

Mr. Jason Berg (ISD 192 Superintendent)
Mr. Kyle Christensen (ISD 192 School Board - Treasurer)
Mr. Steve Corrado (ISD 192 School Board- Director)
Ms. Jacilyn Doyle (ISD 192 School Board - Vice Chair)
Ms. Rebecca Kaletta (ISD 192 School Board – Clerk)
Ms. Melissa Sauser (ISD 192 School Board - Chair)
Ms. Hannah Simmons (ISD 192 School Board – Director)

Re: Compliance of face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21) with school district policies

It has come to the attention of a group of concerned parents and residents of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 that the recent decision by the School Administration to implement a face covering requirement (effective 8/30/21) for all learners, staff, and visitors inside school buildings with programming for ages 3-8th grade may be in violation of the Farmington Areas Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807 (Building and Site - Health and Safety).

Section II, paragraph A of Policy 807 states:

The policy of the school district is to implement a health and safety program that includes plans and procedures to protect employees, students, volunteers, and members of the general public who enter school district buildings and grounds. The objective of the health and safety program will be to provide a safe and healthy learning environment; to increase safety awareness; to help prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries; to reduce liability; to assign duties and responsibilities to school district staff to implement and maintain the health and safety program; to establish written procedures for the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards; to train school district staff on safe work practices; and to comply with all health and safety, environmental, and occupational health laws, rules, and regulations.

Section II, paragraph B of Policy 807 states:

All school district employees have a responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the school district and are expected to be involved in the health and safety program to the extent practicable.

Section III, paragraph A of Policy 807 states:

The administration will adopt and implement written plans and procedures for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards existing within the school district.

Section III, paragraph B of Policy 807 states:

To the extent that federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations do not exist for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards, the health and safety advisory committee shall evaluate other available resources and generally accepted best practice recommendations. Best practices are techniques or actions which, through experience or research, have consistently proven to lead to specific positive outcomes.

Section IV, paragraph E of policy 807 states:

The administration shall conduct periodic workplace inspections to identify potential hazards and safety concerns.

Regarding the decisions to implement and continue the current face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21):

While the recent presentations made by the Superintendent to the School Board during the ISD 192 School Board meetings on 8/23/21, 9/13/21, 9/27/21, included analysis of COVID 19 spread within the community and the school district, there was no data or analysis within the presentations that indicated:

- The School Administration assessed the negative physical and mental health impacts of prolonged face covering usage of six or more hours per day by ISD 192 students prior to implementing the current face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21).

- The School Administration is currently monitoring the negative physical and mental health impacts of prolonged face covering usage of six or more hours per day by ISD 192 students while the current face requirement is in effect.

Our assertion is that if the School Administration's decision to implement the face covering requirement did not include an assessment of the negative physical and mental health impacts of prolonged face covering usage of six or more hours on ISD 192 students, and was instead based merely on an assumption the requirement would have no negative impact on ISD 192 students, the analysis supporting the decision is not sufficient to comply with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807.

Specifically, Section II, paragraph A of the policy states:

The objective of the health and safety program will be to provide a safe and healthy learning environment...to help prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries.

We believe that the School Administration could not have sufficiently concluded the current face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21) meets the objectives of the policy of "providing a safe and healthy learning environment" and "preventing accidents, illnesses, and injuries" of ISD 192 students unless that decision was (at a minimum) supported by the following:

- An assessment of the potential and reported negative physical and mental health impacts of prolonged face covering usage by ISD 192 students.
- An analysis that supports the conclusion that the effectiveness of face covering requirements provides a greater benefit to the health of ISD 192 students and the local community than the potential and realized negative impacts the face covering requirement could have on ISD 192 students.

This position is also supported by an exchange between Mr. Berg and Mr. Christensen (ISD 192 School Board member) during the 8/23/21 ISD 192 School Board meeting:

- Mr. Berg provided this statement when asked by Mr. Christensen if the type of face covering impacts effectiveness, "What I know is again our experience last year wearing cloth masks, we didn't see, when we had positive cases, we didn't see it. Now, blind luck, I don't know what that is."
- Mr. Christensen response to Mr. Berg's comment included the following statement, "One of the things that really concerns me is that we're using arbitrary data to drive a mandatory decision that's not going to have the impact that's desired, and is going to come at considerable other costs."

