



**School Board Special Meeting  
Tuesday, September 28; 5:30 PM  
ECC Room 349**

**I. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order**

**II. Discussion**

A. Return to School Phase I Update

**Description:** Update on Return to School Phase I

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; and Dr. Randy Smasal, Assistant Superintendent

**III. Action**

A. Staff Vaccine Resolution

**Description:** COVID-19 vaccinations have been available for adults since the beginning of 2021. Continuity with student instructional service is of great importance. Evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; and Nicole Tuescher, Director of Human Resources

**Recommendation:** Accept resolution requiring all staff to be vaccinated or submit to regularly scheduled COVID-19 Testing.

**IV. Board Leadership Updates**

**V. Superintendent Updates**

**VI. Adjournment**



**Board Meeting Date:** 9/28/2021

**TITLE:** Phase I Return to School Update

**TYPE:** Report

**PRESENTER(S):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; and Dr. Randy Smasal, Assistant Superintendent

**BACKGROUND:** Edina Public Schools administration submitted a Return to School Plan that included an update to the school board at the end of September. This update includes information about masking mitigation monitoring and student testing processes.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Review & receive administration documents that will be used to monitor COVID-19 mitigation practices related to masking and student COVID-19 testing.

**PRIMARY ISSUE(S) TO CONSIDER:** Extent to which the COVID-19 metric monitoring tools and proposed student testing plan supports instructional model of in-person learning.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Presentation

Masking Metric Monitoring Flow Chart

Overview Student Testing Plan

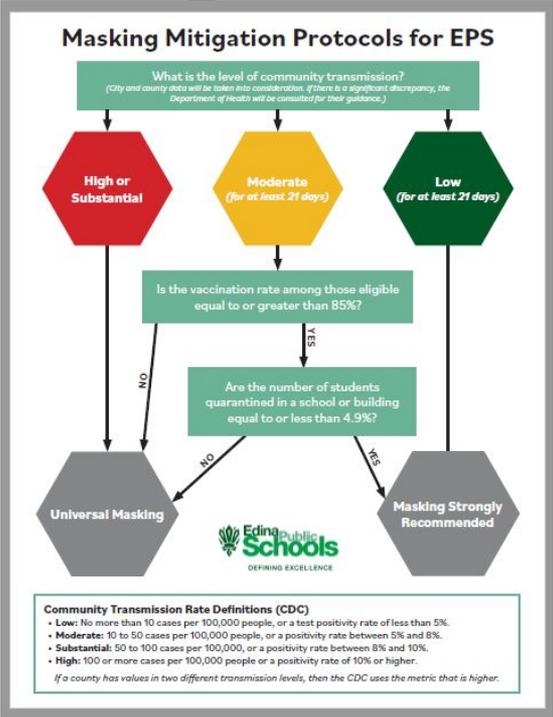
Student Testing Flowcharts

# **Edina Public Schools**

## **Return to School Plan Update**

### **September 28, 2021**

# Metric Monitoring Guidance - Masking



# Current Community Context

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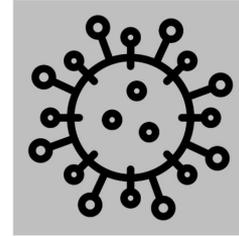
- Edina City Case Rates
- Hennepin County Case Rates

