

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE PUBLIC SCHOOLS



A path for every student.

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - December 3, 2021

#1 Winter Break December 22, 2021 through January 2, 2022

This year's Winter Break will begin on Wednesday, December 22, 2021. Classes will resume on Monday, January 3, 2022.

Child care is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade on December 22, 27, 28, and 29. Child care is provided by the Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota and those programs include KidStop at Pleasantview and Mississippi Heights for students in kindergarten through fifth grade and the Eastside Boys and Girls Club for grades 6 through 8. Child care is also available at Rice Elementary for students in kindergarten through fifth grade through Rice Kids' Club.

Please note that there is a charge for this service and families will need to register their child(ren) if they are not yet registered.



Key Points:

- If your child is not currently registered and they need care on early releases or days school is closed please click on the link below and register your child(ren)
 - Mississippi Heights Elementary Students K - 5
Kidstop <https://www.bgcmn.org/clubs/boys-and-girls-club-registration/>
 - Pleasantview Elementary Students K - 5

Kidstop

<https://www.bgcmn.org/clubs/boys-and-girls-club-registration/>

- Rice Elementary Students K - 5
Rice Kids' Club <https://saukrapids.revtrak.net/rw-non-school-kids-club-days>
 - Middle School Students 6 - 8
Storm After School <https://www.bgcmn.org/clubs/boys-and-girls-club-registration/>
Eastside Boys and Girls Club (full day closures)
- Winter Break is Wednesday, December 22, 2021 through Sunday, January 2, 2022.
 - Classes resume on Monday, January 3, 2022
 - Child care is available for pre-registered children on December 22, 27, 28, and 29, 2021
 - Children must be pre-registered with the program (see links above)
 - All day closure and early release childcare are fee based
 - Registration acceptance is based on program capacity

Fix this

#2 District Food Service and Supply Chain Information

Likely there isn't a day that goes by that families don't hear, see, or read something about supply chain issues. Supply Chain disruptions continue to be an issue across all areas of consumer products. **Due to advanced planning and forecasting the district has been fortunate to receive the majority of the goods we've ordered and the supplies we need.**

The district's food service department partners with Chartwells, a food management company that supports more than 600 school districts nationwide. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, through Chartwells, is part of a buying group that purchases or pre-buys food items in large quantities. The buying group notified vendors in May of last year what types of food items would be used for the 2021 - 2022 school. Those vendors then worked diligently to inform manufacturers about the planned demand for those food products. The advantage of the group's buying power and the district's early forecasting has helped to keep some of the product shortages at bay. However, as we move into 2022, the district may begin to experience a slight disruption in product availability as supply catches up with demand.

Public school districts adhere to stringent meal guidelines in order to ensure all students are provided healthy nutritional meals. School districts' funding from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is dependent on serving meals within those guidelines. In the event schools start to encounter disruptions, MDE and the USDA have granted districts some flexibility with the food items that are acceptable to serve. An example might be the number of red/orange vegetables, leafy greens, or beans and legumes offered per week. The types of milk that can be offered have already been expanded in the event of supply disruption.

Each of our buildings has a backup menu and the food supplies on hand to change the menu if needed. A menu change might be necessary if a school(s) or the district does not receive expected products in the weekly delivery. If a menu is changed the school nurse is notified so that students with special dietary needs can be identified.

As the school year continues, the district's food service staff ask for your grace and patience. It is their goal and mission to serve all students a healthy and nutritious meal every day. There may be times that fruit and vegetable items are repeated on menus due to availability, and there may be a day when your child(s) favorite meal is substituted. Be assured, meal choice is still available as each of the district's elementary buildings offer at least two main entree choices and the middle and high school have several main entree options.

The district's food service staff work diligently every day and are proud to serve healthy and nutritious meals to district students and staff.



Key Points:

- Supply Chain disruptions continue to be an issue across all areas of consumer products.
 - Due to advanced planning and forecasting, the district has been fortunate to receive the goods we've ordered and the supplies we need.
 - The advantage of the Chartwells buying group's buying power and the district's early forecasting has helped to keep some of the product shortages at bay.
 - As we move into 2022, the district may begin to experience a slight disruption in product availability as supply catches up with demand.
 - Each of our buildings has a backup menu and the food supplies on hand to change the menu if needed.
 - The district's food service staff work diligently every day and are proud to serve healthy and nutritious meals to district students and staff.
-

#3 How do Testing Sites Provide Results?

Parents/Guardians, if you are having your child(ren) tested for COVID-19 in person at an area testing site or sending in a test kit you may want to find out how test results will be provided.

Many providers and testing sites offer online results rather than paper copies or phone calls and online results are often provided quicker than the other methods of delivery. When you make a test appointment, take a moment to ask the scheduler how test results are provided and ask if there is an online option. It may be as simple as signing into an online portal, adding an app to your phone or device, or creating a personal or family account with your primary provider.

Providing test results to the district may be easier with an online notification as well. If you receive an online result you may be able to download it or forward it to the district/building administrator and/or the district nurse/building health assistant when you receive it rather than scanning, mailing or dropping it off.



Key Points:

- When you set up a COVID-19 test ask the scheduler how results will be provided.
- Find out if there is an online option to receive results and what you need to do to set up an account or access a portal.
- Online results are often available more quickly than other delivery methods (i.e. phone or mail)
- Download or forward test results to your child(ren)'s building or district nurse/building health assistant.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - November 17, 2021

#1 Thanksgiving Break is Next Week

There will be no school on Thursday and Friday next week - November 25 and 26. In addition, due to Thanksgiving Break, there will be no Top 3 Things You Need To Know update on Friday, November 26.

We hope you will have the opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends and to take a little time to rest, relax and rejuvenate. Enjoy your break and say well.



Key Points:

- There is no school for students or staff on Thursday, November 25 or Friday, November 26
- The next Top 3 Things You Need To Know will be on Friday, December 3
- Dashboard information on the district's website will be updated on Wednesday, November 24

#2 Fall Technology Tips

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools appreciates the partnership with district students and families around device and internet use. At the beginning of each school year the technology department and district staff inform and review district use policies and procedures as they relate to student devices with students and families. As we move into the winter months the technology department would like to provide a reminder to families regarding this important information and tech tips for both device care and internet and device use.

- The best places to charge a device are a table, desk or countertop.
 - Devices should never be charged in a bed or under blankets or pillows.
- Devices should be kept in a temperate/temperature controlled area at all times. Extreme temperatures hot and cold are not good for the device and/or battery.
 - Do not leave devices in a cold vehicle.
- Supervision is the parent's/guardian's responsibility when their child's internet use is not in a school setting/outside of school hours.
 - Parents/Guardians may want to check with their internet provider to learn if parental controls are offered as part of their service.
- The district asks for parent/guardian support to communicate and uphold proper electronic device use while at home.
 - Resources to support parents/guardians and to provide guidance can be located on the district website at <https://www.isd47.org/portal/student-tools> under the **Digital Citizenship** area.

- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to become familiar with the technology their child is using and accessing.



Key Points:

- Charge student devices on a hard surface.
 - Protect student device(s) by keeping them in moderate temperatures at all times.
 - Student device supervision outside of school hours is the parent/guardian's responsibility.
 - The **Digital Citizenship** area on the district's website provides resources and support for parents/guardians and students.
 - Parents/Guardians are encouraged to learn about the device their child(en) is using and accessing.
-

#3 How do Testing Sites Provide Results?

