




Tri-County Public Schools

Back to School – 2020-2021

Safe Learning Planning

Parent Presentation

August 18, 2020



Making a Decision: Goals

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1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners and those with most need
3. Recognize differences in potential spread among different ages
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level

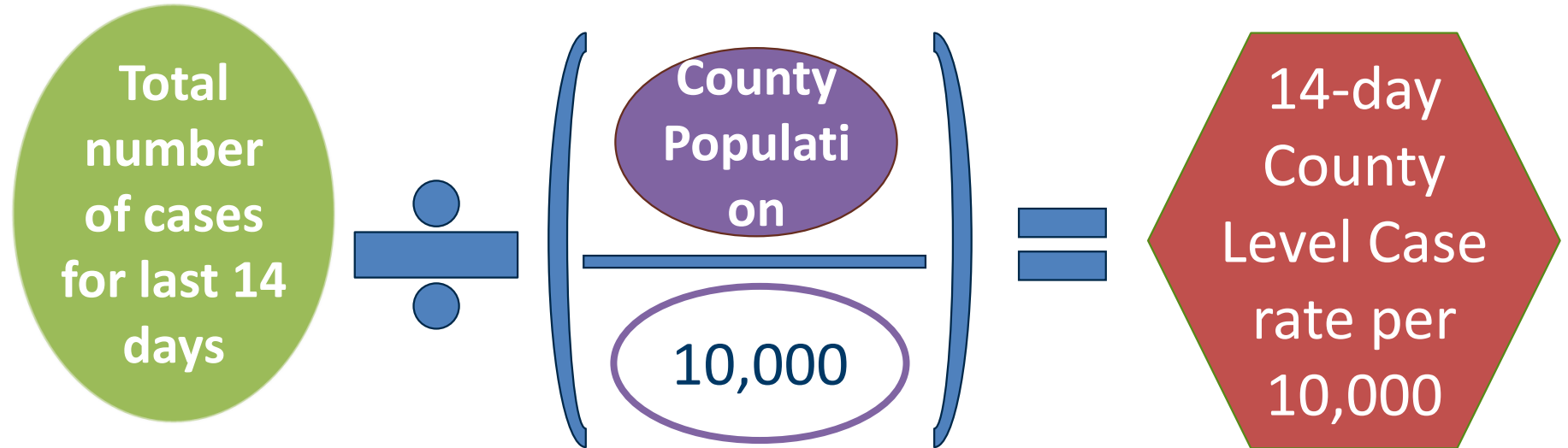
Making a Decision – Safe Learning Plan

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- **Consult the MDH learning model selection parameters** as indicated by county-level data to determine the base learning model
- **Consult with health officials (local public health and/or state officials) as needed** to examine the local epidemiology behind county-level data to assess whether increases or higher numbers of cases are likely the result of isolated outbreaks or whether they may be indicative of more widespread community transmission.
 - If a consultation with a state official is needed, please contact Distance.Learning.MDE@state.mn.us and specify what you would like to discuss so we can schedule you with the appropriate expert.
 - Note that if you would like to dial forward to a less restrictive learning plan than what MDH has determined as the base model for your county, you must have a consultation before making that decision.
- **Evaluate the ability to implement required and recommended health best practices** to inform decision- making at the school or district level.
- **Determine the learning model to begin the school year.**
- **Monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis** in consultation with public health to determine if adjustments are needed.

14-day county level case rate

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Selecting a learning model for school opening

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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

Health Requirements & Best Practices

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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

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

Assessing cases in a school after opening

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- How many cases are there? Are they close together in time or spread out over several weeks?
- Are new cases traceable to the school community or are they likely the result of a different exposure?
- Where are cases occurring, and do they have any common themes?
- How many close contacts does each case have?
- Are students, parents, and staff forthcoming about close contacts?
- Is there other significant transmission in the surrounding community that will likely impact families and staff?
- Are you able to maintain your current learning model based on staffing?



Symptoms & Exposure Prescreening

- Tri-County School is asking that parents/guardians be diligent about prescreening their students daily. Any individual with a temperature of 100.4°F or higher is required to stay home. Also, any individual exhibiting the symptoms of COVID-19 should stay home.
- Any staff or student experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to follow the Tri-County Decision Tree isolation and quarantine guidelines on page 4.
- Students' temperatures will be taken prior to entering the building each day.
- A medical room will be designated for ill students waiting to go home.
- In the event of a confirmed case or exposure, Tri-County School will coordinate with the Minnesota Department of Health and the Regional Support Team to determine an appropriate course of action.



COVID-19 Symptoms

COVID-19 symptoms include the following:

- Fever of 100.4°F or greater OR chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves.
OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4 or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, loss of sense of smell or taste, and gastrointestinal symptoms (diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea).

Students or staff who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 should STAY HOME or GO HOME, UNLESS they meet exclusion criteria below.

COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria	Positive COVID-19 Test	Negative or NO COVID-19 Test WITH symptoms	Negative COVID-19 Test NO symptoms or close contact	Close Contact of Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 POSITIVE individual	Other Diagnoses that explain symptoms or if connected to a pre-existing condition
INDIVIDUAL	ISOLATE STAY HOME at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 days since symptoms first appeared AND • no fever for at least 24 hours (without medication) AND • improvement of other symptoms. <i>If NO SYMPTOMS, 14 days from test date.</i>	ISOLATE STAY HOME at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 days since symptoms first appeared AND • no fever for at least 24 hours (without medication) AND • improvement of other symptoms. 	NO REQUIREMENTS	QUARANTINE STAY HOME at least 14 days.	STAY HOME until symptoms have improved. FOLLOW your healthcare provider's direction. <i>Please provide a note from the healthcare provider upon return.</i>
HOUSEHOLD	QUARANTINE STAY HOME at least 14 days.	QUARANTINE STAY HOME at least 14 days.	NO REQUIREMENTS	QUARANTINE STAY HOME at least 14 days. <i>UNLESS individual can QUARANTINE away from others.</i>	NO REQUIREMENTS

When you **ISOLATE**, you separate **SICK** people from people who are not sick.
QUARANTINE separates **WELL** people who were exposed to see if they become sick.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, please call the school at 218-436-2261.
PLEASE REPORT ABSENCES by calling us at 218-436-2261 or emailing attendance@tricounty.k12.mn.us

Face Coverings for Every Student, Educator, and School Staff

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- All students, staff, and others present in school buildings and districts offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear face coverings. In accordance with the state mandate, PreK students are exempt from this requirement.
- Cross agency effort to procure the following supplies to all Minnesota school districts and charter schools. Students will receive:
 - Every K-12 student will receive TWO free cloth face masks (state providing one, TC providing another)
 - Every school will receive three disposable face masks per student



Face Coverings

- Per the state's Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 all staff, K-12 students, and other people entering Tri-County School will be required to wear a face mask.
- Face masks will not be required at lunch, recess, band, PE or during socially distanced mask breaks scheduled by the teacher (when possible).
- Face mask exemptions will be allowed but must include certification by a physician.
- Face masks should comply with Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, covering the nose and mouth and fitting snugly against the sides of the face.
- Disposable face masks will be available to staff, students, and visitors that do not provide their own.
- Face shields can be used as an alternative for students in grades Kindergarten - 8th grade when wearing a mask is problematic. Face shields should extend below the chin and wrap around to the ears laterally and be cleaned frequently. Purchasing of the face shields will be the responsibility of the parent/guardians.

Testing

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- We will **NOT** be testing at the school nor does the school require it.
- If your child exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, it is highly encouraged to be tested.
- Testing recommendations may come from the Regional Support Team and we could communicate those recommendations to families. Those recommendations would take several factors into consideration.

- In-Person Learning
 - Social Distancing and minimizing exposure
 - Face coverings/Hygiene practices/inside learning spaces/barriers
 - Entering building / procedures
 - Classroom schedules/Student services
 - Meal schedules
 - At-home Learning Option
 - Cleaning schedules and procedures

- In-Person Learning
 - Monitoring and excluding for illness – 24 hours symptom free
 - Handling suspected or confirmed positive COVID cases
 - Support mental health and wellness
 - PE/Recess/Physical Activity
 - Music/Band
 - 4.5 day plan / childcare



Visitors

- Only students and staff will be allowed in and out of the school buildings during school hours.
 - VPK and Head Start parents are allowed to escort their students to the classroom for the first two weeks of school, but must also be screened and wear a mask.
- Visitors will have limited access to the building, by appointment only. Make an appointment by calling the office at 218-436-2261.
- All visitors will be required to wear a face mask. A disposable face mask will be provided to you if you do not have one.
- Upon entering the building, visitors will be required to pass a COVID-19 prescreen questionnaire and have their temperature taken to ensure no fever.



Transportation

- All students and bus drivers will be required to wear a mask in school vehicles. If a student forgets, a mask will be provided for them when they get on the bus.
- To help avoid the spread of COVID-19 or any illness, we are asking that families be diligent in the prescreening process prior to sending their student(s) on the bus.
- Students will be assigned seats by families on the bus per the state's guidelines.
- There will be sanitizer provided on each bus for students if they need or want.
- Every school vehicle will be sanitized between uses.



Building Use, Cleaning & Sanitizing

- As always, Tri-County School is committed to maintaining a safe and clean learning environment for staff and students. Cleaning and sanitizing will follow CDC guidelines. We will also be conducting extra cleaning and sanitizing at high traffic and frequent contact points.
- Staff, students, and visitors will be directed to specific entrances to help minimize congestion in any one area throughout the day.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available throughout the building for staff and students.
- Paper towel dispensers will be installed in the most frequently used bathrooms as an option to use in place of the hand dryers.
- Teachers and staff will ensure students wash their hands often.
- Traditional water fountains will not be available, but students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to fill at one of the school's contactless bottle filling stations.
- In order to cut down on hallway congestion, 7-12th grade students will be encouraged to carry a backpack with some of their school items (including technology devices) to and from class.

- At-Home Learning
 - Difference between At-Home and Distance Learning
 - Technology – Laptop/Internet/Hotspot
 - Class Schedules/Rigor
 - Communication
 - Childcare
 - Meals– grab and go from school

- Hybrid Learning
 - Technology – Laptop/Internet/Hotspot
 - Class Schedules
 - Communication
 - Childcare
 - Food service

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Tri-County Schools - FAQ

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- What happens if a student or staff member is diagnosed with COVID?
- How will student absences be handled?
- Will there be athletics, activities, concerts, etc?
- Parent Survey – please complete

Tri-County School COVID Resources

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- Executive Order 20-82:

https://mn.gov/governor/assets/EO%2020-82%20Final%20Signed%20and%20Filed_tcm1055-442391.pdf

- MN Department of Education Safe Learning Plan:

<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/index.html>

- MN Department of Health Guidance for Schools:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/k12planguide.pdf>

- MN Department of Public Safety – Fire Marshall Occupancy Loads:

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/Documents/School-occupant-loads-COVID.pdf>

- Department of Labor and Industry:

<https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic/ffcra-questions>

- Frequently Asked Questions about Safe Learning Plans

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/safe-learning-plan/safe-learning-faq.jsp>