

Duluth Public Schools



2023-2024 SAFE LEARNING PLAN

www.ISD709.org/SafeLearningPlan

COVID-19 Protocols

The following is the guidance for staff, programs, and outside organizations using Duluth Public Schools sites during the 2023-2024 School Year (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024).

These plans and protocols are created using guidance from the MN Department of Health, MN Department of Education, St. Louis County Health Department and the CDC.

As per Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines, it is critical that we have a layering of various safety measures to ensure safety and to support in-person learning.

The Safe Learning Plan reflects current state and national guidance and is subject to change based on future guidance. Updates will be provided on the District website at www.ISD709.org/SafeLearningPlan.

Masks, Face Coverings

Duluth Public Schools continues to work closely with the St. Louis County Health Department, monitoring infection rates and guidance. We are prepared to change practices and procedures if local COVID-19 rates rise and guidance is clear that we should do so. At this time, we will continue with the following CDC guidance.

If there are changes in level of the Duluth area and district COVID-19 cases that affect the mask wearing policy, parents, staff and students will be notified no later than Friday afternoon each week and the change will take place starting the following Monday.

The district administration will still maintain the option to implement a 10 day mask mandate if transmission within district buildings becomes significantly high. We ask families and staff to be prepared for a possible switch and keep masks on hand.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations for COVID-19 for those 6 months of age and older are strongly recommended and encouraged, but are not currently required by the school district.
- Additional vaccine clinics may be offered in partnership with our community health partners.
- Information on Saint Louis County vaccine clinics [can be found here](#).
- The State of Minnesota's vaccine locator [can be found here](#).

Hand Hygiene Practices

- Duluth Public Schools will provide instruction, signage, facilities, and supplies to encourage regular hand washing and sanitizing. This is consistent with [MDH: Hand Hygiene](#).

Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols

- Duluth Public Schools follows ISSA industry standards for K-12 institutions, with tasks and frequencies delegated by a software system that uses square footage and other details to create

areas of responsibility for each employee, thereby effectively addressing all spaces within our sites.

- Operations staff will maintain these standards by thoroughly cleaning and/or disinfecting assigned areas using EPA approved cleaning and disinfecting solutions to complete tasks with frequencies indicated for specific spaces and activity levels.

Facilities and Ventilation

- Duluth Public Schools will ensure ventilation systems operate properly and increase circulation of outdoor air as much as possible.
- Doors and windows need to be closed at all times to allow the systems to effectively operate.
- Social distancing is not required; no group size limits (assemblies, concerts, etc). This will continue to be monitored and could change based on conditions in the school setting.

Health Screening

- Staff members and students have been informed of and encouraged to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Isolation Following POSITIVE COVID-19 Results

- It is recommended by the CDC and Duluth Public Schools that a person who has a positive COVID test isolates at home for 5 days and wears a face cover for a total of 10 days. Duluth Public Schools does not require isolation following a positive COVID test.

Notification Following a POSITIVE COVID-19 Result

- Students and staff should report positive COVID-19 cases to the health office at school or work site and follow the traditional absence reporting process.

Close Contact Exposure to COVID-19

- If you were exposed to COVID-19, it is strongly recommended you wear a high-quality mask for 10 days and get tested on day 5.

Staff and Students with COVID-19 Like Symptoms

- COVID-19 Like Symptoms
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

*This list does not include all possible symptoms.

- Staff and students experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms should stay home until they have not had a fever for 24 hours without using medication to reduce a fever and are feeling well enough to attend school or work.
- [Is My Child Well Enough?](#)

Testing

- COVID-19 testing is strongly encouraged, especially if the individual is at high risk for severe disease, if symptoms continue or worsen, if the individual develops additional symptoms, if the individual has been exposed to someone with COVID-19, or if COVID-19 transmission is elevated in the community.
- We are not offering serial testing at this time.
- Serial testing for COVID-19 should be done at one of the area community testing sites. [Visit Getting Tested for COVID-19](#) or contact your health care provider to schedule an appointment.

These protocols may be updated if there is an increase in COVID-19 positive cases in staff, students, or community groups and may continue forward into the 2023-24 school year upon review of updated local, state or federal guidance.

All protocols subject to change based on MDH/MDE/Local Health Department and District guidance.