Parents/Guardians, if you are having your child(ren) tested for COVID-19 in person at an area testing site or sending in a test kit you may want to find out how test results will be provided.

Many providers and testing sites offer online results rather than paper copies or phone calls and online results are often provided quicker than the other methods of delivery. When you make a test appointment, take a moment to ask the scheduler how test results are provided and ask if there is an online option. It may be as simple as signing into an online portal, adding an app to your phone or device, or creating a personal or family account with your primary provider.

Providing test results to the district may be easier with an online notification as well. If you receive an online result you may be able to download it or forward it to the district/building administrator and/or the district nurse/building health assistant when you receive it rather than scanning, mailing or dropping it off.



Key Points:

- When you set up a COVID-19 test ask the scheduler how results will be provided.
- Find out if there is an online option to receive results and what you need to do to set up and account or access a portal.
- Online results are often available more quickly than other delivery methods (i.e. phone or mail)
- Download or forward test results to your child(ren)'s building or district nurse/building health assistant.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - November 12, 2021

#1 Student Service Organizations Sponsor Thanksgiving Food Drive

Service organizations at the high school; the High School Student Council, Minnesota Honor Society (MHS), and DECA programs are sponsoring a student, family and community food drive to help support local families and charities in need during the holidays.

The food drive is Monday, November 15 through Friday, November 19. After collection, students will put together Thanksgiving care packages for local families in need. If your family is interested in donating non-perishable food items please drop your donation off at the main office of the high school Monday, November 15 through Friday, November 19 between 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. or send them with your high school student(s).

While all nonperishable food items are accepted, instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, canned cranberry sauce, and gravy (mix or jar) would certainly help round out the Thanksgiving offerings for families.



Key Points:

- Food drive is being held to supplement local families and local charities Thanksgiving holiday meal
- Non perishable food items are being collected by high school service organizations November 15 through November 19, 2021
- Collected food items will be packed in bags and distributed to local families and charities in need
- You can send food donations with any SRRHS student or drop off your donation at the high school's main office.
 - Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Instant mashed potatoes, canned vegetables, stuffing mix items are of particular interest for the Thanksgiving bags
- Everyday items of need in the food pantry are granola bars, cereal, and macaroni and cheese

#2 Benton County Public Health Sponsored Voluntary Vaccination Clinic

Friday, November 19, 2021 for Children 5 - 11 Years Old

Benton County Public Health (BCPH) is hosting another voluntary Pfizer vaccine clinic at Pleasantview Elementary School on Friday, November 19, 2021. The vaccine clinic is from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Due to dosage parameters/requirements, the vaccine will only be available to children 5-11 years of age at the clinic.

The second dose clinic for this vaccine clinic will be held on Friday, December 10 at the same time and location.

If you are interested in registering to receive the vaccine, please carefully read the information linked below in its entirety and then click on the registration link.

[Pleasantview Ages 5-11 Vaccine Clinic Flyer-November 19](#)

[Click Here to Register for the 11/19 Vaccine Clinic \(5-11 year olds\)](#)



Key Points:

- This is a service offered by Benton County Public Health and is voluntary
- The Pleasantview vaccine clinic registration is open and currently there are appointments available
- The clinic is open to children ages 5-11 years only - due to dosage parameters
- Parental consent is required for vaccinations for students under the age of 18
- **Parents/Guardians must be present** for their child(ren)'s vaccine appointment
- Face coverings are required at the vaccine clinics
- Appointments take approximately 25 - 30 minutes (which includes a 15 minute waiting period after vaccination)
- The second dose vaccine clinic will be on December 10, 2021 at Pleasantview from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Safe Learning Plan for Families

The Safe Learning Plan is located on the district's website. The latest updates to the plans were completed on September 30, 2021. Families may have questions regarding quarantine processes and procedures as they relate to emergency approval and availability of vaccinations for children ages 5-11 years old.



Key Points:

- Children ages 5-11 years old can be vaccinated
- Click here to view the district's [Safe Learning Plan](#)
- The most recent updates to the Safe Learning Plan were made on September 30, 2021
 - Updates (denoted in red font) can be viewed by clicking here [here](#)

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - November 5, 2021

#1 Benton County Broadband Survey - Deadline Extended through 11/24/21

Benton County is conducting a broadband feasibility study and is asking county residents to participate. The purpose of the survey is to determine areas in the county where broadband is not accessible and also to check for speed and reliability of people's internet access.

Why is your participation important?

The survey will help identify problematic areas as well as determine where Benton County can use federal funds to bring better internet connectivity to the county.

Benton County residents and businesses can find the survey on the Benton County website: please click on [Benton County Broadband](#) to participate. All who choose to take the survey are asked to take the [Speed Test](#) survey. If you are in your place of residence, you are asked to take the [Residential Survey](#) and if you are a business in the county please fill out the [Business Survey](#). Please note the survey links reside on the Benton County website and you will be redirected there to complete the speed test and appropriate survey.

This survey is open to ALL residents of Benton County, not just those who live in the rural areas and is open until November 24. If you have comments or questions, please email broadband@co.benton.mn.us.



Key Points:

- Benton County is surveying all residents to determine current broadband accessibility and reliability

- The survey will help identify problematic areas and help determine where the county can use federal funding to bring better internet connectivity
- The survey is found on the Benton County website - [Benton County Broadband](#) (clicking on the link will redirect you to the Benton County website)
- The survey is open through Wednesday, November 24, 2021
- All residents, not just rural residents, are encouraged to take the survey

#2 Benton County Public Health Sponsored Voluntary Vaccination Clinic

Friday, November 12, 2021 for Children 5 - 11 Years Old

Benton County Public Health (BCPH) is hosting a voluntary Pfizer vaccine clinic at Rice Elementary and Pleasantview Elementary Schools on Friday, November 12, 2021. Both vaccine clinics are from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Due to dosage parameters/requirements, the vaccine will only be available to children 5 - 11 years of age at these clinics.

The Pleasantview clinic has filled and registration for that location is closed, however the Rice Elementary clinic currently has vaccination appointments available for Friday, November 12.

The second dose clinic for both vaccine clinics will be held on December 3 at the same times and locations.

If you are interested in registering to receive the vaccine, please carefully read the information linked below in its entirety and then click on the registration link.

[Rice Elementary 5-11 Vaccine Clinic Information Flyer and Registration](#)

[Pleasantview 5-11 Vaccine Clinic Information Flyer](#)



Key Points:

- This is a service offered by Benton County Public Health and is voluntary
- Rice Elementary School's vaccine clinic registration is open and currently there are appointments available.
- Pleasantview's vaccine clinic registration is closed as the appointments are filled.
- The clinic is open to children ages 5 - 11 years only - due to dosage parameters
- Parental consent is required for vaccinations for students under the age of 18
- **Parents/Guardians must be present** for their child(ren)'s vaccine appointment
- Masks are required at the vaccine clinics
- Appointments take approximately 25 - 30 minutes (which includes a 15 minute waiting period after vaccination)
- The second dose vaccine clinic will be on December 3, 2021 at Pleasantview and Rice Elementary Schools from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and*

#3 Winter Weather Planning and Information

While the weather this fall has been pretty nice, it is November. Winter weather will likely arrive soon.