## Other Pertinent

- ICU Beds

# COVID-19 Monitoring Page

- Fully Vaccinated
- Confirmed Cases
- Quarantines



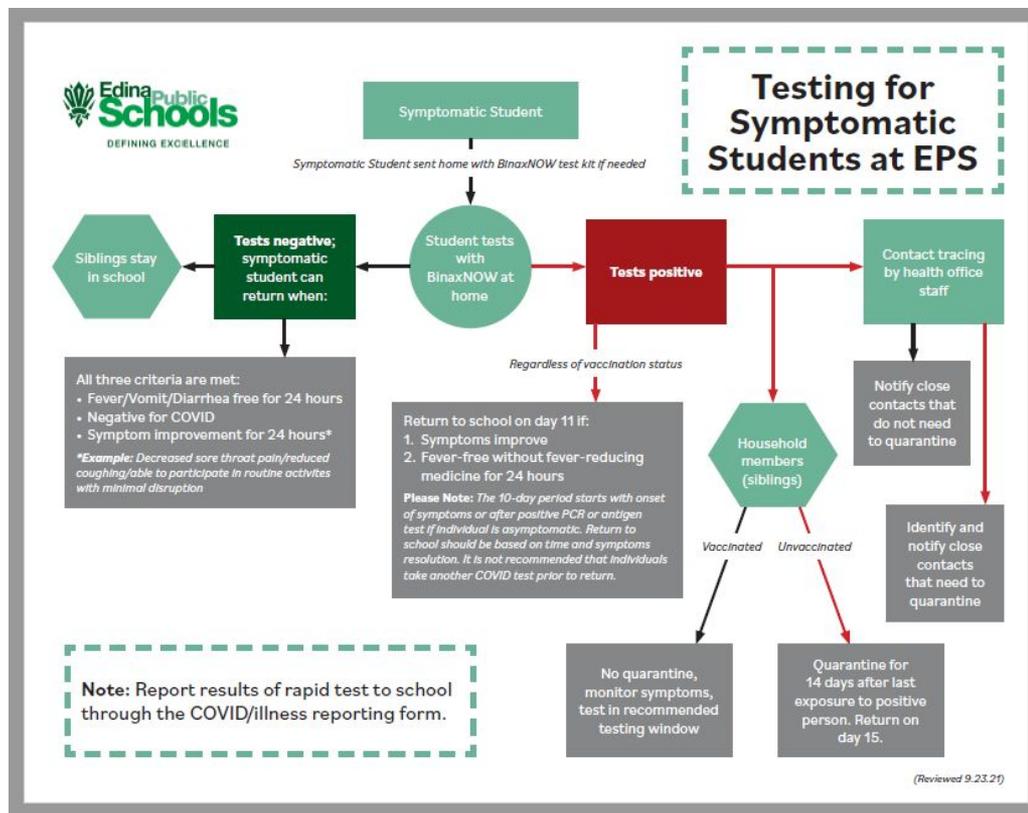
# Student COVID-19 Testing

- Overview of Options

# Student COVID-19 Testing

- Student Symptomatic Testing
