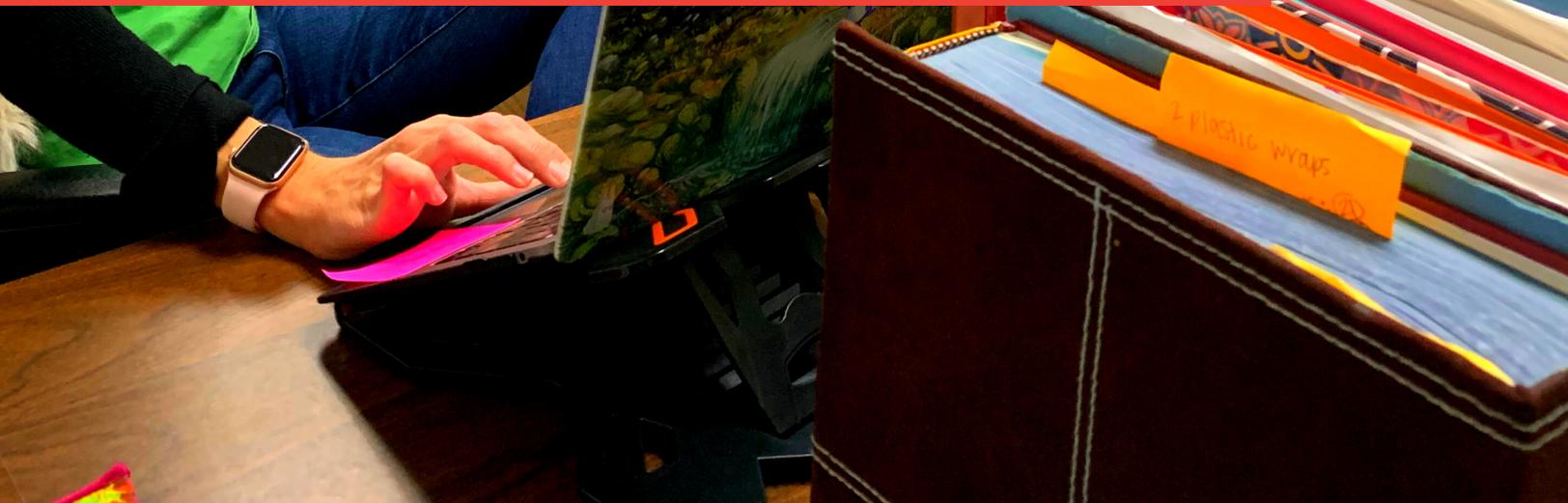


IHD ELEMENTARY TRANSITION TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

What Has Changed & What to Expect



LAST UPDATED BY
SHAKOPEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT OFFICE

January 13, 2021

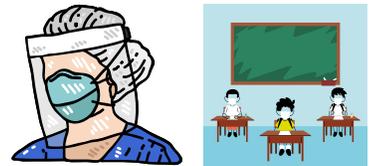


WHAT HAS CHANGED & WHAT TO EXPECT

This guide is meant to serve as a brief overview of changes to COVID-19 student/parent and staff guidelines associated with in-person learning for elementary IHD students. This guide also includes general district COVID-19 health and safety updates. Changes noted in this guide are a result of the Minnesota Department of Education's updates to the Safe Learning Plan (December 2020) that Shakopee Public Schools must abide by. Please note that this guide is also considered an updated resource to the district's [Pandemic Response Plan](#), which was sent to all district families in September 2020, and still available on the district website.

Efforts to limit cohort intermixing (i.e mixing of students groups) will be present throughout the day and are automatically included in many of the noted efforts. Additionally, cleaning and disinfection procedures will continue throughout the district but with greater frequency due to adjusted programming.

FACE MASKS/SHIELDS



STUDENT CHANGES

- All K-5 students (not including preschool) are expected to wear face masks/coverings the entire day, even during indoor gym, indoor recess and on school transportation.
 - Exceptions include when a student is eating.
- Face masks/coverings are optional during outdoor school day activities.
- Students who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical or behavioral health condition may be exempt from wearing a face covering and must wear a face shield instead.
 - An [exemption form](#), which can be obtained from a student's home school administration, must be signed by a parent/guardian and a medical authority.

