



Dear Families,

We have had five excellent weeks of school since moving to the current models of instruction. Elementary students, staff and parents have made this possible. We deeply appreciate the daily implementation of procedures to stay safe. The students have been so impressive in maintaining the necessary measures to keep everyone safe.

SECONDARY LEARNING MODEL UPDATE

We are now heading into another change in the high school and middle school model. Starting on March 15, we will move to an in-person model four days per week. We have some students moving to e-learning that day, and we have many students returning from e-learning to in-person at the start of the fourth quarter. The administrators have been communicating with you regularly to keep everyone informed.

Middle school students will not be in school on Friday, March 12 or Tuesday, April 6 due to state-required teacher planning. High school students will not have school on Thursday and Friday, March 11 and 12, due to teacher planning.

SPRING BREAK TRAVEL

As we are just a few weeks away from Spring Break, and many families may be planning to travel, I think it is important to provide some health and safety information to help keep our school community safe.

Below are the guidelines from our state and national health agencies. I am providing them to assist you in making safe and informed decisions about Spring Break. Following these precautions can help keep our students and staff healthy by preventing the spread of COVID-19 and will help everyone have a great finish to the school year. Here are the current Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recommendations for you to consider if you plan to travel:

- Get tested for COVID-19 1-3 days before you travel. Keep a copy of your test results with you during travel in case you are asked for them.

- Do not travel if you test positive for COVID-19.
- Check travel restrictions before you go.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth when in public settings. Masks are required on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations.
- Avoid crowds and stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from anyone who did not travel with you — both indoors and outdoors.
- Wash your hands often or use hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol).
- Bring extra supplies, such as masks and hand sanitizer.
- Avoid contact with anyone who is sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

The District will follow the same protocols as we have since the beginning of the year when determining whether a student should be away from school. Parents should monitor their students for COVID-like symptoms and discuss any symptoms with the school nurse. If you have been informed by a health authority that your student has tested positive or has had close contact with someone who was COVID-positive and they must quarantine, please inform your school nurse right away and do not send your student to school.

TESTING

MDH is now recommending that K-12 students be tested every two weeks. Schools do not have capacity to provide this testing for students. The [MDH website](#) provides general information on testing.

There are multiple ways for students to be tested, including at their own health clinics (check with your insurance company on whether there is a fee). There are also community sites offered through MDH that provide testing free of charge, and you can order a test kit to use at home. You can find more information on [community testing sites through MDH](#) and you can order a test kit to use at home [here](#).

ADDITIONAL SAFETY MEASURES

As we take our next steps on March 15 with fully open middle and high schools, I also want to remind us all to be extra vigilant with safety measures. Students should stay home with COVID-like symptoms. Please keep the school informed if your student is ill or tests positive for COVID-19. Additionally, if school health staff informs you your student must quarantine, please follow that directive.

We have a responsibility to each other. And, only by working together will we keep our schools open and keep our kids in school. Thank you for your incredible efforts throughout this everchanging year to partner with us and to protect each other. I appreciate all you are doing.

I look forward to seeing so many of our students back in school on March 15, and I wish all of you a wonderful Spring Break later this month.

Dennis Peterson
Superintendent of Schools