  - BinaxNOW

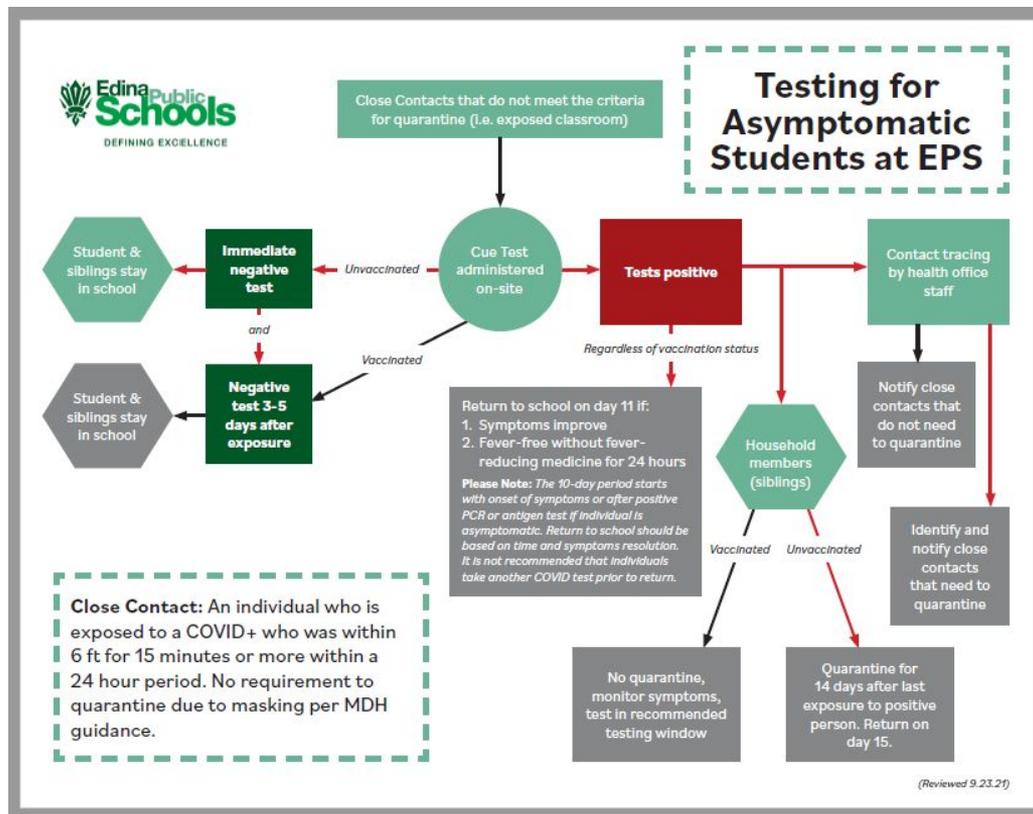
# Overview of Symptomatic Testing



# Student COVID-19 Testing

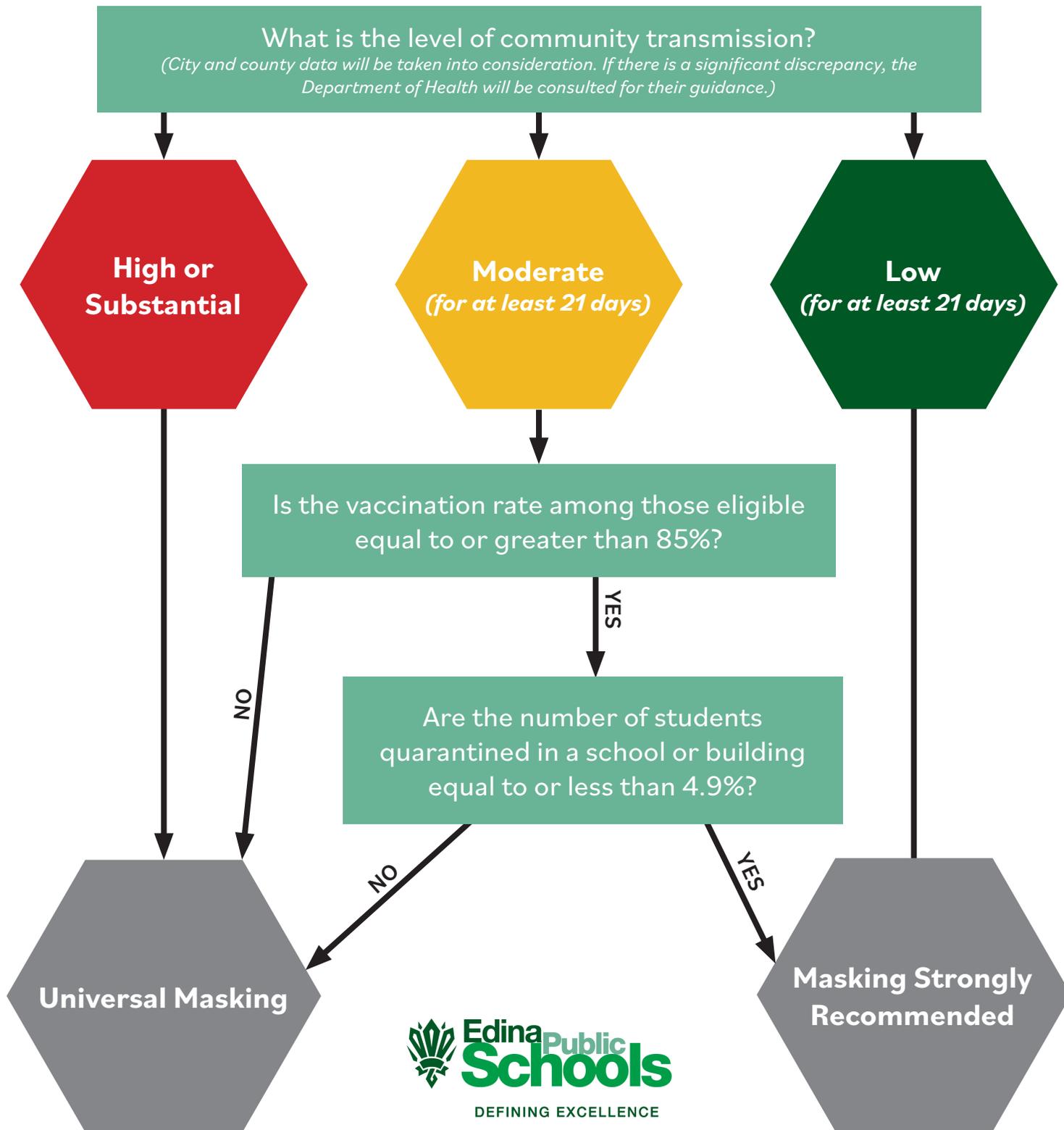
- Student Asymptomatic Testing
  - Bloomington Partnership
  - High Incidence