Again this year, the three area superintendents from Sauk Rapids-Rice, Sartell-St. Stephen and St. Cloud Area Schools will collaborate on weather related announcements. Superintendents will evaluate road conditions and review forecasts. Working together is important to the safety and wellbeing of all area students, staff and families due to the districts' proximity to each other and shared community amenities within the St. Cloud Metro-Area. It is essential that parents/guardians anticipate and prepare for school closings, delayed openings, and early dismissals by making a family plan and securing alternative child care in the event of a closing or delay.

The area superintendents will continue to rely on the expertise of the National Weather Service (NWS) and local meteorologists for weather forecasts, as well as both city and county officials for information related to road conditions. The NWS and other forecasting agencies issue various winter weather statements, watches, and warnings. The superintendents use these statements coupled with the information provided by local agencies to determine if weather conditions may cause a late start, full day cancelation or an early dismissal from school.

Minnesota weather can sometimes be difficult to predict - unfortunately it is not an exact science. Area superintendents will use the best resources and the most timely information available to them during inclement weather events to make a decision that best takes into account the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and families in the St. Cloud Metro Area.



Key Points:

- Make a family plan in the event there is inclement weather. Share your plan and expectations with your child(ren) and alternative care provider
- The superintendents will make every effort to:
 - announce school closings or late starts by 10:00 p.m. the night before severe weather and/or as soon as information becomes available
 - announce late starts or full day closings by 5:30 a.m. if forecasts change or appropriate information was not available the evening before
 - announce an early release by 11:00 a.m. if forecasts change or appropriate information was not available prior to the beginning of the school day
- Superintendents will use the best resources and the most timely information available to them to make decisions that best take into account the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and families in the St. Cloud Metro Area.
- In addition to receiving district notifications via email, text, and phone, you can find weather announcements on local television and radio stations, as well as the district's website and social media platforms.

●
**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - October 29, 2021

#1 Freaky Friday - The High School Musical - Coming Soon

The Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Fall Musical is back. Performances are for a limited time - so don't delay. Treat your family to an evening of entertainment or, if you prefer, a Sunday matinee. District students will perform the musical Freaky Friday, which is based on the Mary Rodgers novel and the Disney films.



Key Points:

- Performances are
 - Thursday, November 4 @ 7:00 p.m.,
 - Friday, November 5 @ 7:00 p.m.;
 - Saturday, November 6 @ 7:00 p.m.;
 - Sunday, November 7 @ 2:00 p.m.;
 - Friday, November 12 @ 7:00 p.m.; and
 - Saturday November 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for school age children; and children under five are free
- Click on the link to reserve your tickets [SRR TICKETS](#).

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Benton County Public Health Sponsored Voluntary Vaccination Clinic

Monday, November 1, 2021 for 12 Years and Older

Benton County Public Health (BCPH) is hosting a voluntary Pfizer vaccine clinic at the high school and the middle school on Monday, November 1, 2021. The high school's clinic will be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the middle school's clinic will be from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. The vaccine will be available to students, parents and staff members (ages 12+).

Students aged 12 to 17 who start and complete two doses by November 30, 2021, are eligible for the “Kids Deserve a Shot” incentives program sponsored by the State of Minnesota. The second dose clinic will be held on November 22 at the same times and locations.

If you are interested in registering to receive the vaccine, please carefully read the information linked below in its entirety and then click on the registration link.

[Middle School - Benton County Public Health \(BCPH\) vaccine clinic flyer](#)

[Middle School Registration Link](#)

[High School -Benton County Public Health \(BCPH\) vaccine clinic flyer](#)

[High School Registration Link](#)



Key Points:

- This is a service offered by Benton County Public Health and is voluntary
- The clinic is open to Sauk Rapids-Rice students 12 and older, parents and district staff
- Parental consent is required for vaccinations for students under the age of 18
 - Parents/Guardians must be present at the middle school for their students vaccine appointment
 - Parents/Guardians do not need to be present for their high school student's vaccine appointment
 - After students/families complete the registration (which includes consent), Benton County Public Health will call parents/guardians of registered high school students to verbally verify consent
- Masks are required at the vaccine clinics
- Appointments take approximately 20 minutes (which includes a 15 minute waiting period after vaccination)
- Students aged 12-17 who start (11/1) and complete (11/22) the two doses through these vaccination clinics will be eligible for the “Kids Deserve a Shot” incentives program from the State of Minnesota.
- Any child (12-17) vaccinated in 2021 is eligible for one of five \$100,000 Minnesota College scholarships - this incentive program is from the State of Minnesota
- The second dose vaccine clinic will be on November 22, 2021 at the high school from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and the middle school from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 No School for Students - Friday, November 5

There will be no school for students on Friday, November 5, 2021.

Childcare is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Please note that there is a charge for this service and families will need to register their child(ren) if they are not yet registered.



Key Points:

- If your child is not currently registered and they need care on early releases or days school is closed please click on the link below and register your child(ren)
 - Mississippi Heights Elementary Students K - 5
Kidstop <https://www.bgcmn.org/kidstop/>
 - Pleasantview Elementary Students K - 5
Kidstop <https://www.bgcmn.org/kidstop/>
 - Rice Elementary Students K - 5
Rice Kids' Club <https://saukrapids.revtrak.net/rw-kids-club-res/>
 - Middle School Students 6 - 8
Storm After School <https://www.bgcmn.org/clubs/boys-and-girls-club-registration/>
Eastside Boys and Girls Club (full day closures)
- Children must be pre-registered with the program (see links above)
- Early release and all day closure childcare is fee based
- Registration acceptance is based on program capacity

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - October 8, 2021

#1 Additional Testing Time at The Armory

Due to the increased demand for COVID-19 testing in the region, the Minnesota Department of Health has announced additional testing time that will be made available beginning on Friday, October 15, 2021, at the St. Cloud Armory. Currently, testing is Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and beginning on

October 15 it will now be Monday through Friday. The hours of operation will continue to be from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and while walk-ins are welcomed, appointments are encouraged. For further information, please select the link below.

mncovidtestingappt.as.me



Key Points:

Beginning on October 15 the St. Cloud Armory will be open Monday through Friday instead of Monday through Thursday.

- This is a no cost/no barrier testing facility
- Testing hours are 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Walk-ins are welcomed but appointments are encouraged
- For more information, use the following link: mncovidtestingappt.as.me

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Receiving Contact Tracing Notification

The district continues to notify families of children that may have a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a person who has a confirmed positive test). District administration contact traces all student and staff positive cases including, if necessary, after school activities and community education/recreation activities.

Tier I notifications include the exposure date or dates the identified positive case was in school. Some parents/guardians have asked why they received a notification if their student wasn't in school or at the activity/program on the exposure day or days - this is a great question. The answer is - It is with an abundance of caution that we notify all students and staff that could have been exposed on those dates and potentially prior to the individual's test. It is important that parents/guardians are informed so they can monitor for symptoms in their child(ren) and test if necessary.



Key Points:

- Families are notified of possible close contact with someone who tested positive.
- It is with an abundance of caution that we notify families

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Please Monitor for Symptoms even if a Negative Test

Parents/Guardians if you have had your child(ren) tested because they were identified as a close (Tier I) contact and you received a negative result please continue to monitor your child(ren) for symptoms. If your child(ren) has symptoms, even after a negative test result, please keep your child(ren) home until they are symptom free. Please take a look at the list below for COVID-19 symptoms.

