



Early Childhood Family Education

June 7, 2021

Dear Early Childhood Families,

District 196 and Early Childhood Family Services are committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for each employee, student, parent/guardian and visitors to our buildings. This summer, as regulations and executive orders expire with changes in the pandemic, we will return to our primary focus on education, while also integrating COVID-19 responses into our existing pre-pandemic public health support.

These changes include less regulations and requirements, and more personal/family choice and responsibility. In response, the district has updated our [COVID-19 Operational Plan Students, Families and Guests for the summer](#), which outlines the practices and protocols to help ensure we have a safe and healthy learning environment and mitigate transmission of COVID-19. [Review the protocols table to see all updated guidance.](#)

Masks and face coverings guidance

Per the state's Safe Learning Plan, all staff and students must continue to wear masks or face coverings through the last student contact day of the 2020-21 school year. The last day for elementary students is June 8, and the last day for middle and high school students is June 11.

After those dates, District 196 will not require masks to be worn during summer programming, whether indoor or outdoor, or during after-school and other co-curricular activities. However, [per the federal order](#) from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), all staff and students riding in District 196 vehicles and buses — to and from instructional summer programming only — are required to wear a mask.

Additionally, face covering requirements for summer child care settings remain in effect through June 30, 2021, or until 70 percent of Minnesotans age 16 and older receive at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, whichever is earlier. We will update those families and our operational plan to reflect that once this change happens.

Both the CDC and MDH continue to strongly recommend that anyone who is not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 continue to wear face coverings indoors in businesses, public settings, and when around people from other households, as well as outdoors when social distancing cannot be maintained.

Health and safety measures

Regular cleaning and disinfection of our learning spaces and vehicles will continue throughout the summer. All will be cleaned and disinfected regularly using disinfectant products that are approved and effective against the COVID-19 virus.

Proper hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing with soap and water, cleaning hands using hand sanitizer and disinfecting surfaces will continue to be implemented. Appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant) will also be available and strategically placed in areas where they may be/are frequently used. Other personal protective equipment such as disposable masks will also be available to both staff, students and visitors if they want.

State and federal guidance is once again changing often, and we encourage families to regularly check the [MDH COVID-19 webpage](#), our [COVID-19 operational plan](#) and the [District 196 COVID-19 Dashboard](#). The dashboard will continue to be updated each Thursday through the summer.

We look forward to our continued partnership in this new phase, focusing on education while supporting families and public health.

Sincerely,
Jenna Ruble