# Overview of Asymptomatic Testing



# Questions

# Masking Metric Monitoring Protocols



## Community Transmission Rate Definitions (CDC)

- **Low:** No more than 10 cases per 100,000 people, or a test positivity rate of less than 5%.
- **Moderate:** 10 to 50 cases per 100,000 people, or a positivity rate between 5% and 8%.
- **Substantial:** 50 to 100 cases per 100,000, or a positivity rate between 8% and 10%.
- **High:** 100 or more cases per 100,000 people or a positivity rate of 10% or higher.

*If a county has values in two different transmission levels, then the CDC uses the metric that is higher.*



## **Overview of Student Symptomatic & Asymptomatic Testing**

### **Symptomatic Testing Overview**

District administration is recommending the attached procedural guidelines to clarify the testing protocols for students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. The first step to recognize in the process is the identification of symptomatic students. When a parent recognizes that the student is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 they should keep their student home and proceed to testing with the BinaxNow test kit that will be provided by the school district if the parents do not already have a test kit at home. If a student begins to demonstrate COVID-19 symptoms while at school, the parents will be contacted and the student will be sent home, health services will work with the family to determine need for a rapid test to be sent home, and then tested within the home environment utilizing the BinaxNow test kit provided by the district. The rationale for keeping the student home or sending the student home are in line with the health protocols outlined in the [MDH Recommended COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth and Childcare Programs](#).

Should a student test negative they may return to school if there is notable improvement in their symptoms for 24 hours. They must also be free of symptoms such as fever, vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours prior to returning. Siblings of students who are utilizing rapid tests are able to remain in school unless the student results are positive. Siblings of symptomatic students that test negative are not required to quarantine and no contact tracing within the school environment will be required.

Should a student test positive they must isolate but may return to school on day 11 if symptoms improve. The student must also be fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours. Siblings of students within the household are not required to quarantine if they are vaccinated but should be monitored for symptoms. Unvaccinated siblings within the household would need to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school. Health care personnel at the positive student's school will complete contact tracing to identify close contacts that would meet the necessary criteria for quarantine, these students will also need to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school.

[BinaxNOW Home OTC](#) was identified as the preferred option for symptomatic testing for a number of reasons. The test is a proven and readily available resource for students and that parents can administer at home. BinaxNOW provides a rapid response to make next decisions quickly. As identified by the procedural guidance above, symptomatic students will either stay at

home or be sent home until return to school criteria are met. There is currently no option for symptomatic students to stay in school even if they were to test negative at the school site. The rapid nature of the test allows siblings of students to stay in school if the test results are negative and if the test is positive, the school can promptly begin contact tracing. 8400 Tests were ordered on August 17, 2021 and we've been told we should receive the test kits within the next few days. Tests will be distributed on an as-needed basis.