Coronavirus Symptoms/Complaints		
Cough	Fever or Chills	New Loss of Taste or Smell
Shortness of Breath	Muscle or Body Aches	Nausea or Vomiting
Fatigue	Sore Throat	Diarrhea
Headache	Congestion or Runny Nose	

To continue to ensure the safety of students and staff, we would ask that you [please report specific symptoms your child is experiencing](#) to our health offices.

Parents/Guardians can report in several ways:

- Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
- Call your child's school during the school day and talk with the health assistant
- Call your child's school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700	Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073	Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122	Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910



Key Points:

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - October 15, 2021

Due to the MEA break next week, there will be no Top 3 Things You Need To Know update on October 22, 2021. The next update will be on Friday, October 29, 2021.

#1 School Lunch and Lunch Account Communication

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools, in conjunction with the USDA, is providing a free lunch to all kindergarten through grade 12 students each day, through the end of the 2021 - 2022 school year. This spring the USDA announced it would continue to reimburse school districts for a free meal for all students and the Minnesota Department of Education extended those waivers to districts in Minnesota. The district also provides a free breakfast each day for students in kindergarten through grade 12.

However, if a student takes a second lunch, second entree and/or goes through the a la carte line the student's food service account will be charged. This week the district sent out a communication to all parents/guardians whose family lunch accounts have a negative balance. Negative balances could be incurred if students are taking a second lunch, second entree or purchasing items from the a la carte line.

Students are not being charged and will not be charged for breakfast or for their initial school lunch through the remainder of the 2021 - 2022 school year. We ask parents/guardians to please talk with your child about whether you want them to purchase a second meal, entree and/or a la carte items.

In order to keep parents/guardians informed, beginning on October 25 negative balance notifications will be sent out to families with a negative balance in their food service account. These negative balance notifications will be sent daily until the account is positive. In addition, low balance notifications will go out weekly to families whose account balance is under \$20.00.



Key Points:

- Kindergarten through grade 12 students are provided a free breakfast and a free lunch each day
- If students take a second lunch, second entree and/or go through the a la carte line their family account will be charged
- A negative balance notification was sent to families this week
- Starting October 25 notifications will be sent to families
 - Low balance notifications will be sent weekly for accounts with a balance of \$20.00 or less
 - Negative balance notifications will be sent daily

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Fever as a Symptom

One of the more common symptoms associated with COVID-19 is a fever of 100.4 or higher. ([Safe Learning Plan, page 4](#)) It is important to remember that if you child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, in order to return to school you must either:

- Provide a negative COVID test result and be symptom free or;
- Provide an alternative medical diagnosis and be symptom free or;

- Quarantine for ten days and be symptom free

This is important to keep in mind as we are finding students who are testing positive and have had a fever of 100.4 or higher.



Key Points:

- A fever of 100.4 is one of the identified “More Common Symptoms” of COVID-19
- If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher, your options are
 - Provide a negative COVID test result; or
 - Provide an alternative medical diagnosis; or
 - Quarantine for ten days and be symptom free
- The district is seeing an increasing number of students who have had a temperature of 100.4 or higher and then test positive for COVID-19

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Benton County Broadband Survey

Benton County is currently conducting a broadband feasibility study and hopes that county residents will participate. The purpose of the survey is to determine areas in the county where broadband is not accessible and also to check for speed and reliability of people’s internet access. The survey will help identify problematic areas as well as determine where Benton County can use federal funds to bring better internet connectivity to the county.

Benton County residents and businesses can find the survey on the Benton County website: please click on [Benton County Broadband](#) to participate. All who choose to take the survey are asked to take the [Speed Test](#) survey. If you are in your place of residence, you are asked to take the [Residential Survey](#) and if you are a business in the county please fill out the [Business Survey](#).

This survey is open to all residents of Benton County, not just those who live in the rural areas and is open until November 15. If you have comments or questions, please email broadband@co.benton.mn.us.



Key Points:

- Benton County is surveying all residents to determine current broadband accessibility and reliability
- The survey is found on the Benton County website - [Benton County Broadband](#)
- The survey is open until Monday, November 15, 2021
- All residents, not just rural residents, are encouraged to take the survey

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - October 8, 2021

#1 Additional Testing Time at The Armory

Due to the increased demand for COVID-19 testing in the region, the Minnesota Department of Health has announced additional testing time that will be made available beginning on Friday, October 15, 2021, at the St. Cloud Armory. Currently, testing is Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and beginning on October 15 it will now be Monday through Friday. The hours of operation will continue to be from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. and while walk-ins are welcomed, appointments are encouraged. For further information, please select the link below.

mncovidtestingappt.as.me



Key Points:

Beginning on October 15 the St. Cloud Armory will be open Monday through Friday instead of Monday through Thursday.

- This is a no cost/no barrier testing facility
- Testing hours are 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Walk-ins are welcomed but appointments are encouraged
- For more information, use the following link: mncovidtestingappt.as.me

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Receiving Contact Tracing Notification

The district continues to notify families of children that may have a close contact (within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a person who has a confirmed positive test). District administration contact traces all student and staff positive cases including, if necessary, after school activities and community education/recreation activities.

Tier I notifications include the exposure date or dates the identified positive case was in school. Some parents/guardians have asked why they received a notification if their student wasn't in school or at the activity/program on the exposure day or days - this is a great question. The answer is - It is with an abundance of caution that we notify all students and staff that could have been exposed on those dates and potentially prior to the individual's test. It is important that parents/guardians are informed so they can monitor for symptoms in their child(ren) and test if necessary.



Key Points:

- Families are notified of possible close contact with someone who tested positive.
- It is with an abundance of caution that we notify families

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Please Monitor for Symptoms even if a Negative Test

Parents/Guardians if you have had your child(ren) tested because they were identified as a close (Tier I) contact and you received a negative result please continue to monitor your child(ren) for symptoms. If your child(ren) has symptoms, even after a negative test result, please keep your child(ren) home until they are symptom free. Please take a look at the list below for COVID-19 symptoms.

Coronavirus Symptoms/Complaints		
Cough	Fever or Chills	New Loss of Taste or Smell
Shortness of Breath	Muscle or Body Aches	Nausea or Vomiting

Fatigue	Sore Throat	Diarrhea
Headache	Congestion or Runny Nose	

To continue to ensure the safety of students and staff, we would ask that you [please report specific symptoms your child is experiencing](#) to our health offices.

Parents/Guardians can report in several ways:

- Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
- Call your child’s school during the school day and talk with the health assistant
- Call your child’s school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700	Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073	Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122	Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910



Key Points:

- Please keep children home who are symptomatic even if you have received a negative COVID-19 test.
- Please report specific symptoms to the health office when notifying them of your child's absence.
 - Use the online reporting form - link above
 - Call your child(s) school - building phone numbers above
- Consider having your child tested if they are displaying symptoms
- Check your child(ren)s emergency contact information - phone/email by logging into Skyward Family Access and click on “my account” at the top of the screen
- Create a plan to pick up your child(ren) if they are symptomatic or become ill at school
- Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - October 1, 2021

#1 Stages Document

An additional document has been added to the district's COVID-19 webpage. Known as "Stages Document," this document is designed to let people know what strategies the district may have in place in a number of different categories and is dependent upon the continual review of our internal and external data. This is similar to a document that was used during the 2020-2021 school year. While the stage that is listed on the web page is a reflection of where we are currently at as a district, it is possible that a building or grade level may be in a different stage if our data indicates that a different stage would be appropriate.