Additionally, we believe that if the School Administration's assessment of the negative physical and mental health impact of prolonged face covering usage by ISD 192 students was based merely on a reliance of public health expert statements regarding the safety of face covering usage by students within public schools, that analysis is not sufficient to comply with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807.

Specifically, Section III, paragraph B of the policy states:

Best practices are techniques or actions which, through experience or research, have consistently proven to lead to specific positive outcomes

As the current guidance provided by public health experts regarding the prolonged use of face coverings of asymptomatic individuals as a COVID 19 mitigation measure have not been previously used as a mitigation strategy for other respiratory virus outbreaks prior to COVID 19, we believe the research and experience available to support the public health experts' conclusions that the measures are safe is too limited to qualify that guidance alone as "consistently proven to lead to specific positive outcomes".

Additionally, we also recognize the School Board's oversight role in reviewing any assessments or analysis performed by the School Administration to ensure that health and safety requirement decisions are in compliance with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 policies and procedures.

Regarding the School Administration's tracking of negative impacts of face covering requirement:

While the recent presentations made by the Superintendent to the School Board during the ISD 192 School Board meetings on 8/23/21, 9/13/21, 9/27/21, included analysis of COVID 19 spread within the community and the school district, there was no data or analysis within the presentations that indicated the School Administration is currently investigating and tracking concerns raised by parents and residents of ISD 192 that prolonged face covering usage of greater than six hours by ISD 192 students is having an adverse impact on their physical and mental health.

If the School Administration has no policies or procedures in place to investigate and track the potential and observed health concerns related to the current face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21), or those policies and procedures do not result in a timely investigation and assessment of potential and actual hazards related to the requirement, then our assertion is that the School Administration is not in compliance with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807.

Specifically:

- Section II, paragraph A of the policy states *the objective of the health and safety program will be to...establish written procedures for the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards.*
- Section II, paragraph B of the policy states *all school district employees have a responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the school district and are expected to be involved in the health and safety program to the extent practicable.*
- Section III, paragraph A of the policy states *the administration will adopt and implement written plans and procedures for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards existing thin the school district.*
- Section IV, paragraph E of the policy states *the administration shall conduct periodic workplace inspections to identify potential hazards and safety concerns.*

Additionally, we are aware of the following instances in which concerns of hazards, or potential hazards, of prolonged face covering usage of six or more hours by ISD 192 students were raised to the attention of the School Administration and/or School Board

- Observed hazards communicated by parents during the 9/13/21 ISD 192 School Board public comment period that could also be experienced by other ISD 192 students:
 - Seven-year-old child continuously reporting difficulty breathing through face covering.
 - Mental health impacts on child with speech impediment who is having difficulty communicating with teachers.
 - Kindergarten child chewing mask and swallowing pieces.
- Observed hazards communicated by parents during the 9/27/21 ISD 192 School Board public comment period that could also be experienced by other ISD 192 students:
 - Mental health impacts on children with bloody noses and vomit in masks who are afraid to remove them.
 - Child diagnosed with anxiety having difficulty breathing through the face covering.

If the potential or actual hazards noted in these communications are not being tracked and investigated by the School Administration, our assertion is that regardless of whether written policies and procedures exist to track

hazards or potential hazards related to the face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21), that process is not effective at meeting the objectives required to comply with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807.

Additionally, we recognize the School Board's oversight role in reviewing the written procedures related to the identification of health and safety hazards impacting ISD 192 students and monitoring the effectiveness of those procedures to ensure the School Administration is in compliance with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 policies and procedures.

