



FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 8, 2021

Dear Faribault Public Schools community,

As we resume the 2020-21 school year in our distance learning model, I want to provide an update on our plan to safely welcome students and staff back into our buildings. On Tuesday, Jan. 5, we held the latest meeting of our district's COVID-19 Incident Command team. I'm pleased to report that we are still on track to bring students back into our schools on Jan. 19.

In accordance with guidance we've received from the Minnesota Department of Education, we plan to bring our PreK through Grade 2 students back to school four days per week beginning Jan. 19, with Wednesdays serving as distance learning days. Students in Grades 3-5 will resume in-person learning two weeks later on Tuesday, Feb. 2, and also participate in distance learning on Wednesdays.

Our plan calls for students in Grades 6 through 12 to return to our buildings Jan. 19 under the AA/BB hybrid model. Group A students will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Group B students on Thursdays and Fridays.

For the Area Learning Center, Group A students will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays, and Group B students on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Friday will be the distance learning day for the ALC.

Full-time distance learning remains an option for all students. Our Wednesday seven-day meal pack distribution at Faribault High School will continue after hybrid learning resumes. Free childcare will still be provided for Tier One workers Wednesdays at Roosevelt Elementary (K-12) and McKinley Early Childhood Center (PreK).

We will use the next few days to ensure we're in compliance with all the new safety guidelines being given to us by the Minnesota Department of Health. In addition to wearing masks, all staff will be provided with face shields. We will continue to implement previous changes to our operations that limit interactions between classrooms and sharing of supplies. Students will still be required to wear masks at all times. The primary difference this time is that the MDH has reduced the social distancing requirement for elementary students from six feet to three feet. Quarantine periods of seven days for staff and 14 days for students are required for anyone who travels outside the state.

There is light at the end of this long tunnel. We don't have all the details yet, but in the coming months educators are expected to be among the next wave of people vaccinated, after health care workers and high-risk individuals. Additionally, our district Health and Safety Manager and Rice County Public Health representative reported some positive data at Tuesday's meeting:

- Since the November-December spike, the county 14-day case rate has dropped off from over 200 cases per 10,000 residents to about 75. Of course, that doesn't mean it's time to let up. It's imperative that everyone continues to wear masks, social distance and wash hands regularly so we can keep that number trending downward.
- Of the approximately 500 current cases in Rice County, only 9 percent are among those ages 5 to 18.
- According to self-reported data and the data provided to us by the MDH, we only have one active case among our students and staff.

We will continue to provide you with updates as information becomes available. All our current plans are subject to change based on the decisions of the Incident Command team, which regularly reviews data and consults with public health officials.

I want to once again say how incredibly grateful I am to all of you - our students, families and staff - for your hard work and the dedication you've shown over the last 10 months. You have faced the challenges presented by this unprecedented pandemic and come together to keep education in our community going. I'm confident that our school district will come out of this stronger and more united than ever before. We are Faribault.

Sincerely,

Todd Sesker, Superintendent

Faribault Public Schools Back to School Plan

Grade	Jan. 4-14	Jan. 15	Jan. 18	Jan. 19-29	Jan. 29	Feb. 2
PreK-2	Distance Learning	No School Pivot Day	No School MLK Holiday	Begin In Person M T Th Fr	In Person M T Th Fr	In Person M T Th Fr
3-5	Distance Learning	Distance Learning	No School MLK Holiday	Distance Learning	No School Pivot Day	Begin In Person M T Th Fr
6-12	Distance Learning	No School Pivot Day	No School MLK Holiday	AA/BB Model	AA/BB Model	AA/BB Model

(Note: Wednesdays are distance learning days for all PreK-12 students)