

Mesabi East Back to School Plan

Mesabi East Schools is preparing for the 2022-2023 school year. We are excited to be back to school five days a week.

Mesabi East Public Schools will continue to prioritize protecting the health and safety for staff and students and providing the best learning environment for students. The following guidance is being provided now to families in advance of the school year to support planning decisions about the upcoming year. If changes are necessary, we will communicate with staff and families as quickly as possible.

Health and Safety Guidelines

We continue to work closely with our county health department and safety team as we monitor infection rates and guidance. The safety committee makes recommendations to the superintendent who makes recommendations to the school board. Mesabi East school district will implement a layered strategy. If transmission in the community and school increases the district will increase mitigation efforts. We will use our school safety team to monitor if transmission is occurring and if adjustments need to be made.

Face coverings/masks

- Masks are optional for all students and staff.
- Increased cases could adjust mask requirements in specific settings.

Best Practices

- The district will maintain current cleaning methods, high air quality standards, and encourage hand washing and etiquette, as recommended by CDC and MDH to protect students and staff.

Quarantine and Isolation

- Students and staff with confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be asked to quarantine or isolate and will be limited to household members based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Please notify the school if symptoms or positive tests for COVID-19 occur.
- Students and staff should follow the decision tree regarding symptoms and possible cases. Symptomatic students can be sent home depending on circumstances.
- Quarantines will be based upon MDH decision tree and the individual situation which can include factors such as: whether individuals were masked, vaccination status, the area individuals were in, activities being conducted, length of time, and if they are experiencing symptoms

Communication

- The district will notify families via instant alert of positive cases are present in elementary classrooms. The school will update the number of cases in the high school and elementary on the school webpage each week.
- The district will have district wide notifications on our school website and instant alerts.

Emergency Procedures

The Mesabi East school district will be using a layered and phased approach this school year. Some of the factors we will monitor during the year are the following:

- A. If transmission is happening in the school or during school activities.
- B. Number of cases in specific grades or activities
- C. Percent of school population that is symptomatic or positive
- D. Bi-weekly school rates impacting our county
- E. Community transmission levels

Possible Strategies as suggested by the Minnesota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control

The Mesabi East school district will be monitoring transmission in the school and adjust practices based upon if and where transmission is occurring by use of the safety committee.

This information is based on current guidance from the CDC and MDH and can be adjusted.