Other tests considered for symptomatic testing include Vault Testing, Cue Testing and BinaxNOW Professional. The Vault testing was widely used over the last year but does not provide rapid results, is currently available only through December 31<sup>st</sup> and costs anywhere between \$75 and \$150 per test (\$630,000.00 - \$1,260,000.00 for one test administration). The Cue Testing is a nasal swab test that could be administered on-site by our nursing staff and is used for symptomatic and asymptomatic testing. This test will be utilized for on-site testing once staff is appropriately trained in the procedure and tests become available. Finally, BinaxNOW Professional was considered as another test that could be administered by trained personnel on-site but due to limited availability this was not considered a viable option.

### **Asymptomatic Testing Overview**

Regular testing is a safe, effective way to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and helps keep our schools open for in-person learning. Many people with COVID-19, especially children and teens, don't have symptoms but can still spread the virus, so regular testing helps find infections before they can spread to others. This is especially important for children under 12 years old who are not yet able to get vaccinated against COVID-19, families and staff with younger children at home, and others who are not vaccinated or are otherwise at risk for getting seriously sick from COVID-19. Regular testing will help us keep students in the classroom and allow students to take part in the other activities they enjoy.

EPS recognizes the need to provide opportunities for the regular screening of students and staff at all of our sites. While regular screening is the ideal option, a national shortage in testing material will initially require a more focused approach. Initially, EPS will focus our testing efforts on close contacts that do not meet the criteria for quarantine. When these close contacts are identified the district will proceed with on-site testing of asymptomatic students within the targeted school or classroom. As more test kits become available, regular, on-site testing will become our primary objective.

District administration is recommending the attached procedural guidelines to clarify the testing protocols for the screening of asymptomatic students. When students are identified as close contacts without the need for quarantine, a screening team will be deployed to the impacted site to conduct testing on the identified pool of students.

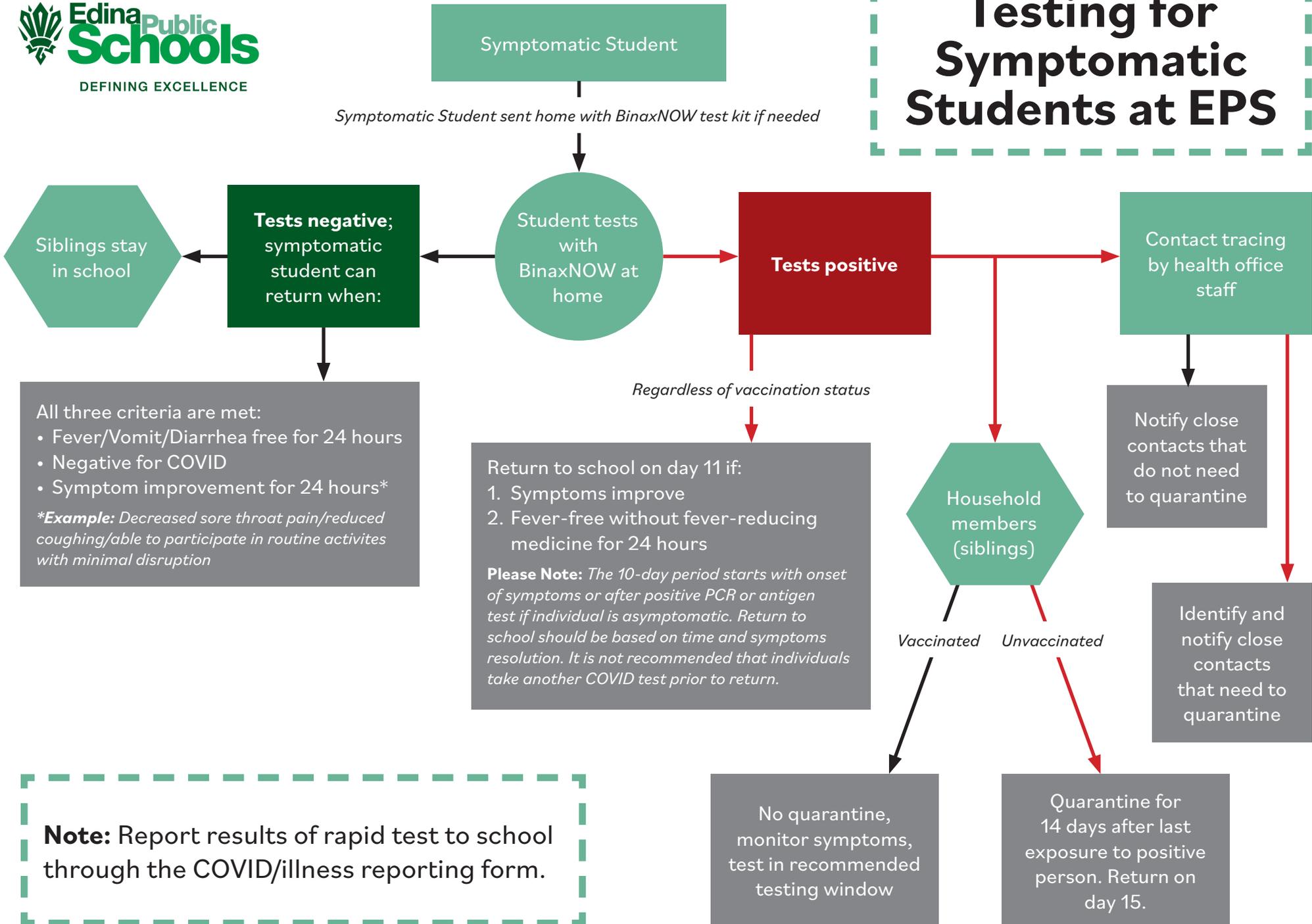
Unvaccinated students that test negative may return to class and stay in school. These same unvaccinated students will be tested on-site again within 3 to 5 days to confirm negative results. Vaccinated students will be tested on-site 3 to 5 days after exposure but may remain in school during the waiting period as long as they are asymptomatic.

