

# Albany Area Schools 2021-22 COVID Plan

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

**Updated April 13, 2022**



## **Accommodations**

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

## **Face Coverings**

The CDC no longer recommends universal indoor mask wearing in K-12 schools and early education settings. Albany Area Schools will continue to support individuals who choose to wear a mask.

## **Health Screening, Isolation and Quarantine**

### **Symptomatic Individuals/Positive Cases**

- Daily self-screening for symptoms of illness is recommended. If you are ill, stay home.
- If a student or staff member is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home. Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to follow the [COVID-19 Isolation Guide for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programming](#).
- As prior to COVID, the school policy remains that individuals must be vomit, diarrhea, and fever free (under 100.4° F without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
- Schools are required to report all positive student and staff COVID cases to the MN Department of Health.
- Any student or staff member testing positive for COVID-19 must isolate for a minimum of 5 days from the date of onset of symptoms or asymptomatic test date (day 0). Individuals may return to school on day 6 as long as their symptoms have improved, they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication, and they wear a well-fitting mask at all times while around others through day 10.

### **Close Contact to a Positive Case of COVID-19**

- Contact tracing of positive cases in district buildings will no longer be conducted. Individuals may contact District Nurse Asha Gregory for more specific information and current COVID-19 data.
- Individuals who have been identified as a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 at home, school, or in the community are encouraged to follow the [COVID-19 Quarantine Guide for Schools, Child Care, and Youth Programming](#).

## **COVID Testing**

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

### **Out of School Time**

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

### **Vaccinations**

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

### **Cleaning & Facilities**

Cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue to be implemented in all district buildings. HVAC systems will be running at maximum capacity to ensure high air flow and air quality. Air purifiers will be available for windowless classrooms.

### **Good Hygiene**

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

### **Visitors**

Visitors who are experiencing COVID symptoms should not enter our school buildings.

### **Partnerships with Health Agencies**

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

### **Subject to Change**

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

### **Remain Vigilant**

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

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