

All updated information on this plan is in red



2021-2022

Safe Return to In-person Learning
School Reopening and Continuity of Services Plan

#StormStrong



The Sauk Rapids-Rice School District believes that in-person learning is best for students' learning and overall student well-being while acknowledging that the threat of the Coronavirus has placed great difficulties and uncertainty on our ability to provide face-to-face instruction as our sole method for teaching. This plan is designed to be flexible and responsive as new information becomes available. Strategies were developed based upon guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

The Sauk Rapids-Rice School District is committed to providing a safe and healthy place for all students to learn and grow. To ensure the spaces in Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools remain safe and healthy, the district has developed this Safe Return to In-person Learning Plan. Administrators, educators, staff, and students are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 which requires the cooperation of all employees, students, and the community. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons across the school district.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Guiding Principles and Core Values

As part of the planning process, the district leadership team established guiding principles and core values to shape the Safe Learning Plan.

Guiding Principles:

- Ensure the health and safety of our students, families and staff by adhering to requirements provided by the Center for Disease Control, Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education
- Remain focused on student learning by developing student-centered instruction that meets the individual needs of students and families in an environment that has finite resources while still addressing the whole child
- Comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations, and collective bargaining agreements
- Maintain fiscal responsibility and a balanced budget
- Collect, review, and respond to up-to-date data and information from stakeholders
- Follow MDE Guiding Principles

Core Values:

- Care and well-being of staff, students, and families
 - An inclusive, safe, caring and engaging learning environment that builds relationships and promotes shared responsibility for performance and innovation
- Equity and inclusion for students
- Quality instruction that includes
 - Differentiation
 - Authentic and Timely Feedback
 - Assessing students early on, to learn more about where they are in their learning and what data-driven decisions need to be made to support learners
- As a Professional Learning Community, teachers are engaged in collaborative teaming and self-directed professional development (personalized learning--teachers own their learning)
 - A culture of continuous learning and growth in a caring, collaborative, and supportive environment
- Communicate accurate information in a timely manner
- Follow the requirements of the CDC, MDH, and MDE
- Transparency and good stewardship of resources
- Effective ongoing communication and outreach to students, staff, families and community members
 - Effective partnerships between students, staff, families and community members

- Commitment to revisit this plan at minimum every six months and more frequently as needed.

Sauk Rapids-Rice Planning and Preparations

The Sauk Rapids-Rice District leadership team has revised the previous Safe Learning Plan to reflect a Safe Return to In-Person learning plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Conditions and circumstances that are specific to school districts include

1. protocols for guests and visitors
2. additional protections and protocol for sanitation and hygiene
3. additional protections and protocol for handwashing
4. additional protections and protocols for distancing and barriers
5. additional protections and protocols for access to district buildings

If any individual is in need of an alternative format of the plan, please contact Dr. Holly Schoenherr, Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services at (320) 258-4703 or holly.schoenherr@isd47.org .

Communication Methods

The district will utilize the 2021-2022 Return to In-person Learning Webpage <https://www.isd47.org/return-to-school> for updating families, students, staff, and the community and to post the SRR Return to In-person Learning Plan, In addition, the District and Building Notification Systems will be used for regular communication updates.

The COVID-19 Program Coordinator, District Nurses, and Building Contacts are identified below. These individuals will be involved in identifying lessons learned, challenges, and further preventive activities to be shared with stakeholders.

District COVID-19 Coordinator:

Dr. Holly Schoenherr
(320) 258-4703
holly.schoenherr@isd47.org

District Nurses:

Amanda Pflipsen amanda.pflipsen@isd47.org
(320) 258-1731
Sue Cook sue.cook@isd47.org (320) 258-1754

Building COVID-19 Contacts:

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School - RuthAnn Alvord ruthann.alvord@isd47.org
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School - Jessica Efraimson jessica.efraimson@isd47.org
Mississippi Heights Elementary School - Deb Tischmak deb.tischmak@isd47.org
Pleasantview Elementary School - Julie Cariveau and/or Carly Finch julie.cariveau@isd47.org and/or carly.finch@isd47.org
Rice Elementary School - Jody Silbernack jody.silbernack@isd47.org
Hillside/ECFE - Alison Ward alison.ward@isd47.org

Positive COVID-19 Test Result, Health Screening, Close Contact Notification/Family Choice Quarantine, Hygiene Practices

Positive COVID-19 Test Result

If a student or employee tests positive:

- Contact the student's school or employee's building supervisor immediately.
- Require the infected student and/or staff to remain at home until they have been released to return to school by their physician or have met the CDC criteria.

- 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)
 - Symptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after
 - At least 24 hours have passed since recovery (as defined by no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND improvement in respiratory symptoms) **AND**
 - **At least 5 days have passed since symptoms first appeared. Symptom onset date or test date is considered day.**
 - Asymptomatic persons with confirmed COVID-19 can return to school after
 - At least 10 days have passed since the date of test administration and the person remains asymptomatic

Sauk Rapids-Rice School District is required to report positive cases to the Minnesota Department of Education. Families should report a positive lab-confirmed case, and the individual must isolate for **5 days**.