Should a student test positive they must isolate but may return to school on day 11 if symptoms improve. The student must also be fever-free without fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours. Siblings of students within the household are not required to quarantine if they are vaccinated but should be monitored for symptoms. Unvaccinated siblings within the household would need to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school. Health care personnel at the positive student's school will complete contact tracing to identify any other close contacts that would meet the necessary criteria for quarantine, these students will also need to quarantine for 14 days prior to returning to school.

Cue Test has been identified as the preferred option for asymptomatic testing for a number of reasons. The test is a proven and reasonably available resource for schools, and can be used for symptomatic or asymptomatic students or staff. The test provides a rapid response and can be administered safely on-site by our Health Services staff.

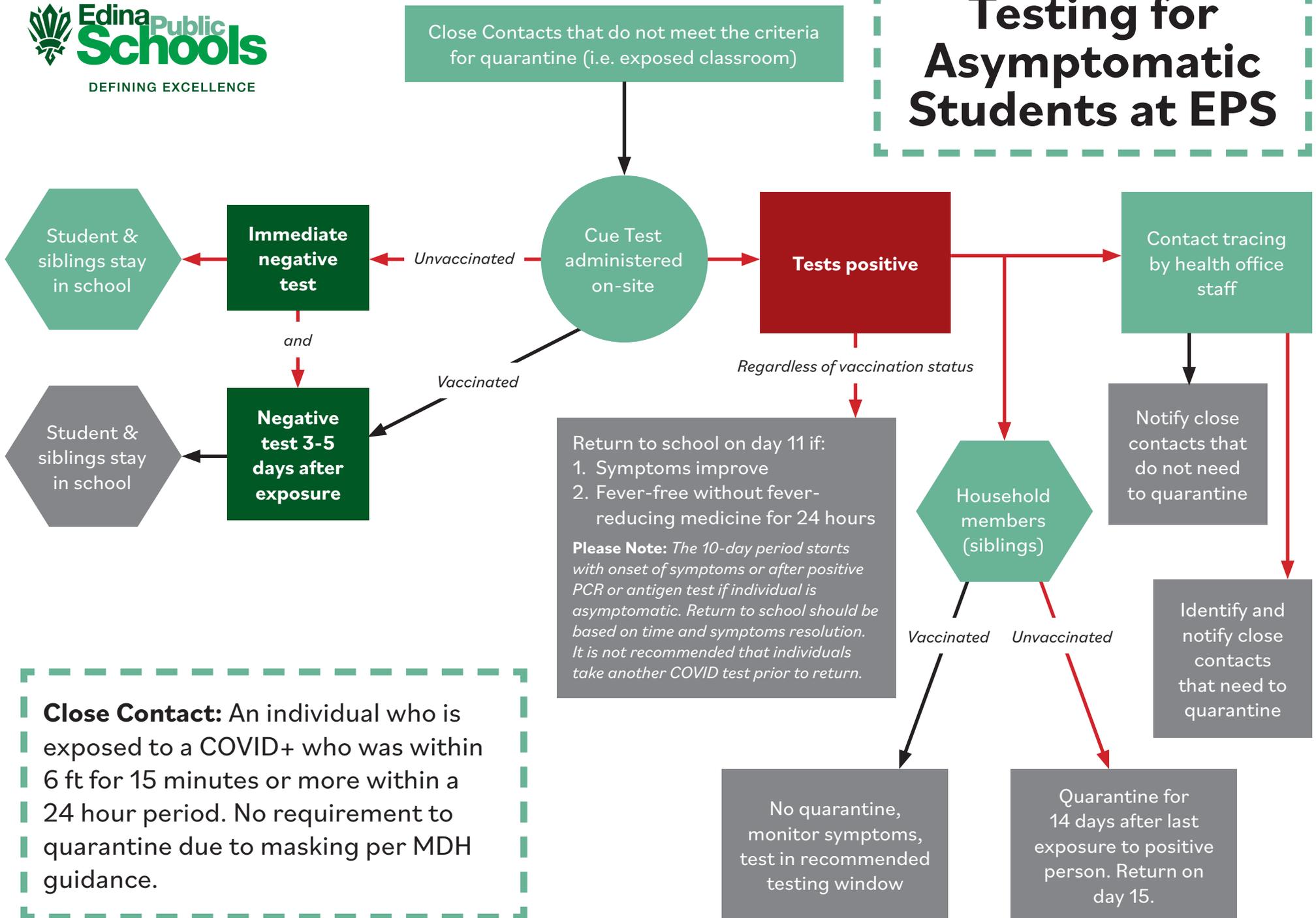
In preparation for the on-site testing, several preparatory activities will need to take place. Acquiring a sufficient number of test kits will be a priority over the next few weeks. Recognizing that there is a national shortage in testing materials this is a significant obstacle that impacts the onset of asymptomatic testing in Edina Public Schools. The second preparatory activity is to have 100% of our health staff appropriately fitted for N95 respirators. Health staff will be trained in the test administration and will be broken up into five screening teams that can be activated to assist with on-site screening efforts. The teams, once identified, will complete mock exercises to ensure all variables for on-site testing have been considered and planned for effectively and efficiently. Families within the district will be contacted to gain consent for the on-site testing of their student(s) in advance of any on-site testing being initiated.

# Testing for Symptomatic Students at EPS



**Note:** Report results of rapid test to school through the COVID/illness reporting form.

# Testing for Asymptomatic Students at EPS



**Close Contact:** An individual who is exposed to a COVID+ who was within 6 ft for 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period. No requirement to quarantine due to masking per MDH guidance.



**Board Meeting Date:** 9/28/2021

**TITLE:** Resolution: Edina Public Schools Resolution Requiring all staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or To submit to regularly scheduled COVID-19 Testing

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER(S):** Dr. Stacie Stanley, Superintendent; and Nicole Tuescher, Director of Human Resources

**BACKGROUND:** COVID-19 vaccinations have been available for adults since the beginning of 2021. Continuity with student instructional service is of great importance. Evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve resolution requiring all staff to be vaccinated or submit to regularly scheduled COVID-19 Testing.