STAFF CHANGES

- All staff are expected to provide an extra layer of protection throughout the school day (indoor and outdoor). All staff are expected to simultaneously wear a face mask and face shield during the school day to provide the wearer with a greater level of personal protection than when wearing only a mask or only a shield.
- When staff are serving students in settings where seeing a person's lips is necessary and they do not have access to a clear face mask, they may choose to only wear a face shield.
- When staff are performing duties in which wearing a face mask and a face shield together creates a safety concern (eg. visual impairment while operating a vehicle, working in a kitchen, working in a lab, etc.), the staff member may wear only a face mask for that specific period of time.
- Face masks and shields will be provided by the District.

WHAT HAS CHANGED & WHAT TO EXPECT

SOCIAL DISTANCING

ELEMENTARY STUDENT CHANGES

- When spaces allows, three (3) feet of physical distance or more will be strongly encouraged between students.
- Staff will adjust learning spaces to accommodate all students, with assigned seats (whenever possible) focusing on a physical distance of three (3) feet or more.

ALL STAFF CHANGES

- Staff will maintain six (6) feet of distance with peers and students, when possible.
- When educators cannot be six (6) feet from students, they will add a clear barrier between themselves and student(s), when possible.



MEALS

ELEMENTARY STUDENT CHANGES

- Elementary student meal times will be held in the classroom if six (6) feet of physical distancing between students cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria and cohorts cannot be clearly separated.

- Individual schools will provide more information relative to each building and space restrictions related to school meals.
- USDA free meals for all district students will continue throughout the remainder of the 2020/21 school year.



TRANSPORTATION

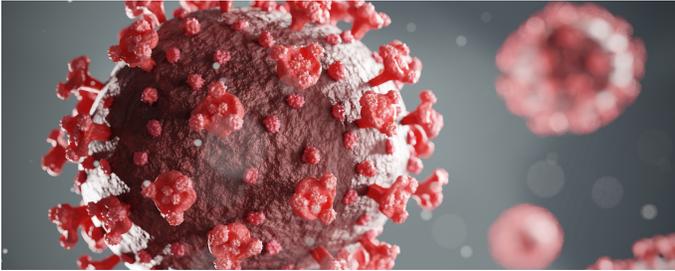
ELEMENTARY STUDENT CHANGES

- The majority of elementary students will ride the same bus route (stop and bus unchanged), with morning pickup being one hour earlier. Additionally, the majority of afternoon student routes will remain unchanged.
- Full details will be available in parent portal and communicated directly to those with significant transportation changes prior to in-person learning (elementary).
- Buses will run at two-thirds (2/3) capacity with assigned seating; students from the same household will be grouped together.

- Bus drivers will be six (6) feet from students when driving and wear a face mask/covering; the front row of each bus will be kept open.
- Increased fresh air circulation will occur during routes; students should dress for the weather when riding the bus.
- Students will load the bus in a back to front manner during morning routes.



COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, TESTING & PROTOCOL



HEALTH SERVICES PROTOCOL & COMMUNICATION

- In the event of exposure to COVID-19 at school, students will quarantine at home for 14 days from the date of last exposure, watching for symptoms of COVID-19.
 - A PCR COVID-19 test is recommended during quarantine 5-7 days after last exposure.
 - Additional details on quarantine period and types of tests are on the pages to follow.
- Families of students or staff who are close contacts will continue to be informed of exposure the same day that a lab confirmed positive COVID-19 PCR test is received. Speed, accuracy and safety are of utmost priority.
- When the Health Services team receives notification of a potential COVID-19 case, ALL situations are followed up on immediately and include support from the Scott County Infectious Disease Division and Minnesota Department of Health.
- Courtesy COVID-19 communications will be sent to each building on a weekly basis outlining school and district case rates.
- When a student or staff member has COVID-19 symptoms or receives a positive COVID-19 PCR test, the student, parent(s) and/or sibling(s) will stay home for the designated period.

COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

- Reminder that symptoms of COVID-19 can look like many other illnesses. The symptoms for children can look different than symptoms for adults. Many children have no symptoms at all and could infect others.
- More common COVID-19 symptoms: fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; a new cough, or a cough that gets worse; difficulty or trouble breathing; and new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common COVID-19 symptoms: sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; excessive fatigue (being very tired); a new or severe headache; and new nasal congestion or a runny nose.
- If your student has one (1) common symptom or two (2) less common symptoms, they should stay home and follow the attendance line process noted below.