Health Screening

Students, parents, and visitors entering the building while school is in session will have temperature screened upon entering the buildings. Students and families will be informed of the importance of self-monitoring symptoms.

Symptoms include the following:

- More common: If students have one or more of the following
 - fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit or higher,
 - new cough or cough that gets worse,
 - difficulty/hard time breathing,
 - new loss of taste or smell
- Less common: If students have two or more of the following
 - sore throat,
 - nausea,
 - vomiting,
 - diarrhea,
 - chills,
 - muscle pain,
 - extreme fatigue/feeling tired,
 - new severe/very bad headache,
 - new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose

Students displaying any of the symptoms listed above will be sent to the nurse or designated school personnel. Students, staff, and others who are entering the health office are required to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status or the reason for the visit. This is in accordance with the Occupational exposure to COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, adopted by the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MnOSHA) in July 2021.

If a student is displaying symptoms while at school, families can elect to participate in student testing by completing the required forms in Skyward granting the necessary permissions to do so.

If a student registers a temperature of 100.4 degrees or more, is vomiting, has diarrhea, or has a persistent cough, they will be provided a mask, separated from others to the best of the school's ability, and sent home.

- Students should not attend school if they are not feeling well.
- Families are to call or email their student's school to report symptoms if a student is ill.
 - Sauk Rapids-Rice High School: (320) 253-4700
 - Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School: (320) 654-9073
 - Mississippi Heights Elementary School: (320) 252-0122
 - Pleasantview Elementary School: (320) 253-0506
 - Rice Elementary School: (320) 393-2177
 - Hillside: (320) 255-8910

Close Contact Notification and Family Choice Quarantine

Notification will be sent to parents/guardians if their child was in the same classroom within 6 feet of an individual for 15 minutes or more who tested positive for COVID-19.

- Notification of a positive case will be provided to all staff in the impacted building.

Instruction and Coursework for Students who are Isolating or Family Choice Quarantine

- Elementary Level will provide access to instructional materials
- Secondary Level will utilize Schoology to access course materials.

Quarantine

Shortened quarantine for students who test positive and feel well enough to come to school on day six. Face covering will be required on days six through ten. As a reminder, symptom onset date, or test date if asymptomatic is considered day 0.

- ~~Effective September 30, 2021, students with COVID-19 symptoms* are required to stay home for ten days and be symptom-free, unless~~
 - ~~a. They obtain a negative lab-confirmed Covid-19 test after symptoms start~~
 - ~~b. They obtain an alternative medical diagnosis~~

*Symptoms include the following:

- More common: If students have one or more of the following
 - fever of 100.4 Fahrenheit or higher,
 - new cough or cough that gets worse,
 - difficulty/hard time breathing,
 - new loss of taste or smell
- Less common: If students have two or more of the following
 - sore throat,
 - nausea,
 - vomiting,
 - diarrhea,
 - chills,
 - muscle pain,
 - extreme fatigue/feeling tired,
 - new severe/very bad headache,
 - new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose

- ~~If a family has a member in their household that tests positive for COVID-19, all students in that household must stay home for ten days and be symptom-free, unless~~
 - ~~a. They are fully vaccinated*~~
 - ~~b. They had a positive (PCR) COVID-19 test in the last 90 days*~~

Shortened quarantine for those who have close contact in the household, face covering recommended on day six return. As a reminder, symptom onset date, or test date if asymptomatic is considered day 0.

*Must monitor for symptoms

Student absences due to quarantine are considered excused. Your student’s teacher(s) will determine and communicate how school work will be assigned for days missed and may range from picking up materials at the school to the delivery of materials electronically.

Other Recommendations

If your student does not quarantine and returns to school following exposure, MDH recommends that they wear a face covering indoors for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative.

Exposed	MDH Recommendations
Fully Vaccinated	Test 5-7 days after exposure.
Not Fully Vaccinated	Test immediately, and again 3-5 days after exposure if the first test was negative.
Had COVID-19 within 90 days	Monitor for symptoms and stay home if sick

Hand Hygiene Practices and Basic Prevention Measures

Infection and prevention measures will be implemented in all Sauk Rapids-Rice Public School buildings. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools will provide instruction, signage, facilities, and supplies to encourage regular hand washing and sanitizing. This practice is consistent with MDH: Hand Hygiene (www.health.state.mn.us/people/handhygiene/index.html).

- Teachers will work with students to teach and model proper hand hygiene practices. In addition, there will be signs in all handwashing locations that provide clear guidance on how to properly wash hands. Throughout the day, students will have the opportunity to wash their hands; in the absence of a handwashing station, students will have access to hand sanitizer.
- Hand washing/hand sanitizing guidelines and covering coughs and sneezes among students and staff will be reinforced.
 - If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer will be available.
 - Provide sanitizing stations throughout each of the buildings.
 - To the extent, possible students will be supervised while using hand sanitizer
- In key areas throughout the school signs will be posted on how to slow the spread of COVID-19 and teach students how to stop the spread of germs.
- Students will be instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or tissue when coughing or sneezing and to avoid touching their face, particularly their mouth, nose, and eyes with their hands.

