



Re -Open Plan Fall 2020-2021

## Objective

- Community understanding of the process to Re-Open Schools
- Board action to Re-Open ROCORI Schools for Fall of 2020-2021 that meets the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health's recommendations

# Information and Communication

As Superintendent, in all plans and doings of the District, it is my role to do so in a timely manner.

- This task has been very difficult as the target is moving. I will continue to be better in this area as it is the one area that causes the most anxiety.
- I hope this information tonight will get you up to speed.
- Please feel free to email me or call if you have questions
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# FOCUS

- To bring back our students to school in person full time when able
- We know it is important for their education, physical, social and emotional health
- Done safely

# Background Information

- What is the cause of school not being "normal" in 2020-2021
  - COVID 19 caused all schools in Minnesota to go to distance learning in March of 2020
  - June 18th, 2020 MDE released guidance on how schools should plan for the 2020-2021 School Year
    - Districts were to start working on plans to be open:
      - In-Person
      - Hybrid plan
      - Distance Learning
        - ROCORI surveyed our parents, staff and students about Distance Learning, Spring of 2020

ROCORI Emergency  
Planning Team went  
to work

Meetings began with a timeline, expectations of plans and setting of a regular meeting schedule June 22nd.

- July 7th, 14th, 21st, and July 28th meetings were held with our Emergency Planning Team (this group was established in March and had regular meetings in the spring).
- July 13th ROCORI Schools brought on IEA to help us with our Re-Open plans from a health and safety perspective.

## Focus of Plans and Recommendation

Directive to Administrative Team in planning considerations:

#1 Safety of our students and staff

#2 Maintain quality instruction

#3 Plans must be feasible

District Leadership Team Recommendations:

- Push to be ready In-Person K-12
- Hybrid Model would be ABABA/BABAB in two-week rotation
- Distance Learning with enhancements from parent/student/staff survey data

Governor Releases  
Safe Learning Plan  
for 2020-21 on  
July 30, 2020

- Executive Order 20-82 is now guiding how ROOCRI Schools and all public Minnesota schools are going to reopen.
- The plan release is to allow for a localized, data-drive approach
  - [Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021](#)
  - [Executive Order 20-82](#)
- Any student who is uncomfortable returning to school In-Person or in a Hybrid model must be offered distance learning.



# How is Re-Open Plan Determined

## How do schools determine their safe learning model?

### STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

### STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

### STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

### STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.\*

### STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

## Safe learning models:



Distance learning



Hybrid learning



In-person learning

\* Regardless of learning model, all public schools must offer an equitable distance learning option to all families.

# Band Determination

In order to determine the base learning model, school districts and charter schools will be advised of the [bi-weekly case rate \(over 14 days\) by county of residence](#). These data are the number of cases by county of residence in Minnesota over 14 days per 10,000 people by date of specimen collection (when a person was tested). While any increase in case incidence represents greater potential risk, schools may consider a bi-weekly case rate of 10 or more cases per 10,000 to be an elevated risk of disease transmission within the local community, especially when the level of cases per week is sustained or increasing over time.

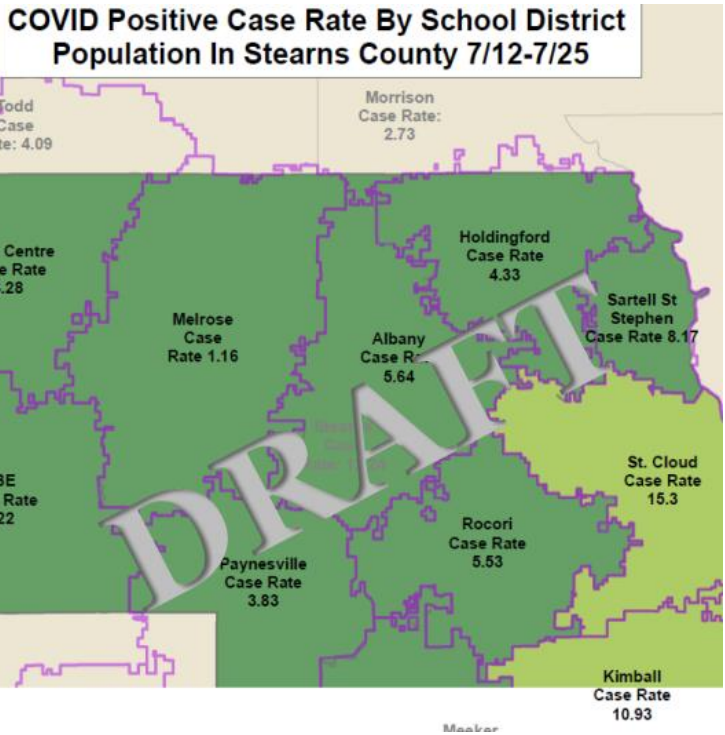
$$\text{Total number of cases for last 14 days} \div \left( \frac{\text{County population}}{10,000} \right) = \text{14-day county case level rate per 10,000}$$