STAFF TESTING & VACCINES

- Staff will be offered COVID-19 PCR testing at school every 2-weeks.
- The COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to district staff based upon national and State priority orders, and available supply.

ATTENDANCE LINE REMINDERS

Students should stay home and the parent/guardian should contact their student's attendance line in the following situations:

- When a student has COVID-19 related symptoms.
- When a family member in their immediate household has COVID-19 symptoms and/or is in the process of being tested.

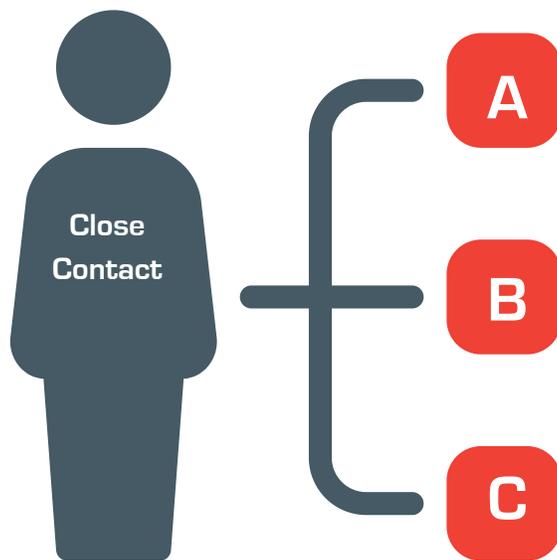
CLOSE CONTACT QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

When a student or staff member is exposed to a lab confirmed case of COVID-19 or tests positive to COVID-19, a series of communications occur to ensure the individual stays home in order to protect themselves and others around them. Below is a simplified breakdown of the guidelines, which includes recent updates to the quarantine period of a close contact. The safest option is always to quarantine for 14 days once the quarantine period has started. Please refer to the next page for clarification on definitions and additional Minnesota Department of Health Resources.

If a staff or student tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home and isolate for 10 days and may only return to normal activities after that period if they are free from symptoms (if applicable) for at least 24 hours from the isolation end date. Instructions on return to school dates for staff or students with a positive COVID-19 PCR test will be provided by the District COVID School Nurse.

Close Contact Scenarios

to a Lab Confirmed, Positive PCR COVID-19 Test



Person you were exposed to IS in your immediate home or dwelling, and may or may not have symptoms. Required 14 day quarantine, no exceptions. Cannot test out or return early, even if you are symptom-free and/or receive a negative PCR COVID-19 test. The 14-day quarantine begins the day symptoms started OR day of exposure to someone with a positive PCR test or symptoms was contagious.

Person you were exposed to IS NOT in your immediate home or dwelling and you do NOT have symptoms. 14 day quarantine is still recommended, but you may opt for a 10 day quarantine. A negative COVID-19 PCR test is NOT required for this opt out. A district quarantine reduction form is required. See additional details below in Scenario B.

Person you were exposed to IS NOT in your immediate home or dwelling and you do NOT have symptoms. 14 day quarantine is still recommended, but you may opt for a 7 day quarantine if you have a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken at least five full days after you had close contact with the infected individual. You must also be symptom free. A district quarantine reduction form is required. See additional details below in Scenario C.

Scenario B: Additional Details



- You do not have any COVID-19 related symptoms at any time.
- The quarantine adjustment form must be submitted and approved. Forms can be found on the district website or obtained from your school nurse.

Scenario C: Additional Details



- You must have a negative PCR test, not an antigen test or antibody/blood test, and be symptom free.
- The test must be taken at least five full days after you had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
- Quarantine adjustment form must be submitted and approved. Forms can be found on the district website or obtained from your school nurse.

Important Definitions & Resources

PCR Testing: Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a test that detects genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19. It is also called a molecular test. A swab is used to collect fluid from someone's nose or throat, or someone spits to collect saliva. The test tells if someone is infected right at the time the test. Results can take several days. This test is used to diagnose COVID-19 infection and it is considered quite accurate. This test can be used to determine early release from quarantine in the approved scenario.