Face coverings

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools will review MDH, CDC, and MDE guidance regarding face coverings for Pre

k-12 Schools and adjust face covering requirements as guidance changes or local data requires.

1. Face coverings are recommended, but not required, for all students (ages 2 and up), staff, and visitors to district facilities.
2. Face coverings are recommended, but not required, on all public school transportation, for all passengers (ages 2 and up) and drivers).
3. As stated above: Students, staff, and others who are entering the health office are required to wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status or the reason for the visit. This is in accordance with the Occupational exposure to COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard, adopted by the Minnesota Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MnOSHA) in July 2021.

Vaccinations

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools encourages students, employees, volunteers, and visitors to consult with a trusted medical professional and to follow the advice of the medical professional in regard to getting vaccinated against COVID-19, while also taking into account any sincerely held religious beliefs.

Recommended Testing

- Students and staff experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should get tested. Testing leads to quick identification of cases, quick treatment, and isolation for those people infected as well as for those who were in close contact with the infected person.
 - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html>

Social Distancing

Social distancing of at least three to six feet will be encouraged between employees, students, and visitors to the extent possible.

Classrooms

Instructional plans will be created to limit the sharing of materials, limit sharing of equipment, and maintain social distancing to the extent possible.

Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains will be turned on in addition to having water bottle fill stations accessible to students. Students are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

Drop-off, Pick-up, and Delivery Practices, and Protocol

The district has implemented procedures related to the drop-off and pick-up of students before, during, and after the school day. Parent drop-off and pick-up will be at the school entrances/office. The district is asking that parents not bring their child(ren) to the classroom.

Appropriate Accommodations

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies have been provided. To learn more, parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools has implemented a regular schedule and checklist for cleaning and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces (desks, tables, handrails, doorknobs, etc.), shared items, shared equipment, and high traffic areas. Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools will continue to perform other routine environmental cleanings according to established schedules and procedures. Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfecting supplies have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets, and manufacturer specifications, and are being used with required personal

protective equipment for the product. This policy is consistent with CDC: Cleaning Your Facility and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) List N for products that meet EPA's criteria for use against SARS-CoV-2. See EPA's List N: Disinfectants for Use Against SARS-CoV-2.

Cleaning and Disinfecting Procedures

- Desks will be cleaned daily and disinfected following a positive case of COVID-19
- Conduct deep cleaning prior to students/staff returning to school.
- Cleaning and disinfecting throughout the day.
 - Ensure safe and correct application of all disinfectants.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces throughout the day (door handles, sink handles, shared objects) to the extent possible.
 - Disinfect classrooms and spaces following positive COVID-19 test results.

Training regarding the cleaning and disinfecting of all buildings will occur throughout the year and as new employees are hired.

Indoor Facilities, Utilities, and Ventilation

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools has evaluated the operational capacity of indoor ventilation systems and developed a plan to increase and maintain ventilation provided throughout indoor spaces. Steps will be taken to increase the intake percentage of outside air to increase dilution of contaminants, and maximize recirculation, whenever possible while maintaining indoor air conditions. In the absence of effective mechanical ventilation, steps will be taken to increase natural ventilation as much as possible, including opening windows when possible and safe. This plan is consistent with applicable Stay Safe Industry guidance, and Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools has consulted the resources in applicable industry guidance and others, as necessary, in developing this plan.

- The ventilation plan includes continuous monitoring of the HVAC systems and responding to any malfunctions. These systems will be operational when spaces in buildings are occupied.
- Training around operating and troubleshooting the HVAC system will be provided to all appropriate employees. This ongoing training will include intermittent and responsive professional development of the building automation system.

Additional Information

Visitors/Volunteers

- Protocols for visitors in buildings during the school day
 - Visitors/Volunteers will be permitted if there is an academic purpose.
 - Visitors/Volunteers will not be permitted in lunchrooms during lunchtimes.
 - Parents will not be walking kids into school, except for before/after school programs.
 - Parents are encouraged to call/email in advance when feasible.
 - Visitors/Volunteers should stay home if they are not feeling well

Administrators, managers, and supervisors are expected to monitor the implementation of the plan and report discrepancies to the Human Resources and Administrative Services Department. All administrators, managers, supervisors, and staff are to take an active role and collaborate in carrying out the various aspects of this plan and update the protections, protocols, work practices, and training as necessary. This plan has been reviewed by the Superintendent of Schools.

Public Feedback

Sauk Rapids-Rice Public Schools provided this updated plan for public input on June 18, 2021. Feedback was considered in the revisions of the plan presented to the Sauk Rapids-Rice Board of Education on August 9, 2021.

For more information, please visit our website at isd47.org

Contact the District COVID-19 Coordinator Dr. Holly Schoenherr with questions or concerns:

holly.schoenherr@isd47.org or 320-258-1809