

Albany Area Schools 2021-22 COVID Plan



Subject to change based upon requirements of Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education.

Updated October 13, 2021

Learning Model

School will be in-person, five days per week with regular start and end times. There are three scheduled at-home learning days and four early outs.
[2021-2022 School District Calendar](#)

Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. Parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager to inquire about accommodations. In addition, teachers will work individually to support students who have extended COVID-related absences.

Face Coverings

Per CDC and MDH recommendations, face coverings are **strongly recommended** (but not required) for students and staff. Face coverings are required on buses per the President's executive order, which regulates all forms of transportation. It is not an option for any school district to disregard this requirement. Albany Area Schools fully supports individuals who choose to wear a mask.

Health Screening, Isolation and Quarantine

Symptomatic Individuals/Positive Cases

- Daily self-screening for symptoms of illness is required. **If you are ill, stay home.**
- The District is closely following the [MN Department of Health Decision Tree](#) for symptomatic students and staff. If a student or staff member has one of the "more common" or two of the "less common" COVID-19 symptoms, they must be evaluated by a doctor/health care provider and/or get a COVID-19 test for symptoms. COVID-19 testing is available on site, free of charge, for all students and staff.
- As prior to COVID, the school policy remains that individuals must be fever free for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medication prior to returning to school.
- Schools are required to report all positive student and staff COVID cases to the MN Department of Health. Any student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19 (symptomatic or asymptomatic) must isolate for 10 days.

Close Contact to a Positive Case of COVID-19

- Students and staff who are fully vaccinated or have had a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days do not need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19; however, they should closely monitor for symptoms and quarantine if symptoms arise.

- Students and staff who are identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 at school will be notified and are asked to monitor their symptoms closely. At this time, a quarantine period will only be required if there are multiple cases in a specific classroom or program. We will do our best to minimize the amount of time students are absent from school.
- Students and staff who have a COVID positive household member will need to quarantine a minimum of 7 days (unless they are fully vaccinated or have had a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days).

COVID Testing

COVID-19 testing is available on site, free of charge, for all students and staff. More information on the Albany Area Schools COVID Testing Program can be found on the [district website](#).

Social Distancing

Staff and students will be encouraged to social distance when possible.

Out of School Time

After school and evening events, including school sponsored activities and athletics and outside use of school facilities, must follow the Albany Area Schools 2021-2022 COVID Plan.

Vaccinations

Staff and students who are eligible but have not been vaccinated are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Albany Area Schools will not require COVID vaccinations for students, staff or visitors.

Cleaning & Facilities

Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue to be implemented in all district buildings and on buses. This includes regular cleaning as well as frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch and high traffic areas. Drinking fountains and water refill stations will be open for students. HVAC systems will be running at maximum capacity to ensure high air flow and air quality. Air purifiers will be available for windowless classrooms.

Good Hygiene

Students will continue to be encouraged to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks. Hand sanitizer will also be provided. Proper respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) will be reinforced.

Meals

Breakfast and lunch procedures in all buildings have been modified to increase social distancing. All students can eat breakfast and lunch for free during the 2021-22 school year.

Visitors

We will continue to limit visitors in our buildings. Visitors who are experiencing COVID symptoms are not permitted to enter our school buildings.

Partnerships with Health Agencies

Albany Area Schools will continue to collaborate on issues related to COVID with Stearns County Public Health, MDE and MDH. Local COVID infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the agencies listed above.

Subject to Change

If necessary, Albany Area Schools will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members, based on factors such as local conditions, state and federal mandates.

Remain Vigilant

The pandemic is not over and we will remain vigilant. We will closely monitor cases of COVID and take necessary steps to protect our students and staff. We expect families, staff, and the community to partner with us so we can keep our students in an in-person learning model.

August 25, 2021
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