

FARIBAULT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Learning



Guiding Principles

Faribault Public Schools (FPS) is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all our students, staff and the community we serve.

Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our workplaces, and that requires full cooperation among all stakeholders including, but not limited to, employees, students, families and visitors. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of our students, staff and the community we serve. Employees are encouraged to continue to report any suggestions or concerns they have related to being at work and COVID-19.

FPS's Plan for Safe Return establishes and explains the necessary policies, practices and conditions to meet the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) guidelines for COVID-19 and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards related to worker exposure to COVID-19 and addresses:

- Required and recommended use of face coverings;
- Hygiene and respiratory etiquette;
- Housekeeping and general cleaning;
- Identification and isolation of positive employees/students;
- Close contact notification

(A) Face Covering Requirements and Recommendations

According to updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), as well as, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), face coverings are required to be worn on all types of public transportation (including school buses) through 6/30/2021. Through the same time frame, face coverings are also required to be worn by students/staff in a childcare setting while they're in communal areas (e.g., center or building hallways, lobbies, restrooms, breakrooms, etc.) where groups may intermix

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/masks.html>).

Beginning 6/10/2021, Faribault Public Schools recommends that all students, staff, and visitors who are not vaccinated continue to wear a face covering while present in any of our school buildings.

ABOUT FACE COVERINGS

It is important to note that OSHA does NOT recognize a cloth face covering as PPE, because the cloth face covering does not protect the person wearing the mask from becoming infected by others.

CDC also advises the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure. Homemade masks must be of good taste and not have any derogatory or inappropriate designs or language. Please note that

wearing a mask may not necessarily protect you from others who may spread the virus. It is important to wash your hands often and cover your cough.

Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

At this time, the CDC does not know if face shields provide any benefit as a source of control to protect others from the spray or respiratory particles. CDC does not recommend the use of face shields for normal everyday activities or as a substitute for cloth face coverings. Some people may choose to use a face shield when sustained close contact with other people is expected.

WEARING A FACE COVERING:

- Remember that face coverings are not intended to keep the mask wearer from getting sick, although it does provide some protection. People can carry and spread the virus without showing symptoms, and wearing a mask may help prevent the unknowing spread of germs.
- It is still important to maintain hand washing procedures.
- Cloth face coverings *should*:
 - Fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
 - Be secured with ties or ear loops
 - Include multiple layers of fabric
 - Allow for breathing without restriction
 - Be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape
- When removing a face mask, be careful not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Wash your hands immediately after removing the mask and placing it in the laundry. Information on how to properly wear face covering is listed below:
 - [How to Safely Wear and Take Off a Cloth Face Covering](#)
- Use proper donning and doffing techniques to put on and take off your mask. Minnesota Public Health has a video that demonstrates how to do this: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/videos.html>
- If you are using a reusable face covering, remember to clean it often.
 - [How to Wash Face Coverings](#)
- If you are unable to obtain a face covering for yourself, please let your supervisor know.

(B) Physical Distancing and Use of Cohorts/Podding

As of 6/10/2021, FPS will not be practicing strict physical distancing during any of its summer programs (Summer STEAM, Kids World, ESY, summer school, etc.). Students will generally be divided into cohorts based on age/grade level.

(C) Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Basic infection prevention measures are ongoing at our workplaces at all times. Employees are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially at the beginning and end of their shift, prior to any mealtimes, and after using the bathroom. Hand-sanitizer, as available, will be located in departments for employee use when employees are not able to wash their hands. Employees should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

All visitors to buildings are encouraged to use hand sanitizer prior to or immediately upon entering the facility. All buildings will have public hand-sanitizer dispensers.

In the event there is a sanitizer shortage, hand washing will be used in its place.

Respiratory Etiquette: Cover Your Cough or Sneeze

Employees and visitors are instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing to avoid touching their face, in particular their mouth, nose and eyes, with their hands. They should dispose of tissues in the trash and wash or sanitize their hands immediately afterward. Respiratory etiquette will be demonstrated on posters and supported by making tissues and trash receptacles available to all workers and visitors. Signs will be displayed throughout buildings.

(D) Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities/Ventilation

Regular housekeeping practices are currently in place, including routine cleaning and disinfecting of general areas in the work environment, including restrooms. Employees are provided supplies for cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas, such as phones, keyboards, touch screens, copy/postage machines, etc. and where appropriate equipment, tools and machinery should also be disinfected.

Ventilation systems will be on and running when buildings are occupied.

(E) Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine

Based on updated guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, Faribault Public Schools is no longer required to follow the MDH Decision Tree. Faribault Public Schools is still required to report all district-wide positive cases to the Minnesota Department of Health. If your child has tested positive, please notify the district Health & Safety Manager or the health office in your child's building.