Regarding potential non-compliance of Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Policy 807

Due to the immediate and potentially significant negative impacts that non-compliance with ISD 192 Policy 807 can have on the health and safety of ISD 192 students, we request the following information from the Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 Superintendent within seven calendar days of receipt of this letter if the mandatory face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21) is still in effect:

1. Any data or analysis (redacted as necessary to comply with individual data privacy rules and regulations) used by the School Administration to assess the potential negative physical and mental health impacts of prolonged face covering usage of six or more hours by ISD 192 students prior to, and since, the issuance of the face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21).
2. Any data or analysis (redacted as necessary to comply with individual data privacy rules and regulations) used by the School Administration to support the conclusion that the effectiveness of a face covering requirement in reducing COVID 19 spread is more beneficial to the health of ISD 192 students and the community than the negative physical and mental health impacts a face covering requirement may have on ISD 192 students.
3. Any written policies and procedures developed by the School Administration regarding the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards of the face covering requirements (eff.8/30/21).
4. Evidence (redacted as necessary to comply with personal data privacy rules and regulations) that the School Administration is tracking and investigating the hazards or potential hazards of face covering requirements communicated to the School Administration and/or School Board by concerned parents and residents of ISD 192.

Additionally, we request the following from the Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 School Board within seven calendar days of receipt of this letter if the mandatory face covering requirement (eff. 8/30/21) is still in effect:

1. Evidence of any oversight and monitoring performed by the School Board to ensure that the decision and ongoing monitoring of the School Administration's face covering requirement (effective 8/30/21) is in compliance with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 policies regarding the health and safety of District 192 students.

If the requested information (or adequate support demonstrating the current face covering requirement is in compliance with Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192 policies) is not provided within seven days of receipt of this letter, and the current face covering requirement is still in effect at that time, we will consider the following actions:

1. Filing a formal complaint with the School Board that the School Administration is in violation of school district policies regarding the health and safety of ISD 192 students.
2. Pursuing any legal remedies available regarding the School Administration's potential non-compliance with school district health and safety policies, and the School Board's responsibility for providing monitoring and oversight of those policies.

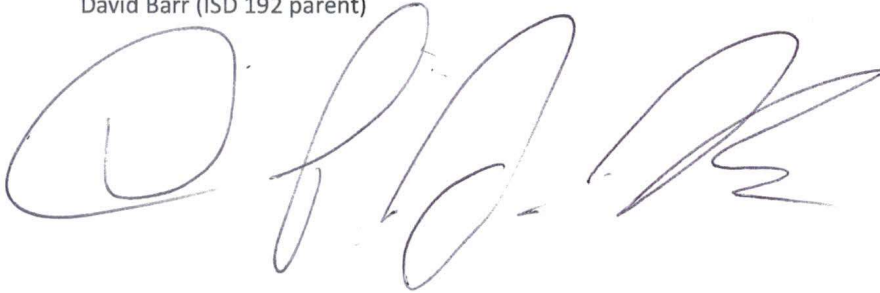
Additionally, during the next seven days we will be circulating this letter among other parents and residents of Farmington Area Schools, ISD 192. At the end of the seven-day period, we will provide the Superintendent and School Board with additional signatures to this letter that were received during that time.

We understand that the health and safety of ISD 192 students is an important issue to the School Administration and the School Board and look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Adrian (ISD 192 parent)

David Barr (ISD 192 parent)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Barr', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Jennifer Dickson (ISD 192 parent)

Attachments:

- [District 192 Policy 807 \(Building and Site – Health and Safety\)](#)
- [District 192 COVID-19 FAQ](#)