## Learning Model Parameters

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

Local Data  
2 week look back

County Name	6/7 - 6/20	6/14 - 6/27	6/21 - 7/4	6/28 - 7/11	7/5 - 7/18	7/12-7/25	7/19-8/1
Sherburne	1.93	2.79	5.90	9.76	15.77	23.28	20.38
Sibley	5.36	16.09	16.09	10.06	11.40	8.05	5.36
Stearns	4.08	11.22	19.58	17.92	13.97	12.31	11.54
Steele	7.63	10.63	9.54	11.45	14.45	14.72	12.00
Stevens	2.04	3.07	3.07	9.20	8.18	2.04	2.04
Swift	1.06	0.00	3.19	23.38	25.50	8.50	4.25



Plan Requirements  
that are to be  
addressed in further  
planning

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

## Base Model on 7-30-2020 for ROCORI

- Based on the data on July 30, 2020
- Stearns County was at 13.97
  - ROCORI Schools would then be In-Person for Elementary
  - Secondary would be Hybrid
  - Superintendent recommended to School Board to classify 6th grade as Elementary
    - Sixth Grade Students may be classified as elementary even in a middle school model
    - Students being in a new building more often would benefit them for instructional purposes
    - Maturity and being left home potentially

# School Board Work and Goal

Meetings had focused discussions on how to Re-Open in Person for all students

- July 20th Regular Meeting
- August 3rd Work Session
  - Superintendent presented highlights of plan and how ROCORI could open for fall of 2020-2021
  - Discussion was centered on being open all day/every day by our school board in both In-Person and Hybrid models
- August 10th Regular Meeting
  - Board consensus directed Superintendent to strive for all day/every day in person for all K-12 students in both the In-Person model and Hybrid model



School Board Points  
of Consideration  
from 8-10-2020

- **Keep kids and staff safe**
- **Return our students to In-Person instruction - no off campus instruction**
- **Represent constituents**
- **Prioritize mental, social and emotional health**

# Emergency Planning Team Work

- Work is going on in conjunction with the School Board, District Leadership, and Emergency Planning Team and Consultations with MDE/MDH
  - Emergency planning team membership expanded from 7-30-2020 guidance and August 3rd board direction
  - August 4th, August 6th, August 12th meetings are held to continue discussion and work to implement plans



MDE/MDH  
Consultation  
August 11

- August 11th-Superintendent met with Department of Health in conjunction with Stearns County Health to review MDH Consultation Document and COVID-19 Restart Blueprint ROCORI
  - Blueprint is a working document that our Admin team, Board and EPT team is working on. It will be available to the public once our plans are approved as it is a requirement to do so.

## August 12th Staff Concerns

- Safety of our Students and Staff
- Instruction Time
- Teaching out of Content Area

August 13th  
Consult #2 with  
MDE/MDH

- Superintendent met with Heather Mueller of MDE and Susan Klammer of MDH
- Superintendent addressed concerns raised in August 11th consultation

## MDE/MDH Outcome

- MDE/MDH approved Elementary plan to be Open In-Person
  - County number supports it
  - Elementary Planning Document pulled out from Re-Open Blueprint is on Board Book
- Elementary Students (K-6) will be in person instruction on Sept. 10
  - Elementary In-Person and Hybrid look the same.

## MDE/MDH Outcome

### MDE/MDH

- Does not support In-Person for all students
- Does not support Secondary Hybrid model for all students in person spread out

### Reasons:

- County data used by MDH does support in-person which is in conflict of our local data
- The ability to spread out and move safely in our Secondary building
- Being able to have students enter/depart and stagger close contacts in an every person every day basis in a Hybrid model.
- Risk of transmission with 1400 students in our Secondary building even spread out

Crystal Ball-Can  
Things change?  
YES

- Our county data is trending down and if we are below 10 cases per 10,000 on the two week average on August 24-25th we will start In-Person
- Communicating Plans with Students and Families: School districts and charter schools must electronically post and communicate their contingency in-person learning, hybrid learning, and distance learning plans to students and their families no later than one week before the beginning of their respective 2020-21 school year.
- That decision could be made as late as Sept. 1st

## Our Part as a Community

- Know how COVID Spreads
- Practice frequent hand washing
- Practice social distancing
- Wear a mask
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect frequently
- Stay home if you are sick
- Details: CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/index.html>

## Hybrid Model

- Creating a Hybrid Schedule has been the most difficult task in the start of my 30th year of K-12 education.
- The Hybrid Model needs to be done in a way that the Secondary can seamlessly switch to In-Person from Hybrid and can go from Hybrid to In-Person.



# Contention: 7-12 Hybrid Model

- What options have been explored to create a Hybrid
  - Mr. Guetter will speak
  - Secondary COVID 19 plan on Boardbook
- What are area schools doing?
  - EVW-In Person for both due to class sizes
    - Hybrid is AA/BB (DL)
  - Kimball –BB/GG (DL)
  - Albany –AA (DL) BB
  - Sauk Rapids-In Person due to Benton County number
    - Hybrid is AA (DL) BB
  - Sauk Centre-AA/BB (DL)
  - Melrose-ABAB (DL)
  - Holdingford-AB (DL) AB

# Legal Opinion

- Can the District Implement a plan that is not approved by MDE?
- Counsel Opinion(s)
  - EO 20-82 and MN Statute 12.21 subd. 3 gives MDE the authority to reject our plan
  - Attorney General could initiate an injunction to stop us from implementing a plan not approved
  - The Commissioner of Education could order the District to close until the plan is altered
  - Our District could be held liable and would be sued for negligence for money and damages caused by the illness or death for intentionally implementing a plan contrary to the EO.

# Board Questions

- Discussion