SCREENING PROTOCOL

The following recommendations are being made in order to assess student/staff/visitor health status prior to entering the school.

STUDENTS

Families are encouraged to monitor their child for signs and symptoms of illness on a daily basis prior to their child coming to school.

It is still required for you to keep your children home from school and notify the health office of their absence if they're exhibiting any of the following:

- Fever of 100 degrees or more; should remain at home for 24 hours after the temperature returns to normal without medication to keep the temperature down

- Have vomited or have had diarrhea
- Have a persistent cough
- Have a rash without a physician's diagnosis
- Have open or draining skin sores
- Have inflamed or draining eyes or ears
- Have conjunctivitis/pink eye; should remain home until prescription medication has been taken for at least 12 hours and no drainage
- Have strep; should remain home until prescription medication has been taken for at least 12 hours
- Have head lice

If you need additional information regarding the district's health service's policies and procedures, please visit their district webpage: <https://www.faribault.k12.mn.us/departments/health-services>.

Please reach out to the health office in your child's building if you have any questions regarding whether or not your child is well enough to participate in school/activities.

SCREENING FOR EMPLOYEES

Faribault Public Schools employees are encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 prior to coming to work each day.

GUIDELINES FOR STAFF/STUDENTS WHO'VE TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

The following guideline will still be followed **when an employee/student tests positive for COVID-19**. Depending on the exact circumstances of a positive case's illness, modifications may be implemented on a case by case basis.

1. If the staff/student **tests positive** for COVID-19, they will be asked to stay home from work and self-isolate under the recommendation of the Minnesota Department of Health for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared (if asymptomatic, 10 days from the date they were tested) AND until they have no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications AND other symptoms have improved.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE FOR POSITIVE CASE EXPOSURE

Following the notification of a positive COVID-19 case within the district, the Health & Safety Manager will collect information regarding the circumstances of the positive case.

- a. If FPS is notified of a positive case within the district, contact tracing will be performed and all close contacts will be notified by email. Information in the notification will include the date the close contact occurred (FPS will NOT release any personal identifiable information of the positive case). Close contacts are no longer required to complete a quarantine period.

(F) Diagnostic/Screening Testing

Faribault Public Schools will not be offering COVID-19 testing to students or staff throughout the summer months. If you are interested in having a test done, please reach out to your primary care provider or visit one of the below locations:

Faribault

1. Allina Clinic Faribault; 507-334-3921
2. CompCare Urgent Care Faribault; 651-508-0936
3. HyVee Pharmacy Faribault; 507-334-1555
4. HealthFinder Collaborative Faribault Clinic; 507-323-8100
5. Mayo Faribault; 507-333-3300

Owatonna

1. Mayo Owatonna; 507-293-9525
2. CompCare Urgent Care Owatonna; 651-508-0936

Northfield

1. Northfield Hospital & Clinics; 507-646-1494

Vault: No-Cost COVID Testing For All Minnesotans (follow this link to create an account and order a kit: <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/>)

(G) Vaccinations

Faribault Public Schools does not have any vaccination clinics planned in the coming months. Rice County Public Health will be offering COVID-19 vaccines to the general public throughout the summer. Vaccines available include Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (Janssen). For more information on how to register for an upcoming COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Rice County Public Health webpage: <https://www.co.rice.mn.us/528/GET-VACCINATED-COVID-19>.

If you have any questions regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and how to register with Rice County Public Health, please call 507-332-5910, 507-332-5922, or 507-333-3818 and their staff will assist you. Please note, at this time, the Pfizer vaccine is the only vaccine available to adolescents aged 12-17.

(H) Accommodations for Children with Disabilities with Respect to Health and Safety Policies

Especially for children and teens with special needs, it's important to use different layers of protection together to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19:

- Hands & surfaces. Hand washing and cleaning surfaces, especially in shared spaces and with shared objects, are two important ways to help protect students from COVID-19. Signs will be displayed on classroom doors to remind staff members and to wash their hands often, for at least 20 seconds. Hand soap, tissues, wipes, and hand sanitizer will be on hand for everyone in the resource room programs to use.
- Face coverings. Nearly all children with special health care needs, age 2 years and older, can safely wear masks or cloth face coverings that securely cover the nose and mouth. There are very few medical conditions that would prevent a child from safely wearing them. Face coverings will be recommended for students and staff who are not vaccinated.

(I) Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Faribault Public Schools will continue to provide staff, families, and students (age-appropriate) with information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness.

The District Leadership Team will continually monitor the effectiveness of the Safe Return Plan by soliciting feedback and concerns directly from individuals or in survey format as well as by personal observation. Modifications to the plan will be made every 6 months as required and communicated to staff as needed.