

Preparedness Plan Albert Lea Public Schools

Updated November 3, 2023



Albert Lea Area Schools is committed to ensuring systems are in place to provide a safe environment for students and staff both physically and emotionally. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to modify and adjust the following Preparedness Plan to provide guidance to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our schools. If a dramatic change in the public health situation were to occur, we will consider reactivating district wide safety protocols.

UPDATE

- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to remain home while they are ill. Individuals should remain at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications and symptoms have improved and individuals can participate in routine activities.
- Parent/guardians determine when to send their child back to school based on close contact
- Reporting--As of August 1, MDH will transition to using the Respiratory Illness and Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Reporting to report COVID-19 when a percentage of student enrollment is absent with respiratory illness. More information can be found at [Covid19 Surveillance in PreK-12 & Childcare](#)
- In addition, the following recommendations are updated from the [Minnesota Department of Health around Covid19](#).
- Check the [CDC: COVID-19 Community Levels](#) tool to see what is happening with COVID-19 in our area, and to determine what prevention measures are recommended for you.

Ongoing Protocols

Covid Testing & Vaccinations

[Testing and vaccination options in our community are available from Freeborn County Public Health website.](#)

Cleaning & Sanitizing

Our district will provide disinfecting spray and paper towels in each classroom. Hand sanitizer and portable hand sanitizer stations will be distributed throughout the district. Most elementary classrooms have handwashing sinks. Handwashing signs will be posted.

Coordination with Nurses & Health Departments

The superintendent and covid coordinator will meet virtually with our nurses, as necessary.

Mental Health & Well Being

Social workers, counselors, and other mental health providers will provide support to address student mental and emotional wellness. This may occur face-to-face, distance, or a combination of both.

[Infectious Disease Fact Sheet--Covid 19](#)