Key Points:

The new Stages Document is designed to provide information regarding mitigation strategies that we are using.

- The Stages Document can be found at <https://www.isd47.org/covid-19-learning-updates>
- The district's focus is on maintaining in person learning for all students
- The district is currently in Stage One
- It is possible for grade levels/buildings to be in different stages throughout the year
- Data points considered may include external data from Benton and/or Stearns County, MDH, and the CDC as well as district, building, grade and classroom data.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Testing Locations

There are numerous testing locations available in Central Minnesota, many within 10 miles of Sauk Rapids and Rice. Below you will find a listing of current testing locations, their hours, and their requirements.

It is recommended that you contact these locations to verify availability, testing hours as these may change and to make an appointment. Additionally, by calling ahead or emailing the testing site you will be able to

verify if there is a charge for testing. Many testing sites offer no-barrier testing, which means if you have health insurance your insurance company will pay for the test and if you don't have insurance the state will pay for the test.

District staff:

There are some saliva testing kits left from last spring and they have been distributed to each building. If you are interested in using a saliva test, please touch base with your building administrator.

Name	Location	Website/Phone	Hours	Testing Type	Information
Walgreens	115 2nd Ave N.; Sauk Rapids	www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing	Weekdays: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sundays: 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nasal Swab (molecular, rapid test)	Appointment required Drive-thru testing
St. Cloud Armory	1710 Veterans Drive; St. Cloud	mncovidtesting.appt.as.me	Monday - Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.	Saliva (PCR)	Walk ins are welcome - Appointments are encouraged Indoor testing
Sartell Pediatrics	111 2nd St. S.; Sartell	320.281.3339	Weekdays: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.		Appointment required Accepting symptomatic adults and pediatrics (0-18)
CentraCare	602 3rd St. S.; Waite Park	https://www.centracare.com/online-appointment-scheduling/covid-testing/ 320.200.3200	Weekdays: 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. Weekends: 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.		Appointment required Drive-thru testing
Walgreens	2505 W. Division St.; St. Cloud	www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing	Weekdays: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Sundays: 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nasal Swab (PCR)	Appointment required Drive-thru testing
Assured Health/ Midtown Square Mall	3333 W. Division St. Suite 110; St. Cloud	www.assuredclinic.com 320.774.2599	Weekdays: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nasal Swab (antigen, rapid test) Nasal Swab (PCR) Nasal Swab (PCR, rapid test)	Appointment, pre-screening, and pre-registration required Indoor testing

Walgreens	1100 2nd St. S.; Sartell	www.walgreens.com/findcare/covid19/testing	Weekdays: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Saturdays: 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Sundays: 10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.	Nasal Swab (molecular, rapid test)	Appointment required Drive-thru testing
-----------	-----------------------------	--	---	--	--

The following are links to current free testing resources throughout the state from the Minnesota Department Of Health:

- [COVID-19 Community Testing Sites](#)
Walk in or make an appointment at one of the 11 community testing sites
- [COVID-19 Vault Saliva Testing at Home](#)
Saliva test sent to your home through Vault
- [Find Testing Locations](#)
Testing at local providers, pharmacies, and clinics



Key Points:

- Local testing options are available - see chart above.
 - Recommend
 - calling ahead to make an appointment where necessary
 - verifying hours of testing and availability as these details may change
 - confirming out of pocket cost if any
- Minnesota Department of Health provides links to free statewide testing opportunities - see links above.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 COVID-19 Reporting Form

Parents/Guardians can provide necessary information to the school regarding close contact or positive cases in their family in several ways.

Parents can report in several ways:

- Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
- Call your child's school during the school day and talk with the health assistant
- Call your child's school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700	Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073	Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122	Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910

- If you are a SRR parent/guardian please check your Skyward Family Access account to ensure the correct parent/guardian and emergency contact information is recorded there
 - Families can do this by logging in to Skyward Family Access and click on “my account” at the top of the screen
- Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused



Key Points:

- Report positive test results to your child(s) building
 - Use the online reporting form - link above
 - Call your child(s) school - building phone numbers above
- Keep your child(ren) home if they are symptomatic
- Check your child(ren)s emergency contact information - phone/email by logging into Skyward Family Access
- Create a plan to pick up your child(ren) if they are symptomatic or become ill at school

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - September 24, 2021

#1 COVID-19 Dashboard

The district continues to navigate COVID-19 and in-person learning. Covid-19 information and data change often and parents/guardians and district staff are seeking information relating to COVID-19 in the district and in their child's building.

Last year the district provided an information dashboard that provided an overview of positive COVID-19 cases and COVID-19 related absences for both students and staff. This year the district created a more comprehensive dashboard for information relating to COVID-19 which will go live today and be updated each Friday. <https://www.isd47.org/covid-19-learning-updates>



Key Points:

The new dashboard will provide information regarding

- 7-day student cases (district-wide) - both by total and as a percentage of total students
 - This data will be from the previous Thursday to the current week Wednesday - This week the date range will be for 9/16 - 9/22
- 7-day staff cases (district-wide) - both by total and as a percentage of total staff
 - This data will be from the previous Thursday to the current week Wednesday - This week the date range will be for 9/16 - 9/22
- Weekly summary of student positive cases by district building
 - Buildings with 0-5 cases will not report the number of cases as that small number could potentially breach the confidentiality of student health data
 - This data will be from the previous Thursday to the current week Wednesday - This week the date range will be for 9/16 - 9/22
- Benton County residents vaccinated vs unvaccinated by age group
 - Age groups and applicable data were determined by Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Residents - Vaccinated vs Unvaccinated by age group
 - Age groups and applicable data were determined by Minnesota Department of Health
- Benton and Stearns County cases by day
- Benton County cumulative case rates by age group
- Benton and Stearns County active cases per 10,000
- Benton County total active cases
- COVID-19 decision guide for families
- The 2021 - 2022 Dashboard will be updated each Friday.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Early Release and MEA - Mark Your Calendar

The first early release of the school year is coming up on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. Students will be released two (2) hours early on that day. Release times vary by building - subtract two (2) hours from your child's regular dismissal time.

In addition, there is no school for students on Wednesday, October 20, Thursday, October 21 and Friday, October 22 for MEA break.

Childcare is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Please note that there is a charge for this service and families will need to register their child(ren) if they are not yet registered.



Key Points:

- If your child is not currently registered and they need care on early releases or days school is closed please click on the link below and register your child(ren)
 - Mississippi Heights Elementary Students K - 5
Kidstop <https://www.bgcmn.org/kidstop/>
 - Pleasantview Elementary Students K - 5
Kidstop <https://www.bgcmn.org/kidstop/>
 - Rice Elementary Students K - 5
Rice Kids' Club <https://saukrapids.revtrak.net/rw-kids-club-res/>
 - Middle School Students 6 - 8
Storm After School <https://www.bgcmn.org/clubs/boys-and-girls-club-registration/>
Eastside Boys and Girls Club (full day closures)
- Children must be pre-registered with the program (see links above)
- Early release and all day closure childcare is fee based
- Registration acceptance is based on program capacity

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Planning

Planning is important. Each year families create alternative plans for their children for school closures during inclement weather. Similarly, we ask parents and guardians to take some time to formulate an alternative plan in the event your child or family needs to quarantine or participate in online learning because of a classroom, grade, or building closure due to COVID-19 exposure. Think about what online learning might look like in your home if a temporary shift to online learning becomes necessary. Families are encouraged to prepare an alternative plan including childcare arrangements in the event a situation should arise.

