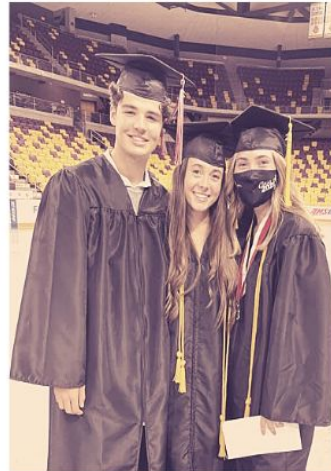


# Safe Learning Update

*Committee of the Whole*

*January 6, 2022*

# 2021-22 Safe Learning Plan



ISD 709

## Guiding Principles

FOR SAFE IN-PERSON LEARNING

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students
- 3 Equity: Ensuring all means all
- 4 Optimize use of resources (space & materials)
- 5 Community and stakeholder engagement in plan development

*Equity Criteria:*

Access

Participation

Representation

Outcomes

[ISD709.org/Equity](https://ISD709.org/Equity)

# Current COVID Rates

- 9/5-9/18 - 42.02
- 9/12-9/25 - 41.27
- 9/19-10/2 - 46.92
- 9/26-10/09 - 60.33
- 10/03-10/16 - 59.25
- 10/10-10/23 - 54.50
- 10/17-10/20 - 57.25
- 10/24-11/6 - 74.14
- 10/31-11/13 - 92.12
- 11/7-11/20 - 109.59
- 11/14-11/27 - 110.76
- 11/21-12/4 - 109.18
- 11/28-12/11 - 88.29
- 12/5-12/18 - 62.66
- 12/12 - 12/25 - 70.40
- 12/19 - 1/1 - 79.55

# Variables for Safe Learning

While the use of a single criteria is discouraged, it is vital that we continue to monitor key variables to ensure our ability to provide safe learning environments and to be good community partners.

Several of these include:

- Variant development
- Current COVID rates
- Transmission within the community
- Transmission within our classrooms
- Vaccination and booster rates
- Staffing Capacities
- Hospital capacity
- Other factors



# Critical Safety Precautions

The Minnesota Department of Health recommends that we continue to emphasize:

- Promoting vaccines and boosters
- Universal masking
- Physical distancing
- Staying home when sick
- Testing
- Additional layers of safety

# Practice Changes, Part I

## **Athletics, Activities and Field Trips:**

In order to ensure our ability to provide safe in-person learning environments and to be good community partners, we are making several changes in our safety practices. Several of these include:

- Negative COVID test for overnight athletic travel
- Reinforce safety precautions for spectators at athletic events
- Pausing concerts, assemblies, dances and other large group activities, until further notice
- Continued pause of current overnight field trips
- February break, overnight trips are paused and Spring Break field trips are under further discussion

# Practice Changes, Part II

## **Potential Exposure Notification:**

With a high level of COVID-19 in our community, there is a risk of being exposed to COVID-19 everyday both at school and in the community. Because of this risk, we are asking that all staff and students consider themselves exposed to COVID-19 daily; therefore, we will no longer be sending potential exposure notification letters to staff and families when there is a positive case in a building. Please continue to monitor for COVID-19 like symptoms daily, stay home when you are sick, test for COVID-19, get vaccinated, and wear a mask.

# Quarantine Guidance Update

On January 4, 2022, the [CDC shared that the 5 day quarantine guidance may be applied to K-12 schools.](#) On January 5, MDE sent a message to school leaders affirming the updated guidance applies to K-12 schools and that more information would be coming to Minnesota's schools from MDH the week of January 10. We are considering aligning district practices to this new CDC guidance.



# Mandated Vaccination and Testing Update

The [Emergency Temporary Standard](#) will be taken up by the Supreme Court on January 7, 2022. Should the ETS remain in effect after the Supreme Court's ruling, compliance begins January 10, 2022. Should districts adopt MSBA model policy 491 that allows for employees to either be vaccinated or tested and use face coverings, compliance with testing beginning February 9, 2022.

Our policy committee has explored a draft MSBA policy related to this mandate, pending tomorrow's decision. More information to come as we learn of the Supreme Court's ruling.