

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



2023-2024

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

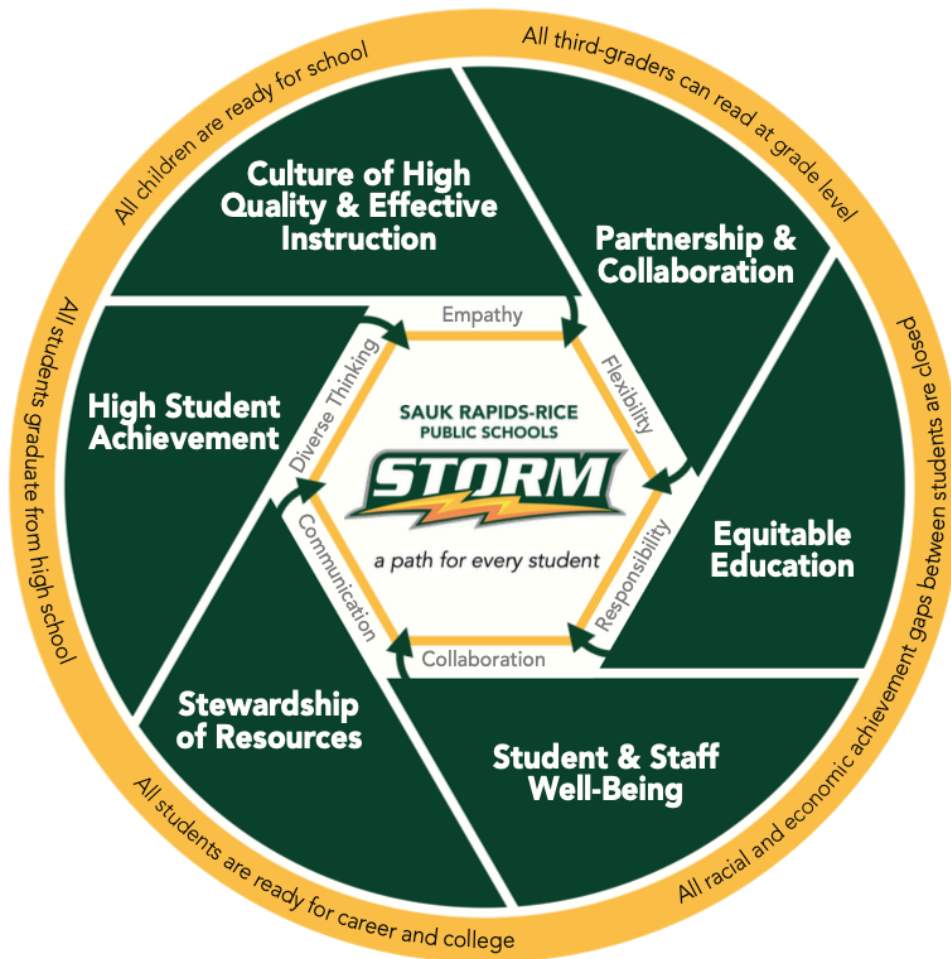
#StormStrong



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.

The Sauk Rapids-Rice School District believes that in-person learning is best for students' learning and overall student well-being. This plan is designed to be flexible and responsive as new information becomes available. Strategies were developed based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Sauk Rapids-Rice Strategic Commitments



Guiding Principles:

- Ensure the health and safety of our students, families and staff by adhering to requirements provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- 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

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 2023-2024 school year.

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 2023-2024 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 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 - Tamara Ness tamara.ness@isd47.org
Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School - Andrea Schuster andrea.schuster@isd47.org
Mississippi Heights Elementary School - Deb Tischmak deb.tischmak@isd47.org
Pleasantview Elementary School - Shannon Lauderbaugh shannon.lauderbaugh@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, and Hygiene Practices

Positive COVID-19 Test Result

~~Sauk Rapids Rice Public Schools is required to report positive cases of staff and students to the Minnesota Department of Education.~~ Families need to report positive COVID-19 cases by calling the school or completing the [online form](#).

Students may return to school after both:

- Symptoms are getting better overall, AND
- 24 hours fever free without the use of medication

Not all respiratory virus infections result in a fever, so paying attention to other symptoms (cough, muscle aches, etc.) is important as families determine when students are well enough to return to school.

Since some people remain contagious beyond the “stay-at-home” period, taking added precautions can lower the chance of spreading respiratory viruses to others. Once students are cleared to return to school, it is recommended that they use added prevention strategies over the next five days: ~~after completing at least five (5) days of isolation* if they are symptom-free AND can ensure the following through day 10:~~

- Wear a mask that completely covers your nose and mouth at all times, except when eating or drinking; and
- When eating or drinking, maintain at least six feet of social distance from other individuals.
- Avoid close contact with immunocompromised individuals or those who are at high risk of severe disease.
- Enhance hygiene practices

~~If you have symptoms, stay home and away from others until all of the following are true:~~

- ~~1. It has been at least five full days since you first felt sick (day zero is the day your symptoms started).~~
- ~~2. You have had no fever (100.4 degrees or lower) for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fevers; and your cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms have improved. Return to school following the requirements below through day 10.~~

~~If you do not have symptoms, stay home and away from others until all of the following are true:~~

- ~~1. It has been at least five full days since you tested positive (day zero is the day you got tested).~~
- ~~2. If you develop symptoms during this time, refer to the guidance above for “If you have symptoms.” If you remain symptom-free, you can resume most activities on day six, following the requirements below through day 10:~~

~~To be at school days 6-10, all of the following are required:~~

- ~~• No fever, and symptoms have improved~~
- ~~• Wear a well-fitting mask when around others. Masks may be removed before day 11 if you have two negative (PCR or antigen) tests 48 hours apart. This means that the earliest you may stop wearing a mask is day 8. Take the first test on day 6, and the second on day 8. If either test is positive, you should continue taking tests at least 48 hours apart until you have two negative results in a row. For more information on antigen tests, you can do at home, including resources for getting free tests, visit [COVID-19 Self-testing](#).~~

~~*For purposes of determining an isolation period, the date of symptom onset (or date of the test if asymptomatic) is considered Day 0 of isolation.~~

Health Screening

Students who are sick should stay home from school. Students and families will be informed of the importance of self-monitoring symptoms. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, headache, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, and loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal symptoms like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.

Students displaying any of the symptoms listed above will be sent to the nurse or designated school personnel. The health office will notify families 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. If a student is displaying symptoms while at school, families will be offered an individual COVID-19 test (while supplies last) that can be done at school or 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

~~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 10 days following exposure and gets tested five days after exposure.~~

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.

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.

Each building health office will maintain a supply of [BinaxNow OTC](#) At-Home rapid COVID-19 tests (while supplies last) that may either be sent home with sick students or administered by district staff, with parent/guardian consent. BinaxNOW OTC tests are individual rapid antigen tests that use a nasal swab. It is a self-test recommended for children as young as two (2) years old when samples are collected by an adult, and for all people 15 and older if they are collecting the sample by themselves. Results are visually displayed on the test 15 minutes after the test is performed. ~~Even with a negative test result, a student who is experiencing symptoms should retest and should not return to school until symptoms have improved and the student has been fever free for 24 hours.~~

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 and other spaces will be disinfected following the report of a positive case of COVID-19. 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 continue to 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.
 - The number of visitors/volunteers will be limited in lunchrooms.
 - 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 August 16, 2023. Feedback was considered in the revisions of the plan presented to the Sauk Rapids-Rice Board of Education on September 11, 2023. **Due to updates to CDC guidance, the plan was revised and approved by the Board of Education on March 11, 2024.**

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 320-258-1808