**PRIMARY ISSUE(S) TO CONSIDER:** Requirements and timeline of resolution.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Draft Resolution



## **RESOLUTION REQUIRING ALL EPS STAFF EITHER TO BE VACCINATED AGAINST COVID-19 OR TO SUBMIT TO REGULARLY SCHEDULED COVID-19 TESTING**

**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**, according to the CDC, “COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students as well as teachers, staff and household members is the most critical strategy to help schools safely resume full operations”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, “[v]accination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of symptomatic or severe infection. A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19 compared with unvaccinated people”; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the State of Minnesota, “staff who access the workplace or provide public service outside of their homes on behalf of an agency without vaccination pose a particular risk of COVID-19 exposure to themselves, their colleagues, and to members of the public. Additionally, ongoing community transmission of the more transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19 in Minnesota especially among unvaccinated individuals, presents a continuous risk of infection”; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government, the State of Minnesota, and Hennepin County have all made the decision to require their employees to either be vaccinated against COVID-19 or submit to COVID-19 testing on a frequent, regularly scheduled basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) is developing a rule that will require all employers with 100 or more employees to ensure their workforce is fully vaccinated or require any workers who remain unvaccinated to produce a negative test result on at least a weekly basis before coming to work. OSHA will issue an Emergency Temporary Standard (“ETS”) to implement this requirement; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 123B.02, subd. 1, the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 273 has “general charge of the business of the district, the school houses, and the interests of the school thereof”; and



**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education concludes that requiring all staff either to be vaccinated against COVID-19 or to submit to regular COVID-19 testing is in the best interests of the School District, its students, its staff, and the communities it serves.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 273 as follows:

1. Requires either:
  - a. All current staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and to provide proof of full vaccination to Human Resources on or Before **November 1, 2021**. If recommended by the CDC, all current staff shall also be required to provide proof of receipt of a booster vaccination shot on or before **June 15, 2022**.

**Or**

- b. All staff who remain unvaccinated and/or have not provided proof of vaccination as detailed above to submit to mandatory COVID-19 testing at least **one time per week**. Satisfactory verification of compliance with the COVID-19 testing requirement will be designated by Human Resources. Designations will include, but not be limited to allowable testing options, testing resources, how to submit COVID-19 test results and what to do if results are negative or positive.
2. Any staff member who does not comply with the requirements of either Paragraph 1a or Paragraph 1b will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with any applicable collective bargaining agreement.
3. Any staff member who presents or submits a false, misleading, or inaccurate proof of COVID -19 vaccination will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with any applicable collective bargaining agreement.
4. Definitions:
  - a. "Fully vaccinated" means either two (2) weeks after the second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination (i.e. Pfizer or Moderna) or two (2) weeks after a single-dose COVID-19 vaccination (i.e., Johnson & Johnson). Staff who do not meet these requirements are not fully vaccinated. This definition shall include any vaccine that has been approved, fully, conditionally, or on an emergency basis, by the Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization.



- b. "Staff" means all full or part time Edina Public Schools employees.
  - c. The requirements of Paragraphs 1a or 1b shall also apply to all contracted vendors and their employees, agents and contractors, who have direct contact with students (e.g. child nutrition providers, transportation providers, mental health practitioners, special services providers, athletic trainers).
5. All Edina Public Schools staff hired after the date of this resolution shall either provide proof of full vaccination within 45 days of hire pursuant to Paragraph 1a or submit to weekly testing pursuant to Paragraph 1b. All newly hired staff that do not provide proof of vaccination upon hire or remain unvaccinated must immediately submit to weekly testing until proof of vaccination is received by Human Resources.
6. This Resolution shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded, or amended. Staff may be subject to additional attestation, vaccination, or testing requirements under federal, state, or local law. The School Board will review this resolution as necessary considering changes to case rates, guidance from the CDC, guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health and/or the Minnesota Department of Education, and any other applicable authorities and, minimally, prior to the start of each academic semester.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

Roll Call Vote

\_\_\_\_\_

School Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

School Board Clerk