

Fulda Public School District Safe Return to School 2022-2023

Overview

- The health and safety of our students and staff continues to be a top priority at Fulda Public Schools. We continually monitor relevant information from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Local Public Health. Fulda Public Schools will implement the following for the 2022-2023 school year. All plans and protocols are fluid and can change based upon new data, information, and local numbers. Changes made 8/2/22 to reflect current CDC recommendations.
- Our goal is to create an environment that will allow us to have all students in the building for the 2022-2023 school year.

Planning

- As in past years, a committee was formed and met several times to discuss and develop this plan. This plan will remain fluid and may need to change throughout the year as new guidance becomes available from the MDH and MDE. The Committee consists of School Board members, superintendent, principals, teachers from both buildings, licensed school nurse, janitorial staff, food services, special education teachers and parents.
- Fulda Public Schools' number one priority continues to be the health and safety of students and staff. We will be working closely with local public health throughout the school year who will be following county case numbers and monitoring community spread.
- We are prioritizing communication to families, community members and staff. Email notification will be the best and most efficient way to contact our families about positive cases and potential exposures. Interpreter services through Nobles County Collaborative Integration will be provided at no cost to non-English speaking families. We will contact families who do not have email access by phone but will be encouraging all families to get an email account set up before the start of school.
- Non-essential visitors and volunteers will again be limited in both buildings.

COVID-19 program coordinators

- District and High School, Mike Pagel, Superintendent / 7-12 Principal
- Elementary School, Brett Perish, PreK-6 Principal
- These staff will work in collaboration with district school nurse, Rachel Isder. They will communicate concerns, challenges, and lessons learned related to COVID-19 preventive activities as needed with staff, students/families, school and district leadership, and local health officials.

Social distancing and minimizing exposure

- Social distancing means keeping space between yourself and other people outside of your home. Social distancing is a critical tool in decreasing the spread of COVID-19.
- If needed to increase social distancing of individuals, unnecessary furniture/materials may be removed from classrooms so that students' desks can be spread out.

Face Coverings

- All students, staff and other people present in the school buildings and district offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are allowed to wear a face covering.

Delivering direct student support services

- School staff will need to be in close contact with students when they provide certain services within the school setting, including: evaluation for service eligibility; screening for developmental or other health conditions; personal care services; and specialized instruction and related services for students with special healthcare needs or disabilities. Personal protective equipment may be used to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission during the provision of these and other services that require close, physical and prolonged contact.

Transportation

- All individuals will have the option of wearing a mask while on buses or school provided transportation.
- Drivers should notify the school nurse if a student becomes symptomatic while riding the bus or school provided transportation.

Protecting Vulnerable populations

- Students/families and staff can self-identify to the licensed school nurse if they identify as high risk for illness due to COVID-19. A plan will then be developed to address requests for alternative learning arrangements or work reassignments.
- School Nurse and special education staff will evaluate current plans (ex. Individual Healthcare Plans, Individualized Education Plans or 504 plans) for accommodating students with special health care needs and updates as needed to decrease their risk for exposure to COVID-19.

Sanitizing and Cleanliness

- Each teacher / classroom will have access to hand-sanitizer.
- Each teacher will remind students of proper hand hygiene routine on the first day of school and will reinforce throughout the year as needed. Best practice is to wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Students with sensitivities to hand sanitizer will be allowed extra time to use soap and water.
- All staff will have access to needed cleaning/disinfecting supplies. They will notify custodial staff when running low.
- Posters will be posted around both buildings encouraging the use of proper hand hygiene.
- Custodial staff will develop a schedule for the routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment throughout the school day. They will use EPA-approved disinfectants for SARS-CoV-2.
- Staff will keep cleaning products out of the reach of children and will ensure adequate ventilation to avoid inhaling toxic fumes from these products.
- Students may help in cleaning of equipment, but will not use products that say “Keep out of reach of children”.

Monitoring and excluding for illness

- We will follow the 2022-2023 Fulda Public Schools COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Policy.

Handling suspected or confirmed positive cases of COVID-19

- We will follow the 2022-2023 Fulda Public Schools COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Policy.
- Positive cases are required to be reported to the MDH by the school nurse Rachel Isder, 507-920-0140

Water and Ventilation symptoms

- Water fountains will be sanitized daily. Students are encouraged to bring their own bottle to refill.
- Windows will be open as much as possible to help increase circulation of outdoor air.
- Fans may be used as needed to help circulate air, but care should be used to minimize air from blowing from one person directly to another.