These situations may happen at any time and may happen without advanced warning. The purpose of an alternative plan is to assist parents/guardians, staff and students to be better prepared to handle these situations and reduce their effects.



Key Points:

- Create an alternative childcare plan for your child(ren)
- Temporary online learning may be necessary at a class, grade or building level
- These situations may happen without advanced warning
- An alternative plan will help families, staff and students better adapt to these potential situations

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - September 17, 2021

#1 Please Monitor for Symptoms

Parents/Guardians please monitor your child(ren) for symptoms. If your child is symptomatic please keep them home. As we move through allergy season, know that many of the symptoms associated with seasonal allergies are the same as the symptoms associated with COVID-19. Please take a look at the table below for symptoms that are common to both seasonal allergies and COVID-19 as well as symptoms that may differentiate COVID-19 from seasonal allergies.

To continue to ensure the safety of students and staff, we would ask that you please report specific symptoms your child is experiencing to our health offices. Thank you.

Coronavirus Symptoms/Complaints	Seasonal Allergy Symptoms/Complaints
Cough	Runny Nose and Nasal Congestion
Shortness of Breath	Headache
Fatigue	Wheezing
Headache	Cough
Sore Throat	Fatigue
Congestion or Runny Nose	Fatigue, Weakness (common)
Fever or Chills	Sore Throat (sometimes)
Muscle or Body Aches	Sneezing

New Loss of Taste or Smell	Watery and Itchy Eyes
Nausea or Vomiting	Red Swollen Eyes
Diarrhea	Itchy Sinuses, Throat, or Ear Canals
	Ear Congestion
	Postnasal Drainage



Key Points:

- Please keep children home who are symptomatic
- Please report specific symptoms to the health office when notifying them of your child's absence.
- Consider having your child tested if they are displaying symptoms common to both COVID-19 and allergies.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 COVID-19 Community Testing Sites

Parents/Guardians and district staff Minnesota is offering low-barrier, no-cost COVID-19 testing in Minnesota communities.

In the area, testing is available at

- The St. Cloud Armory located at 1710 Veterans Drive in St. Cloud - is offering Saliva testing Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Walk-ins are welcome at this site, but it is strongly encouraged to sign up for an appointment using the registration link listed below. Signing up ahead of time helps avoid long lines and makes social distancing easier.

To schedule an appointment: mncovidtestingappt.as.me

All costs for this test are covered by your insurance company or the federal or state government. There is no cost to you for this test. The testing company, Vault Health, accepts what your insurance pays as full payment.

Testing is available to anyone who believes they need a COVID-19 test, with or without insurance. Participants will be asked for their health insurance information so the state can bill their insurance company on their behalf. If a person is uninsured or for any reason insurance does not cover some or all of the cost, the state will cover the difference so testing remains available at no cost to everyone.

All tests at the Armory are polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests. PCR tests are the most accurate tests for detecting the virus that causes COVID-19. A positive PCR test result is considered a confirmed case of COVID-19.

You do not need to show identification to receive a COVID-19 test at a Community Testing Program site.



Key Points:

- Testing is available at the St. Cloud Armory - Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 - This is a walk in testing site - but making an appointment may save you time
 - Testing is at no cost to you
- Testing is available to anyone who believes they need a COVID-19 test, with or without insurance.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Health Office Update

The Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has adopted Federal OSHA guidelines related to employees performing healthcare duties. With these new guidelines, universal face covering is **required** in a healthcare setting, including visitors, staff, and students. This new requirement will mean that anyone who enters into or works in the district's health offices will be required to wear a face covering. This change will take place on **Monday, September 20, 2021**.** Face coverings will be available outside of the district's health offices for those that may need one.



Key Points:

- Face coverings are required in the district's health offices effective Monday, September 20, 2021
 - Universal face coverings in the district's health offices include
 - Staff who work in the health offices
 - Staff, students and/or parents/guardians who enter the health office to receive services or to visit
 - Face coverings will be available outside the health offices for those who need them

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

***The district's Safe Learning Plan will be updated to reflect this health office update by 09.20.21.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - September 10, 2021

#1 Health Office Update

The Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has adopted Federal OSHA guidelines related to employees performing healthcare duties. With these new guidelines, universal face covering is **required** in a healthcare setting, including visitors, staff, and students. This new requirement will mean that anyone who enters into or works in the district's health offices will be required to wear a face covering. This change will take place on **Monday, September 20, 2021.**** Face coverings will be available outside of the district's health offices for those that may need one.



Key Points:

- Face coverings are required in the district's health offices effective Monday, September 20, 2021
 - Universal face coverings in the district's health offices include
 - Staff who work in the health offices
 - Staff, students and/or parents/guardians who enter the health office to receive services or to visit
 - Face coverings will be available outside the health offices for those who need them

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

***The district's Safe Learning Plan will be updated to reflect this health office update by 09.20.21.*

#2 How Can Families Report COVID-19 Information to School?

Parents/Guardians please report close contact and COVID-19 positive test results to your child's school.



Key Points:

How can parents provide necessary information to the school regarding close contact or positive cases in their family?

Parents can report in several ways:

- Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
- Call your child's school during the school day and talk with the health assistant
- Call your child's school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122
Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506

Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910

- If you are a SRR parent/guardian please check your Skyward Family Access account to ensure the correct parent/guardian and emergency contact information is recorded there
 - Families can do this by logging in to Skyward Family Access and click on “my account” at the top of the screen
- Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 What are the Next Steps if you Receive a First or Second Tier Notification?

Families may receive a First Tier or Second Tier - Close Contact Notification from school. These communications will be initiated from your child’s school and will be sent electronically - directly to parents/guardians. Contact from the school may be made by phone if parents/guardians do not have access to electronic communication.

First Tier Notification

This notification will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was within 6 feet of a student who tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.

Second Tier Notification

This notification will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was in the same room as a person who tested positive for COVID-19.

What are the next steps after receiving a First or Second Tier - Close Contact Notification?



Key Points - 1:

- If you receive a First or Second Tier - Close Contact Notification you have the following options:*
 - Return after seven days with a negative COVID-19 test administered after day five (5) and no symptoms
 - Return after ten days and no symptoms - testing is not required with this option
 - Return after 14 days and no symptoms - testing is not required with this option
 - Return after receiving a negative COVID-19 - test administered after day five (5)
 - Return wearing a face covering and monitor for symptoms
- Notify your child’s school if you choose to utilize a quarantine option
 - If a student quarantines due to a close contact, school work will be gathered and distributed to them
- Parents/Guardians and staff must report all positive COVID-19 cases to the school health office
 - **Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 are required to stay home for ten days (10) and be symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning**

- It is required that ISD 47 report all positive cases to the Minnesota Department of Health



Key Points - 2:

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools trusts that parents/guardians and staff will do what is best when it comes to the illness of their child(ren) and themselves. Please monitor your student's health and keep them at home if they are ill or symptomatic. If there is a known exposure to COVID-19 outside of the school, the child(ren) should stay home and monitor for symptoms.

