



# **Maple Lake Public School**

Independent School District No. 881  
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## **Message from the Superintendent: Additional Back to School Information**

Thank you for the continued feedback, support and engagement as we navigate the Governor's Back to School Guidance received on, July 30, 2020. We want to reassure you that whichever model we implement, we will prioritize relationships, rigorous learning opportunities, parental choice, and student safety.

### **Introduction**

Governor Tim Walz and the Minnesota Department of Education issued direction for schools called the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21. The plan is focused on how school districts should open schools this fall given the ongoing COVID-19 concerns. A system to track COVID-19 cases by county is the metric being used to determine how schools should reopen. MDE has created a framework to operate school while trying to keep everyone safe. Their direction gives schools the ability to open based on COVID-19 data but it is not a “one size fits all” approach. The metrics and learning scenarios below are based on a 14 day average by Minnesota County. This data will guide how we operate school and will be subject to change as COVID numbers evolve.

<b>COVID-19 Case Rate Per 10,000 People</b>	<b>Learning Scenario</b>
<b>0 to less than 10</b>	<b>District Wide In Person</b>
<b>10 to less than 20</b>	<b>Elementary = In Person</b> <b>High School = Hybrid</b>
<b>20 to less than 30</b>	<b>District Wide Hybrid</b>
<b>30 to less than 50</b>	<b>Elementary = Hybrid</b> <b>High School = Distance Learning</b>
<b>50 and over</b>	<b>District Wide Distance Learning</b>

# In-Person Learning Plan

## General Description

In this scenario, students and staff will create as much space between one another as is feasible during the day, but will not be held strictly to enforcing six feet of social distancing during primary instructional time in the classroom. This scenario may be implemented for K-6 assuming state COVID-19 metrics continue to stabilize and/or improve.

## Instructional Delivery Considerations

During the In-Person Learning Plan, in class teaching and learning will take place. The Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21 requires school districts to offer a Remote Learning option for any family not comfortable sending their child(ren) back to school.

*[Please check back for detailed information coming soon](#)*

## Food Service Considerations

Food Service will continue as it was prior to the spring school closure. Additional hand sanitizing stations and increased hand-washing procedures will be implemented to decrease the spread of illness within the school building. Students will eat their breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria, but will be spaced apart as much as possible. Meals to accommodate remote learning families will be available for curbside pick-up.

## Transportation Considerations

Masks will be required of students and bus drivers on the school bus per **Executive Order 20-81**. Students and parents should contact the school district's transportation department to arrange for transportation prior to the school year beginning. Questions regarding busing should be directed to Scott Millner at (320) 963-2060.

## Childcare

In this scenario school-based childcare will be available before and after school and during the day for enrolled preschool students.

## Activities/Athletics

Activities and extracurricular programming will continue to follow the COVID-19 Sports Guidance for Youth and Adults.

*[Fall Update August 4, 2020 \(click to view\)](#)*

## Social Distancing Considerations

With an In-person learning scenario, our school district will work to social distance people as much as possible. We will space student desks, limit group work, avoid contact between students as much as possible, be mindful of classroom spaces to support distancing students, and limit non-essential visitors to our school district.

## Infrastructure Considerations

- **Masks** - Governor Walz has issued [Executive Order 20-81](#), effective July 25th, ordering face masks to be worn indoors at public places in Minnesota. This includes school buildings. All students and staff will be provided one mask and by request one face shield. We also will have extra masks to provide to students if needed. **We are looking at different opportunities for students to do learning outside and incorporating mask breaks during the day.**
- **Heating Venting and Air Conditioning (HVAC)** - The district will alter as many settings as possible to promote the intake and circulation of fresh air in the school building while maintaining all code and ASHRAE standards that apply to public schools.
- **Physical Space Changes** -
  - Water Fountains - Water fountains will be shut off and students will be encouraged to utilize a water bottle to remain hydrated. Touchless bottle fillers are located throughout the school building and will be disinfected regularly. **Water bottles should not be shared by students.**
  - Restrooms - Staff will work to stagger restroom breaks for students so as to limit the number of occupants at any given time.
  - Hand Washing/sanitizing - Students and staff will implement hand-washing procedures within the classroom setting. All individuals are expected to wash their hands regularly.

- **Building Cleaning/Sanitation Procedures** - Effective immediately, the school district's custodial department will implement additional sanitization procedures to ensure the building is ready for students each day. All chemicals used will support sanitizing of surfaces. These chemicals will be those normally used in the school setting. Extra attention will be given to shared spaces, door handles, etc.

## Hybrid Learning Plan (In-Person and Remote Learning)

### General Description

In this planning scenario, Maple Lake Public Schools will be required to limit the overall number of people in school facilities and on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy. Sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people must occur at all times. Schools must also include plans for contactless pick up of meals and school materials for days that students and staff are not in the school building, as well as implementation of a school-age care program for critical workers. This scenario may be implemented if COVID-19 metrics worsen at the local, regional, or statewide level. Hybrid Learning may also be implemented if Maple Lake Public Schools experiences a cluster of cases within a classroom or the school.

**In a Hybrid Model, learners are expected to receive instruction from teachers every day of the week in either a remote or in-person format. Learners will have opportunities to engage with staff on a daily basis to support learning. Like the Remote Model, learners participating in the Hybrid Model will:**

- Be expected to follow their class schedule on remote learning days and login to Google Meets daily during the regular school day.
- Be in-person every other day.
- Engage in real time and flexible learning activities.
- Participate with teachers in the appropriate licensure area.
- Have opportunities to interact with other students from their class/course.
- Meet all grade/content learning standards and graduation requirements.
- Demonstrate learning through multiple pathways.

