MDE (MN Department of Education)

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/>

## 03

Data for K-12 Schools:  
14-day COVID-19 Case  
Rate by County  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/wschoold.pdf>

## 04

Safe Learning Plan  
<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/safe-learning-plan/overview.jsp>

## 05

COVID-19 Cleaning and  
Disinfecting for Schools  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.html>

## 06

MDH Decision Tree  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/exguide.pdf>

## 07

2020-2021 Planning  
Guidance  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/>

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Thankyou DC families  
for your continued  
support. Go Chargers!

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