

2021-2022 Return to Safe Learning

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Subject to change based upon requirements of the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education.



WCED recognizes the importance of in-person learning for all students. While acknowledging the importance of in-person learning, WCED is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff.

Learning Model

- Birth to 3 staff will meet with students and families in their homes, at a neutral site within the community, or outside.
- Beacon Program and Area Learning Center: School will be in-person, five days per week with regular start and end times. [2021-2022 School Calendar](#)

Face Coverings

- **Birth to 3** staff are required to wear masks when meeting with students and families indoors. When they meet with students and families outside and can maintain a distance of 6 feet, masks are optional.
- The **Beacon Program** is located within the Sauk Centre Public School building and therefore will follow the decision made by Sauk Centre Public Schools. At this time, face coverings are strongly recommended but not required within the building or on the playground.
- For students attending the **Area Learning Center**, face coverings are strongly recommended for students and staff within the building.
- **Face coverings are required on school transportation per the President's executive order, which regulates all forms of transportation. It is not an option for any school district to disregard this requirement.**
- Face coverings are strongly recommended by the Minnesota Department of Health for all staff, students, and visitors during the school day and during after school activities including sports. WCED fully supports individuals who choose to wear a face covering.
- If our region sees an increase in COVID-19 spread, we will work in conjunction with Stearns County Public Health to consider changes in our masking practices.

Health Screening and Quarantining

- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be required. If you are not feeling well, call school and stay home.
- As prior to COVID, the school policy remains that your child must be fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication prior to returning to school.
- Schools are mandated to report any positive COVID cases to the MN Department of Health.

- WCED Birth to 3, Beacon Program, and Area Learning Centre will use the MDH Decision Tree as a guide as well as consulting with member district school nurses.
 - Our practice regarding someone who is in close contact with a person who is COVID positive at school will be to notify staff, students, parents/guardians and ask them to monitor their symptoms closely. We will do our best to minimize the amount of time a student is absent from school.
 - COVID positive individuals will be required to quarantine for 10 days.

Social Distancing: Staff and students will be encouraged to social distance when possible.

Vaccinations: WCED Birth to 3, Beacon Program, and Area Learning Center will not require COVID vaccinations for students, staff, or visitors.

Cleaning: Enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols will continue to be implemented. This includes regular cleaning as well as frequent cleaning and disinfection of high-touch and high-traffic areas. Water refill stations will be open for students and staff.

Health Facilities: HVAC systems will be running at maximum capacity to ensure high air flow and air quality.

Good Hygiene: Students will continue to be encouraged to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks. Hand sanitizer will also be provided. Proper respiratory etiquette (covering coughs and sneezes) will be reinforced.

Meals: All students can eat breakfast and lunch for free during the 2021-2022 school year. It is important that each family completes the free and reduced lunch application.

Visitors: Visitors will be at a minimum and arranged by contacting the program administrator. Visitors who are experiencing COVID symptoms are not permitted to enter the school buildings.

Virtual Meetings: IEP meetings will be in person or virtual. Meetings in person will be conducted with social distancing; at least 3 feet distancing per person.

Partnership with Health Agencies: WCED will continue to collaborate on issues related to COVID with Stearns County Public Health, MDE and MDH. Local COVID infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the agencies listed above.

Remain Vigilant: The pandemic is not over and we will remain vigilant. We will closely monitor cases of COVID and take necessary steps to protect our students and staff. We expect families, staff, and the community to partner with us so we can keep our students in an "in-person" learning model.