

Fulda Public Schools

Independent School District No. 505
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MICHAEL PAGEL
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Superintendent

Fulda Public School ISD #0505

Health and Safety Measures for the 2021-2022 School Year

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District #0505, Loy Woelber is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) and the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) have determined that the COVID-19 pandemic is currently ongoing and may remain ongoing for an unknown time; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the MDH has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding COVID-19 health and safety measures, the current CDC, MDE, and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that a health and safety plan be implemented at the commencement of the 2021-2022 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 505 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following health and safety measures to open the 2021-2022 school year:

2021-2022 Health Safety Plan for Fulda Public Schools

August 9, 2021

Fulda Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our staff and students. To ensure we have a safe and healthy workplace, we have developed the following Health Safety Plan in response to the ongoing COVID-19 health concerns. Administrators/Supervisors and workers are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our workplaces and that requires full cooperation among our staff, students and administrators. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our workers and workplaces.

We are transitioning from state required safety restrictions to health recommendations. COVID still exists and we need to have plans to mitigate the effect of COVID on our staff and students during our 2021-2022 school year.

Administrators/Supervisors and workers are responsible for implementing and complying with all aspects of this Health Safety Plan.

Our workers are our most important assets. We are serious about safety and health and keeping our workers working at Fulda Public Schools. Our Health Safety Plan follows best practice recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines.

Screening and policies for employees exhibiting signs and symptoms of COVID-19

Workers have been informed of and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. The following policies and procedures are being implemented to assess workers' health status prior to entering the workplace and for workers to report when they are sick or experiencing symptoms. All staff will be asked to assess how they are feeling each day they come to a school site by reviewing the MDH health screening checklist. If they feel ill or have symptoms identified with COVID-19, they are asked to stay home and self-monitor. As soon as practical, they should seek to have a test completed to determine their status. If staying home, they will communicate with their direct supervisor and use the Absence Management System to enter the information. If at work an employee becomes ill, or experiences any of the symptoms of COVID-19, they will communicate with the front office and immediately leave the building, keeping space from others. In their call to the office, they will include who they have worked with in the past 48 hours and locations in the building they have been.

Fulda Schools has implemented leave policies that promote workers staying at home when they are sick, when household members are sick, or when required by a health care provider to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household. Employees will follow their contracts for applicable leave options. The district will follow federal and state law regarding authorized leaves.

Fulda Public Schools will follow CDC/MDH guidelines on contacting staff who may have been exposed and ask them to self-monitor for any symptoms. As guidelines are updated, we will notify employees. We will ask employees who may have been in contact with someone testing positive to schedule for a COVID test as soon as practical. Fulda Public Schools will follow all Federal, State Laws and district policies regarding the privacy of employee health records and release of information. The school district does not have a roster of staff or students who have been vaccinated. The saliva test remains an option for staff and students. Each building has a designated administrator who will oversee this plan and respond to positive cases or quarantine cases. Positive cases will continue to be reported using the RedCap Survey.

Handwashing

Basic infection prevention measures have been implemented at our workplaces at all times. All staff and students are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially when working with shared items, prior to any mealtimes and after using the toilet. All customers and visitors to the workplace will be required to wash or sanitize their hands prior to or immediately upon entering the facility.

Hand-sanitizer dispensers are at entrances and locations in the buildings so they can be used for hand hygiene in place of soap and water, as long as hands are not visibly soiled. Our custodial teams will check the status of the hand sanitizers throughout the day.

Respiratory etiquette: Cover your cough or sneeze

Staff, students, and visitors are being instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in provided trash receptacles and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated on posters and supported by making tissues and trash receptacles available in each classroom and by restrooms.

Social distancing

Social distancing continues to be recommended. This 2021-2022 school year there will be staff and students who may not have been vaccinated. Please social distance to the extent possible between staff, students and visitors in the school buildings.

The following guidelines will remain in our school buildings during 2021-2022 school year:

- Each front office will continue to practice proper social distance near the secretaries to minimize exposure to airborne particles.
- Water bottle filling stations remain operable and recommended to refill water bottles. Water fountains are discouraged.
- The number of people in a classroom will follow recommendations from MDE and MDH. This guidance is reviewed and updated. As this guidance changes, we will update our plans.
- PPE will be available (masks, gloves, shields, gowns) at each building.
- Appropriate PPE will be worn when staff are working in close proximity to students for education, toileting, transporting, responding to behaviors.
- Staff will limit the sharing of equipment and instructional supplies outside of their classrooms/offices.
- Shared spaces will be cleaned and disinfected throughout the day. Disinfectant and cleaning supplies will be provided in each office to clean and share items throughout the day (phone, copier, printers, etc). Staff will use gloves when cleaning with disinfectant. Building lead custodians will provide the necessary cleaning items and provide training on how to use them.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer required in school buildings for employees. Face coverings are still required on school buses. Employees may choose to wear a face covering as a precaution when in the building. Many of the students you work with will not have received their vaccination as the 2021-2022 school year begins. Guidance on face coverings will be updated throughout the 2021-2022 school year. It is recommended but not required that all students wear a face covering while indoors. Outdoor activities do not require a face covering.

Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth face mask
- Scarf
- Bandanna
- Clear face shield

Face coverings should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.

Cleaning, disinfection, and ventilation

Regular housekeeping practices are being implemented, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces and areas in the work environment, including classrooms, offices, restrooms, break rooms, lunch rooms, meeting rooms. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted in high-touch areas, such as phones, keyboards, touch screens, controls, door handles, elevator panels, railings and copy machines. Building custodians will perform the scheduled cleaning using CDC/MDH approved disinfecting/cleaning products.

Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfectant supplies have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product. Supplies for disinfecting hard surfaces will be provided by custodians upon request and then monitored by them for refilling as necessary. Spray bottles and wipes can be used for larger spaces, like countertops, desks and tables. For smaller workstations and personal items, disposable wipes will be provided as available. Gloves should be worn when using either of these products and care should be taken when spraying so as to not spray in the direction of other people's faces. Surfaces should be allowed to air dry for maximum effectiveness of the disinfectant. The maximum amount of fresh air is being brought into the workplace, air recirculation is being limited and ventilation systems are being properly used and maintained. Steps are also being taken to minimize air flow blowing across people.

Communications and training

This Health Safety Plan will be communicated via email and posted in our school offices and staff workrooms by August 10, 2021. Administrators/Supervisors are to monitor how effective the program has been implemented. Administrators/Supervisors and workers are to work through this health safety program together and update the training as necessary. This Health Safety Plan has been certified by **Fulda Public Schools** and was posted throughout the workplace August 10, 2021. It will be updated as necessary.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement different health and safety measures for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of different health and safety measures is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The health and safety measures selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement different health and safety measures.

Section 3: The Superintendent and School Nurse will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

Adopted this 9th day of August, 2021.

Don Tiesler, School Board Chairman

Jason Apple, School Board Clerk

Loy Woelber, Superintendent of School

Mike Pagel, K-12 Principal