**BUILDINGS AND SITES****807 HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY****I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to assist the school district in promoting health and safety, reducing injuries, and complying with federal, state, and local health and safety laws and regulations.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The policy of the school district is to implement a health and safety program that includes plans and procedures to protect employees, students, volunteers, and members of the general public who enter school district buildings and grounds. The objective of the health and safety program will be to provide a safe and healthy learning environment; to increase safety awareness; to help prevent accidents, illnesses, and injuries; to reduce liability; to assign duties and responsibilities to school district staff to implement and maintain the health and safety program; to establish written procedures for the identification and management of hazards or potential hazards; to train school district staff on safe work practices; and to comply with all health and safety, environmental, and occupational health laws, rules, and regulations.
- B. All school district employees have a responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy environment within the school district and are expected to be involved in the health and safety program to the extent practicable. For the purpose of implementing this policy, the school district may form a health and safety advisory committee to be appointed by the superintendent. The health and safety advisory committee will be composed of employees and other individuals with specific knowledge of related issues. The advisory committee will provide recommendations to the administration regarding plans and procedures to implement this policy and to establish procedures for identifying, analyzing, and controlling hazards, minimizing risks, and training school district staff on safe work practices. The committee will also recommend procedures for investigating accidents and enforcement of workplace safety rules. Each recommendation shall include estimates of annual costs of implementing and maintaining that proposed recommendation. The superintendent may request that the safety committee established under Minn. Stat. § 182.676 carry out all or part of the duties of the advisory committee or the advisory committee may consider recommendations from a separate safety committee established under Minn. Stat § 182.676.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Based upon recommendations from the health and safety advisory committee and subject to the budget adopted by the school board to implement or maintain these recommendations, the administration will adopt and implement written plans and procedures for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards existing within the school district in accordance with federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations. Written plans and procedures will be maintained, updated, and reviewed by the school board on an annual basis and shall be an addendum to this policy. The administration shall identify in writing a contact person to oversee compliance with each specific plan or procedure.
- B. To the extent that federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations do not exist for identification and management of hazards or potential hazards, the health and safety advisory committee shall evaluate other available resources and generally accepted best practice recommendations. Best practices are techniques or actions which, through experience or research, have consistently proven to lead to specific positive outcomes.
- C. The school district shall monitor and make good faith efforts to comply with any new or amended laws, rules, or regulations to control potential hazards.

IV. PROGRAM AND PLANS

- A. For the purpose of implementing this policy, the administration will, within the budgetary limitations adopted by the school board, implement a health and safety program that includes specific plan requirements in various areas as identified by the health and safety advisory committee. Areas that may be considered include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Asbestos
 - 2. Fire and Life Safety
 - 3. Employee Right to Know
 - 4. Emergency Action Planning
 - 5. Combustible and Hazardous Materials Storage
 - 6. Indoor Air Quality
 - 7. Mechanical Ventilation
 - 8. Mold Cleanup and Abatement
 - 9. Accident and Injury Reduction Program: Model AWAIR Program for Minnesota Schools
 - 10. Infectious Waste/Bloodborne Pathogens
 - 11. Community Right to Know
 - 12. Compressed Gas Safety
 - 13. Confined Space Standard
 - 14. Electrical Safety
 - 15. First Aid/CPR/AED
 - 16. Food Safety Inspection
 - 17. Forklift Safety
 - 18. Hazardous Waste
 - 19. Hearing Conservation
 - 20. Hoist/Lift/Elevator Safety
 - 21. Integrated Pest Management
 - 22. Laboratory Safety Standard/Chemical Hygiene Plan

23. Lead
24. Control of Hazardous Energy Sources (Lockout/Tagout)
25. Machine Guarding
26. Safety Committee
27. Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)
28. Playground Safety
29. Radon
30. Respiratory Protection
31. Underground and Above Ground Storage Tanks
32. Welding/Cutting/Brazing
33. Fall Protection
34. Other areas determined to be appropriate by the health and safety advisory committee.

If a risk is not present in the school district, the preparation of a plan or procedure for that risk will not be necessary.

- B. The administration shall establish procedures to ensure, to the extent practicable, that all employees are properly trained and instructed in job procedures, crisis response duties, and emergency response actions where exposure or possible exposure to hazards and potential hazards may occur.
- C. The administration shall conduct or arrange safety inspections and drills. Any identified hazards, unsafe conditions, or unsafe practices will be documented and corrective action taken to the extent practicable to control that hazard, unsafe condition, or unsafe practice.
- D. Communication from employees regarding hazards, unsafe or potentially unsafe working conditions, and unsafe or potentially unsafe practices is encouraged in either written or oral form. No employee will be retaliated against for reporting hazards or unsafe or potentially unsafe working conditions or practices.
- E. The administration shall conduct periodic workplace inspections to identify potential hazards and safety concerns.
- F. In the event of an accident or a near miss, the school district shall promptly cause an accident investigation to be conducted in order to determine the cause of the incident and to take action to prevent a similar incident. All accidents and near misses must be reported to an immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