In addition, Maple Lake will [follow MDH guidance](#) and [the MDE guidance](#) including, but not limited to the following:

### Food Service Considerations

Students will eat breakfast and lunch as they normally do when attending school in person. Students will be spread out in the lunchroom to accommodate appropriate social distancing. Food service staff will wear masks and gloves as a safety precaution. Meals to accommodate remote learning families will be available for curbside pick-up.

### Transportation Considerations

School buses will run their regular route each day but only 50% of the kids will require rides to/from school on any given day. M & M School Bus Services, in partnership with Maple Lake Public Schools, will work to maintain social distancing with students while on the bus. The bus will be loaded from back to front with occupancy taking place in every-other seat. Students from the same household will be allowed to sit together. Bus drivers and adult riders will be encouraged to wear gloves and masks.

*Note: The Department of Transportation (DOT) will not allow seats to be removed or barriers to be installed on the bus.*

### Childcare

Childcare will be available for students on days that they are not in-person learning. Children of essential workers and school staff as required by the Minnesota Department of Education will have first priority.

**Monitoring Children's Health** - In an effort to protect both children and staff using our Childcare Program, Maple Lake Public Schools is asking parents/guardians to check their children's temperature prior to dropping them off for child care every morning. If your child has even mild symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms, they need to be kept home. Please contact the office if your child has these symptoms and is kept home. If a child is found to have a fever at school, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and will be expected to pick up their children as soon as possible. Students will be immediately separated from other students while awaiting pick up.

## Activities/Athletics

Extracurricular activities will continue as directed by the Minnesota State High School League and the Minnesota Department of Education. If activities are allowed to continue during the Hybrid Learning Plan, coaches and all participants will be expected to follow all social distancing guidelines.

## Social Distancing Considerations

Sufficient social distancing with at least six feet between people must occur at all times.

## Infrastructure Considerations

- **Masks** - Governor Walz has issued [Executive Order 20-81](#), effective July 25th, ordering face masks to be worn indoors at public places in Minnesota. This includes ALL school buildings. **We are looking at different opportunities for students to do learning outside and incorporating mask breaks during the day.**
- **Heating Venting and Air Conditioning (HVAC)** - The district will alter as many settings as possible to promote the intake and circulation of fresh air in the school building while maintaining all code and ASHRAE standards that apply to public schools.
- **Physical Space Changes** -
  - Water Fountains - Water fountains will be shut off and students will be encouraged to utilize a water bottle to remain hydrated. Touchless bottle fillers are located throughout the school building and will be disinfected regularly. Water bottles should not be shared by students.
  - Restrooms - Staff will work to stagger restroom breaks for students so as to limit the number of occupants at any given time.
  - Hand Washing/sanitizing - Students and staff will implement hand washing procedures within the classroom setting. All individuals are expected to wash their hands regularly.
- **Building Cleaning/Sanitization Procedures** - Effective immediately, the school district's custodial department will implement additional sanitization procedures to ensure the building is ready for students each day. All chemicals used will support sanitizing of surfaces. These chemicals will be those normally used in the school setting. Extra attention will be given to shared spaces, door handles, etc.

## **Remote Learning Plan**

*Please Note:* The 2020 Remote Learning Model will be different than the model used last spring in many ways. For example, there will be daily interactions between students and teachers, and grade level expectations will be the same as in the traditional Face-to-Face Model.

- Students on remote learning days will be expected to follow their class schedule and login to Google Meets daily during the regular school day.
- Students will NOT be in person in this model.
- Students will engage in real time and flexible learning activities.
- Students will participate with teachers in the appropriate licensure area.
- Students will have opportunities to interact with other students from their class/course.
- Students will meet all grade/content learning standards and graduation requirements.
- Students will demonstrate learning through multiple pathways.

## For Parents...

During our extended distance learning days, your child's teacher may offer "live instruction" webinar sessions using Google Meet. This will be a chance for your child to connect with the teacher, ask questions and see classmates. We see this as a valuable tool to allow your child and teacher the ability to maintain their relationship and enhance learning.

The sessions may be recorded by the teacher and posted to Google Classroom, so if a student in the class is unable to attend the session due to an excused absence, they could view it at a later time.

### Food Service Delivery Considerations

We know many of our students depend on our school food service program so it is important we provide ongoing meals for our students during times of distance learning. Our food service department will provide breakfast and lunches to students by preparing unitized meals. These meals will be available to students for curbside pick-up. Meals will include breakfast and lunch.

### Childcare

The school district will be providing child care for elementary aged students of essential workers (as defined by MDE) and school staff.

Details of the program are as follows:

**Time:** 6:00 am-5:00 pm daily during regularly scheduled school days.

**Location:** The Childcare program will operate in various locations at Maple Lake Public Schools. Depending on the number of participants the district may separate by age groups.

**Meals:** The childcare program will provide breakfast and lunch. Cost for the meals is to be determined.

**Programming:** The program will include the following: child supervision, learning activities, rest time (if needed), educational play. Students will be able to complete their school work while in the childcare program.

**Cost:** To be determined.

**Monitoring Children's Health** - In an effort to protect both children and staff using our Childcare Program, Maple Lake Public Schools is asking parents/guardians to check their children's temperature prior to dropping them off for child care every morning. If your child has even mild symptoms of fever, cough, shortness of breath or other respiratory symptoms, they need to be kept home. Please contact the office if your child has these symptoms and is kept home. School district staff will take temperatures of every student as they are dropped off in the morning and in the middle of the day. If a child is found to have a fever, parents/guardians will be contacted immediately and will be expected to pick up their children as soon as possible. Students will be immediately separated from other students while awaiting pick up.

## **Resources**

The following resources were used in the creation of this plan.

[MDE - Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health](#)

[Center for Disease Control](#)

[Minnesota Department of Education](#)