The guidelines listed below are suggestions that families and staff may find helpful.

- Please monitor your child(ren) for illness symptoms and report them to the health office
 - Some of the common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever and cough and additional symptoms that are common with the Delta variant are headache, sinus congestion, sore throat and runny nose.
 - If a child is sick or showing symptoms, they should not attend school
- There are multiple quarantine options (see above)
- Testing after day five (5) is recommended

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - September 3, 2021

#1 Transportation Reminder

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has mandated that staff and students that ride on public transportation, which includes school transportation, must wear a face covering while in the vehicle. This will include daily bus transportation to and from school, school van transportation, and school transportation provided for participants in school sponsored activities. This mandate is for those two years of age and older.



Key Points:

- Face coverings are required for those ages 2 and older who ride school provided transportation.
 - Includes transportation provided for those who participate in in school sponsored activities

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Close Contact Notification Information

How will parents/guardians receive important notifications regarding COVID-19 close contact at school and how should parents provide necessary information to the school regarding close contact or positive cases in their family.



Key Points:

Close Contact Notification from the school to parents/guardians

1. Communications from the school will be made electronically - via email - directly to the parents/guardians. If parents/guardians do not have access to electronic communication, notification will be made by phone.
 - a. **First Tier Notification** will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was within 6 feet of a student who tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.
 - b. **Second Tier Notification** will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was in the same room of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - c. Notification will be provided to staff in the impacted building.

Parent/Guardian Communication to School Regarding Close Contact or COVID-19 Positive Test Results

Parents/Guardians please report close contact and COVID-19 positive test results to your child's school.

Parents can report in several ways:

1. Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - a. This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - b. [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
2. Call your child's school during the school day and talk with the Health Assistant
3. Call your child's school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122
Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506
Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910

4. If you are a SRR parent/guardian or student please check your Skyward Family Access account to ensure the correct parent/guardian and emergency contact information is recorded there. Families

can do this by logging in to Skyward Family Access and click on “my account” at the top of the screen.

Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Safe Return to Work Plan for Staff and Safe Learning Plan for Families

Welcome back everyone to the start of another exciting school year. The Storm team has proven that there is nothing we can't accomplish together, and we have every reason to believe our staff will rise to the occasion once again!

We wanted to bring to your attention some recent updates to the 2021-2022 Safe Return to Work Plan for staff, which is linked [here](#) and posted on Staff Access.



Key Points:

The updates are noted in **red font** and include:

- Temperature screening:
 - Staff are not required to check their temperature when coming into a district building.
 - If staff wish to, the scanning kiosks are available near building entrances.
- Face coverings:
 - Face coverings are recommended for staff and students.
 - Face coverings are required on school transportation.
- COVID-19 testing:
 - The plan identifies a number of testing resources for staff.
 - At this time the district is not offering on-site testing.
 - There are, however, a limited number of [Vault test kits](#) available for staff for at-home use; please visit your building's main office if you'd like one.
- Please remember that staff are **required** to immediately report to Human Resources if they have tested positive for COVID-19.
- While it is not a requirement to report an exposure to someone testing positive, we ask that you consider the CDC's recommendations, which are outlined in the Safe Return to Work Plan.

Thanks for doing your part to keep our students and staff well and in school.

The district's **Safe Learning Plan** is located on the district website. Or click [here](#) and then click the button to view and/or download the 2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Learning School Reopening and Continuity of Services Plan.



Key Points:

- Click on the “**Return to Learning Updates**” quick link on the front page of the website
- Here you will find a synopsis of the district’s:
 - Guiding principles and core values
 - Planning and preparation
 - Communication Methods
 - District and building level contacts
 - Protocols for testing and health screening
 - Close contact notification process
 - Mitigation measures and protocols
 - Additional information
 - If a child is sick or showing symptoms of being sick, they should not attend school
 - Monitor for symptoms
- Click on the [Download the Full Return to In-Person Learning Plan](#) for more in depth information.
 - Updates to the Safe Learning Plan are in **red font**

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - August 27, 2021

#1 Vaccination Clinic Sponsored by Benton County Public Health

Benton County Public Health will be sponsoring and facilitating a vaccine clinic next week Wednesday, September 1. If you are interested, click on the link below to select an appointment time.

[Vaccine Clinic 09/01/21 - BCPH](#)



Key Points:

2. Wednesday, September 1, 2021 from 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
3. At the Sauk Rapids Government Center
4. Appointment is required
5. Click on the link above to select an appointment time
 - a. Vaccines are at no cost
 - b. Insurance status is not a barrier to receiving a vaccine

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Where Can I Find the Safe Learning Plan

The district's **Safe Learning Plan** is located on the district website. Or click [here](#) and then click the button to view and/or download the 2021-2022 Safe Return to In-Person Learning School Reopening and Continuity of Services Plan.



Key Point:

- Click on the “**Return to Learning Updates**” quick link on the front page of the website
- Here you will find a synopsis of the district’s:
 - Guiding principles and core values
 - Planning and preparation
 - Communication Methods
 - District and building level contacts
 - Protocols for testing and health screening
 - Close contact notification process
 - Mitigation measures and protocols
 - Additional information
 - If a child is sick or showing symptoms of being sick, they should not attend school
 - Monitor for symptoms
- Click on the [Download the Full Return to In-Person Learning Plan](#) for more in depth information.
 - Updates to the Safe Learning Plan are in **red font**

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 COVID-19 Testing

The district continues to gather and review information from the Minnesota Department of Health regarding in-district COVID-19 testing opportunities. Pending this information and determination of functionality, the district may decide to facilitate optional testing opportunities for students and district staff. However, unless the district is directed (mandated) by the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and/or the Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 testing will remain optional.



Key Points:

- Information regarding testing is still be reviewed
- Unless otherwise mandated to, any testing program established will be optional

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#STORMSTRONG

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - August 20, 2021

#1 Notification Process

How will parents/guardians receive important notifications regarding COVID-19 close contact at school and how should parents provide necessary information to the school regarding close contact or positive cases in their family.



Key Points:

Close Contact Notification from the school to parents/guardians

6. Communications from the school will be made electronically - via email - directly to the parents/guardians. If parents/guardians do not have access to electronic communication, notification will be made by phone.
 - a. **First Tier Notification** will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was within 6 feet of a student who tested positive for COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes.
 - b. **Second Tier Notification** will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was in the same room of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
 - c. Notification will be provided to staff in the impacted building.

Parent/Guardian Communication to School Regarding Close Contact or COVID-19 Positive Test Results

Parents/Guardians please report close contact and COVID-19 positive test results to your child's school.

Parents can report in several ways:

5. Fill out the COVID-19 Cases/Symptoms Form online
 - a. This form aids the district in understanding localized building/district COVID-19 case rates and COVID-19 related absences
 - b. [Click Here to fill out the COVID-19 Form \(Positive Tests, Symptoms, Exposure\)](#)
6. Call your child's school during the school day and talk with the Health Assistant
7. Call your child's school and leave a message after hours or on weekends

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School	320-253-4700
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School	320-654-9073
Mississippi Heights Elementary	320-252-0122
Pleasantview Elementary	320-253-0506
Rice Elementary	320-393-2177
Hillside Early Childhood	320-255-8910

- If you are a SRR parent/guardian or student please check your Skyward Family Access account to ensure the correct parent/guardian and emergency contact information is recorded there. Families can do this by logging in to Skyward Family Access and click on “my account” at the top of the screen.

Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused. It should also be noted that there will be no required hybrid learning and there is no distance learning - family choice option at this time

#2 Guidelines

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools trusts that parents/guardians and staff will do what is best when it comes to the illness of their child(ren) and themselves. The guidelines listed below are suggestions that families and staff may find helpful. The district asks parents/guardians to monitor their student’s health and keep them at home if they are ill or symptomatic. If there is a known exposure to COVID-19 outside of the school, the child(ren) should stay home and monitor for symptoms. Some of the common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever and cough and additional symptoms that are common with the Delta variant are headache, sinus congestion, sore throat and runny nose.



Key Point:

- Parents/Guardians please monitor your child(ren) for illness symptoms and report them to the health office
- If a child is sick or showing symptoms of being sick, they should not attend school
 - Monitor for symptoms
 - There are multiple quarantine options (see #1)
 - Testing after day five (5) is recommended
- Parents/Guardians and staff must report all positive COVID-19 cases to the school health office

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Transportation Guidelines

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has mandated that staff and students that ride on public transportation, which includes school transportation, must wear a face covering while in the vehicle. This will include daily bus transportation to and from school, school van transportation, and school transportation provided for participants in school sponsored activities. This mandate is for those two years of age and older.



Key Points:

- Face coverings are required for those ages 2 and older who ride school provided transportation.
 - Includes transportation provided for those who participate in in school sponsored activities
- If your address has changed, your pick up/drop off location has changed or you have changed daycare providers, you must fill out the [Transportation Request and Change Form](#)
 - Please do so before August 30. Failure to complete the change form will result in pick up at the nearest location available for and will not be updated until after the first full week of school
- The MyStop bus app is back for this upcoming school year! Watch for more information in the coming days to get signed up.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#STORMSTRONG

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - August 13, 2021

#1 Quarantine Guidelines

The Minnesota Department of Health Decision Tree, which has been used to determine if quarantining is needed, is no longer required. Families and staff will have the option to follow the guidelines if they come in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. For those that choose to quarantine after a close contact, there will be five options this year to select from. These options include:

1. Return after seven days with a negative COVID-19 test administered after day five (5) and no symptoms
2. Return after ten days and no symptoms - testing is not required with this option
3. Return after 14 days and no symptoms - testing is not required with this option
4. Return after receiving a negative COVID-19 - test administered after day five (5)
5. Return wearing a face covering and monitor for symptoms

If a student quarantines due to a close contact, school work will be gathered like it was prior to March, 2020. Teachers will have the option regarding how school work will be distributed and may range from picking up materials at the school to delivery of materials electronically.

Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to stay home for ten days (10) and be symptom free for 24 hours prior to returning.



Key Points:

- A. Sauk Rapids-Rice staff, students, families and community members have the option of quarantining if close contact with someone who tested positive is determined*
- B. There are five options for families and staff that choose to quarantine after a close contact with someone who tested positive*
- C. School work will be distributed to students who quarantine.
- D. Students and/or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for ten days (10) and be symptom free for 24 hours prior to coming back.
 - It is required that ISD 47 report all positive cases to the Minnesota Department of Health.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Close Contact Notification

Close contact tracing based upon guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health's Decision Tree will look different this coming school year. Due to changes such as no longer requiring small groups and use of large spaces like cafeterias, this year we will be doing Close Contact Notifications and they will be done in two tiers.

7. First Tier Notification will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was within 6 feet of a student who tested positive for COVID-19.
8. Second Tier Notification will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was in the same room of a person who tested positive for COVID-19.
9. Notification will be provided to staff in the impacted building.

Absences due to illness and quarantine will be excused. It should also be noted that there will be no required hybrid learning and there is no distance learning - family choice option at this time*



Key Points:

- Students and/or staff will be contacted by the district nurse or school administrator if they are identified as being in close contact with a positive COVID-19 case.
- If students and/or staff are notified of a close contact, the CDC and MDH recommend that they quarantine.
- Close Contact Notification will consist of two different forms of communication
 - Within six feet of someone who tested positive for COVID-19
 - In the same room of person who tested positive for COVID-19
- Absences due to illness, COVID-19 cases, or quarantine will be excused
 - No hybrid or distance learning will be offered

- Classes will be in-person five days per week

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Guidelines

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools trusts that parents/guardians and staff will do what is best when it comes to the illness of their child(ren). The guidelines listed below are suggestions that families and staff may find helpful. The district asks parents/guardians to monitor their student's health and keep them at home if they are ill or symptomatic. If there is a known exposure to COVID-19 outside of the school, the child(ren) should stay home and monitor for symptoms. Some of the common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever and cough and additional symptoms that are common with the Delta variant are headache, sinus congestion, sore throat and runny nose.



Key Point:

- Parents/Guardians please monitor your child(ren) for illness symptoms and report them to the health office
- If a child is sick or showing symptoms of being sick, they should not attend school
 - Monitor for symptoms
 - There are multiple quarantine options (see #1)
 - Testing after day five (5) is recommended
- Parents/Guardians and staff must report all positive COVID-19 cases to the school health office

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#STORMSTRONG

Top 3 Things You Need to Know This Week - August 6, 2021

#1 Masking

You may have heard of new masking guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE). This guidance provides recommendations not requirements or mandates.*



Key Points:

- E. Sauk Rapids-Rice staff, students, families and community members have the option of wearing a face covering in district buildings*
- F. Face coverings are required on all district transportation; which includes van and bus transportation*
 - Masks are required for drivers and riders age 2 and older.
 - This requirement is a CDC mandate. This mandate regulates all forms of public transportation and is not an option for school districts or families/students using district transportation.

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#2 Quarantining

The Minnesota Department of Health's Decision Tree is no longer in effect as of July 1, 2021. The following are district protocols for Covid close contact cases and positive cases.*



Key Points:

- Students and/or staff will be contacted by the district nurse or school administrator if they are identified as being in close contact with a positive Covid case.
 - Additional guidelines for close contacts will be provided no later than August 13, 2021
- If students and/or staff are notified of a close contact, the CDC and MDH recommend that they quarantine.
 - The district is currently reviewing those recommendations before providing specific guidelines. This will be done by August 13, 2021.
- Students and/or staff who test positive for Covid will be required to quarantine for ten days and be symptom free for 24 hours prior to coming back.
 - It is required that ISD 47 report all positive cases to the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Absences due to illness, Covid cases, or quarantine will be excused
 - No hybrid or distance learning will be offered
 - Classes will be in-person five days per week

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#3 Social Distancing

Social distancing will continue to take place to the extent possible and practical in district buildings.



Key Point:

- Students and staff will resume the use of large spaces such as gymnasiums, cafeterias, and media centers in district buildings.
 - For example, lunches will be in the cafeteria in the elementary buildings
- Regular cleaning and sanitizing protocols will continue in all district buildings, school buses and district transportation vehicles to help with mitigation.
 - Ventilation protocols will continue in all buildings

**The information is true and accurate at this time. The district will follow requirements from the state and state health department with regards to COVID-19.*

#STORMSTRONG