V. BUDGET

The superintendent shall be responsible to provide for periodic school board review and approval of the various plan requirements of the health and safety program, including current plan requirements and related written plans and procedures and recommendations for additional plan requirements proposed to be adopted. The superintendent, or such other school official as designated by the superintendent, each year shall prepare preliminary revenue and expenditure budgets for the school district's health and safety program. The preliminary budgets shall be accompanied by such written commentary as may be necessary for them to be clearly understood by the members of the school board and the public. The school board shall review the projected revenues and expenditures

for this program and make such adjustments within the expenditure budget to carry out the current program and to implement new recommendations within the revenues projected and appropriated for this purpose. No funds may be expended for the health and safety program in any school year prior to the adoption of the budget document authorizing that expenditure for that year, or prior to the adoption of an amendment to that budget document by the school board to authorize that expenditure for that year. The health and safety program shall be implemented, conducted, and administered within the fiscal restraints of the budget so adopted.





VI. ENFORCEMENT

Enforcement of this policy is necessary for the goals of the school district's health and safety program to be achieved. Within applicable budget limitations, school district employees will be trained and receive periodic reviews of safety practices and procedures, focusing on areas that directly affect the employees' job duties. Employees shall participate in practice drills. Willful violations of safe work practices may result in disciplinary action in accordance with applicable school district policies.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 123B.56 (Health, Safety, and Environmental Management)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.57 (Capital Expenditure; Health and Safety)
Minn. Stat. § 182.676 (Safety Committees)
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0010 (Applicability)
Minn. Rules Part 5208.0070 (Alternative Forms of Committee)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 407 (Employee Right to Know - Exposure to Hazardous Substances)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 701 (Establishment and Adoption of School District Budget)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 806 (Crisis Management Policy)

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COVID-19 FAQs

Farmington Area Public Schools
 COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last update: October 4, 2021

What health and safety protocols will the district implement during the 2021-2022 school year?

For information on face coverings, physical distancing, cleaning and sanitizing, health screening, isolation, quarantine and other health and safety protocols planned for the 2021-2022 school year, please see our 2021 Back to School FAQ linked here.

Can't find something we linked to? Missed a message? Just scroll to the bottom of this page for a list of links.

[Safe Return to In-Person](#)

[2021 Senior Spotlights](#)

[2021 Back to School Info](#)

Are face coverings required in ISD 192 buildings and busses?

- Face coverings are **required** on all district provided transportation in accordance with federal guidelines.
- As of August 23, 2021, to help our learners have consistent learning experiences with as few disruptions as possible and due to an increasing number of cases in Dakota County and in zip code 55024, in addition to the limited access to vaccination for our elementary and middle school learners, **all learners, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering inside school buildings with programming for ages 3-8th grade.** At this time, masking for learners and staff in grades 9-12 is still strongly recommended.
- Symptomatic people will be **required** to wear a face covering and isolate while waiting to go home or visiting the nurse.

What type of face coverings are recommended?

The Minnesota Department of Health has published **Recommendations for Wearing Masks (click here to view)**, which include:

- Wear masks with two or more layers of tightly woven fabric. Face coverings made of thinner, loosely woven, or single-layer fabric such as certain types of masks, scarves, neck gaiters, or bandannas are not as effective for blocking droplets that come out when speaking, coughing, or sneezing, and should only be used if nothing else is available. If you wear a scarf or neck gaiter for warmth, also wear a mask underneath it.
- Any masks that incorporate a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are NOT sufficient face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.

What criteria is ISD 192 using to determine when masks are required and when they are recommended?

Face Covering protocol for Grades K-8 and Ages 3-5 (early learning programs)

- If the 14-day COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents of Dakota County (as calculated by weekly Friday reports from Dakota County Public Health) is at **24.99 or less** cases per 10,000:
 - All persons are **strongly recommended to wear face coverings** when inside school buildings.
 - Information about COVID-19 cases in school will be shared by the school district.
- If the 14-day COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents of Dakota County (as calculated by weekly Friday reports from Dakota County Public Health) is at **25 or more** cases per 10,000:
 - All persons are **required to wear face coverings** when inside school buildings with programming for ages 3-8th grade.
 - Requirement will remain in place a minimum of two weeks and until cases per 10,000 for Dakota County fall **below 20 for five consecutive days or Dakota County positivity rate falls below 3%**. When this happens, face coverings will no longer be required.
 - Information about COVID-19 cases in school will be shared by the school district.