Antigen Testing: Antigen tests detect certain proteins in the virus. They are often called rapid tests, though some PCR tests are also rapid tests. A swab is used to collect a fluid sample from the nose or throat. Results can be returned in 15 minutes. This test is used to diagnose whether someone has COVID-19 right now. This test cannot be used to determine early release from quarantine.

Close Contact to COVID-19: Close contact is defined as when a person is within 6 feet of someone with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer, at anytime during the 10 days of their diagnosed COVID-19 illness OR within two days from when they developed COVID-19 related symptoms OR the date they received a positive test (i.e. date of test) if they did not experience symptoms.

Close Contact of a Close Contact to COVID-19: Defined as someone that is exposed to a close contact (see above definition) that has NOT tested positive for COVID-19. This person's risk of contracting COVID-19 is no greater than in the general community and therefore they are not required to quarantine. Quarantine would only apply if an individual becomes a direct close contact to a lab confirmed COVID-19 case.

Quarantine: Quarantine is the period of time that a person exposed to a lab confirmed COVID-19 case stays home, monitors their COVID-19 symptoms and checks their temperature twice a day.

Isolation: Isolation is defined as the 10 day period that a person with COVID-19 symptoms, or a person that tests positive for COVID-19, stays home. The person should stay home and use a separate bedroom and bathroom, if possible, wear a mask when around household members and watch for serious symptoms that would indicate the need for emergency care. The 10 day period starts at the onset of symptoms or day of the positive COVID-19 test, whichever is first. Upon the 10th day, if the person still has a fever/symptoms, then they must continue to isolate until fever-free (without fever reducing medication) for a minimum of 24 hours and symptoms have improved.

Contact Tracing: In the case of a positive COVID-19 test, the Minnesota Department of Health is notified and information passed on to Scott County Public Health. Scott County Public Health, in partnership with Shakopee Public Schools, contacts the impacted person to find out who they have come in contact with since the onset of symptoms or 48-hours prior to their positive COVID-19 test. The County also provides additional resources related to isolation procedures. The person's contacts are notified via phone by the County and informed of quarantine guidelines. The impacted person's name will only be released to their contacts with prior verbal consent.

Additional Resources

[Minnesota Department of Health Close Contacts, Tracing and Quarantine Guidance](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Locations in Scott County](#)

January 13, 2021

SUMMARY BRIEF

Since March 2020, the guiding principles for Shakopee Public Schools in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic have been to maintain an appropriate balance between the health and safety of our students, staff and community AND provide the best learning opportunities possible for our students. This continues to be our focus for the remainder of the 2020/21 school year.

ELEMENTARY

*January/February 2021
transition to in-person
learning*

SECONDARY

*continues in distance
learning at this time*



On December 17, 2020, the Minnesota School Boards Association shared the following statements from Governor Walz addressing some of the reasons for the changes to the State's Safe Learning Plan. Walz called the change for elementary schools a "**monumental move**" that was prompted by a deepening understanding of where and how the virus is circulating, the ways to minimize its spread — and a growing concern about the academic, social and emotional losses for kids and families when school buildings are closed.

Walz said, "is the safest and best place for many of our children to be. And now we believe we have both the experience, the knowledge and the resources necessary to make that not only an emotionally and academically safe place, but a physically, health-wise safe place for those students to be."

At the January 4, 2021 school board meeting, a recommendation from the Shakopee Public Schools Pandemic Response Advisory Team was approved for adjustments to the elementary (K-5) IHD learning plan and phased transition into in-person learning.

As previously noted, Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan did not contain changes for our secondary schools (East Middle School, West Middle School, Shakopee High School, and Tokata Learning Center). Therefore, in accordance with the rules of the Safe Learning Plan, our secondary schools will still be in distance learning at this time. Should secondary students in the IHD learning model change to hybrid or in-person learning, updates to COVID-19 procedures will be distributed accordingly.

We hope this IHD elementary guide provides staff and students in the IHD learning model additional clarity and guidance on return to school procedures. We will continue to communicate any changes or enhancements in a timely and clear manner, with the health and safety of our students, staff and community at the forefront of every decision.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Mike Redmond, Ed.D