Face Covering Protocol for Grades 9-12

- If the 14-day COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents of Dakota County (as calculated by weekly Friday reports from Dakota County Public Health) is at **49.99 or less** cases per 10,000:
 - All persons are ***strongly recommended to wear face coverings*** when inside school buildings.
 - Information about COVID-19 cases in school will be shared by the school district.
- If the 14-day COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents of Dakota County (as calculated by weekly Friday reports from Dakota County Public Health) is at **50 or more** cases per 10,000:
 - All persons are ***required to wear face coverings*** when inside all district buildings.
 - Requirement will remain in place a minimum of two weeks and until cases per 10,000 for Dakota County fall ***below 40 for five consecutive days or Dakota County positivity rate falls below 5%***. When this happens, face coverings will no longer be required.
 - Information about COVID-19 cases in school will be shared by the school district.

How can Minnesotans can get a COVID-19 test?

- Walk in or schedule an appointment for a free test at one of the state's 11 community testing sites across Minnesota: **COVID-19 Community Testing Sites**.
- Order a free test through the state's at-home testing program: **COVID-19 Test at Home**.
- Find other testing options near them through the state's Find Testing Locations map, including through local providers, pharmacies and clinics: **Find Testing Locations**.

Who should get tested?

According to the Minnesota Department of Health:

- Even if you are vaccinated, Minnesotans should get tested:
 - if you have symptoms of the virus;
 - if you have had close contact with someone who has COVID-19;
 - if you are returning from international travel;
 - or if you have attended a large gathering or event where people are not wearing masks and are not able to stay 6 feet apart.
- People who are unvaccinated should test before travel (domestic or international).
- Unvaccinated teachers, staff and students in K-12 should test weekly at a minimum or more frequently per CDC guidance.

How many ISD 192 students/staff have confirmed cases of COVID-19? How many are in quarantine?

Please see our COVID-19 Dashboard for information about COVID-19 cases in ISD 192.

Where can learners and families find support and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic?

[Please see our Community Resources page](#) for assistance with food, health, housing, technology, employment, childcare and more. Dakota County also has many resources available [on their website](#).

What about school attendance during the COVID-19 pandemic (and related questions such as "When must my child stay home?" and "What if my child has close contact with someone with COVID-19?" and "Should I get my child tested?")?

As a reminder all families must complete a [Daily Health Screening](#) prior to sending learners to school.

The Minnesota Department of Health has provided a **Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs** ([linked here](#))

If your learner has had a COVID-19 test and is awaiting results, they (and any learners in the household) cannot attend school or any activities until the building nurse or building administrator has verified they are medically cleared to return. Please see the linked resource for additional information from MDH regarding [What to do While You Wait for a COVID-19 Test Result](#). If it is determined that a learner must quarantine or isolate the building nurse or building administrator will help determine the date of return.

What about middle school and high school athletics?

ISD 192 will use and interpret the [MSHSL guidelines](#) as a basis for its COVID-19 safety plans regarding activities and athletics. If face coverings become required for students in grades 9-12, the MSHSL guidelines will be applied to Minnesota State High School League activities in this way:

- Outdoor activities: no masking required

- Indoor activities:

- Students will wear a face mask indoors unless they are actively engaged in an athletic drill, scrimmage, performance, or competition. Students may choose to wear a face mask during an athletic drill, scrimmage, performance, or competition.

- Coaches will wear a face mask indoors unless they are actively engaged in coaching a drill, scrimmage, performance, or competition. Coaches may choose to wear a face mask during an athletic drill, scrimmage, performance, or competition.

Note: These guidelines are subject to change without advance notice.

How is ISD 192 using COVID Relief Funding?

Please refer to the [ISD 192 COVID Relief Funding Brief](#) linked here.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a viral respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus that has not been found in people before. COVID-19 presents a range of illnesses. While many cases may be mild to moderate with symptoms similar to colds and flu, some cases may be more severe. The risk of severe illness seems to be higher for older people and those with underlying health conditions. There are still things we do not know.

What should I do if I or someone in my family has COVID-19 symptoms?

The Minnesota Department of Health has provided a **Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs** ([linked here](#))

- **What if we need to quarantine?** If your family needs to quarantine, your student will continue to be supported in their learning by their assigned teachers.

What about traveling outside the area?

We request that families be aware of, and comply with, the [recommendations of the CDC](#) with regard to travel abroad. If families choose to travel outside the country, the CDC recommends a 14-day self-imposed quarantine. School districts do not have authority to impose or monitor quarantines for individual students or families but request that families comply with these recommendations.

What actions should we take to protect our family?

The Minnesota Department of Health indicates that following these practices is the most effective way to protect yourself and your family:

- Get vaccinated if you are able.
- Wear a mask indoors if you are not fully vaccinated.
- Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Model frequent hand washing in your home and workplace.
- Keep children home from school until fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication.
- Stay home from work if you are sick.
- If you plan to go to the doctor with flu-like symptoms, please call ahead so the clinic can be prepared for your arrival.

Additionally, you may take this opportunity to review your family's own emergency plans. Think about backup plans for childcare if school is temporarily closed or if parents, children, or a childcare provider is sick. Think about necessary items to have at home, including prescription medication (check your refill dates), and non-prescription medications, such as fever-reducing medications.

How do we talk with our children about COVID-19?

The National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) has prepared guidance for parents to talk with their children about COVID-19.

- [Read the NASP guidance in English](#)
- [Read the NASP guidance in Spanish](#)

How does Farmington Area Public Schools stay up-to-date about COVID-19?

Student and staff health and safety is a top priority. We are monitoring developments closely and receive strong support from our partners at the Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Department of Education. Farmington Area Public Schools is following the guidance of these and other state agencies.

Further Questions

If you have questions about infectious diseases, please call the Minnesota Department of Health at (651)201-5414.

If you have questions about Farmington Area Public Schools' preparation for COVID-19, please contact the Office of the Superintendent at (651)463-5013.

Additional Resources:

- **ISD 192 COVID-19 Dashboard**
- **ISD 192 Resources for Families**
- **ISD 192 Pandemic Preparedness Plan**
- **Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms**
- **Minnesota Department of Health**
- **Minnesota Department of Health COVID Information**

- Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Resources:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Family Emergency Preparedness: <https://www.ready.gov/>
- ISD 192 COVID Relief Federal Funding Brief

Minnesota Department of Health resources:

— In English: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/basics.pdf>

— In Spanish:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/basicsspanish.pdf>

— In Somali:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/basicssomali.pdf>

Previous Messages Sent to Families:

From the 2021-2022 School Year:

August 24, 2021, Updated Fall Protocols

July 29, Fall 2021 Health and Safety Information

From the 2020-2021 School Year:

January 5, Elementary Learning Model Update

November 13, Upcoming Transition to Distance Learning

November 6, Learning Model Update

October 27, Hybrid Schedule Update & COVID-19 Outlook

October 14, Fall Update from Superintendent Berg

September 11, Food Service Update, Fall 2020

September 4, Important Health Reminders

August 5, School Begins in Hybrid Model

July 31, Fall Learning Update

July 24, Hybrid Learning Options - Your Feedback Requested

July 21, Optional Distance Learning

July 15, Back to School Planning - Your Feedback Requested

From the 2019-2020 School Year:

April 23, 2020 - Schools Closed for Remainder of Year

2019-2020 Superintendent Video Updates (Every Friday, Beginning April 3)

March 25, 2020 - Distance Learning to Begin March 30

March 17, 2020 - Resources for Families

March 16, 2020 - Meals and Childcare (March 17-20)

March 16, 2020 - Update on School Closing March 17-20

March 15, 2020

March 13, 2020

March 10, 2020

February 28, 2020

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