

Safe In-Person Learning Plan for Badger Community School

Schedules and programming will strive to return closer to traditional near-normal operations the fall of 2021. This includes the following:

Schedule

School will be in-person, five days per week with regular start and end times following the regular school calendar.

Meals & Food Service

Breakfast and lunch will be FREE to all students again for the 2021-2022 school year.

We depend greatly on our families continuing to complete their Free & Reduced Meals Application for other funding sources in the school district. We have seen a decline in completion of the applications during the USDA free meals program, which can have negative financial impact for the school district in Compensatory Aid. Please help us out by completing your household's Free & Reduced Meals Application.

Students will eat breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria unless notified otherwise.

The school's food service (kitchen) has established material and food procedures that meet the requirements of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Minnesota Department of Education (MDE).

Vaccines

The school is not requiring COVID vaccinations for students, staff, visitors or volunteers.

Families interested in information about vaccines (locations, dates, etc.) may contact the Badger Community School at 218-528-3201 or Roseau County Public Health/LifeCare Medical Center at 218-463-3211 for more details.

Social Distancing

Striving to create a physical distance of at least three feet apart between individuals when possible is *encouraged* at school but not required

Again, social distancing is no longer required.

Face Coverings

Indoors: Face coverings are *encouraged* as a precaution for everyone regardless of vaccination status but not required. The wearing of face coverings is optional and that option will be allowed and supported for students and staff choosing to do so.

Transportation: Federal transportation regulations as of July 28, 2021 requires students and staff members to wear masks while on a school bus/vehicle, regardless of vaccination status.

Requiring students and staff to wear a mask on school buses/vehicles **is not a local decision**. School transportation is under the federal public transportation umbrella. Riding on a school bus/vehicle has similar rules/expectations as flying on a commercial airplane.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs*:

www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html

Specialist Classes (Music, Phy. Ed., etc.)

These classes will be held in the specialist classrooms (music room, gym, etc.).

Cleaning, Disinfecting, Sanitizing and Healthy Facilities

Cleaning routine protocols will continue to support mitigation of COVID using approved disinfecting cleaning products. Products are used in accordance with their labels.

Drinking fountains will only be used in the bottle-filling mode; therefore, students and staff are encouraged to bring their own labeled water bottle.

Visitors

Visitors will once again be welcomed at school. Visitors report to the school office upon entrance into the building.

Health Self-Screening and Quarantine

All students and staff are asked to conduct a daily health self-screen for symptoms of illness and stay home when necessary (when sick). If you are ill, stay home and report your symptoms to the school office. This is a good general health practice and was instrumental in slowing and preventing the spread of colds, flu's and COVID.

Schools continue to be mandated to report positive COVID test cases to local public health and MDH.

This is not a local decision:

*Minnesota Rule 4605.7070 **Handling a confirmed case of COVID-19** requires any person in charge of any institution, **school**, child care facility, or camp to report cases of COVID-19 to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Reportable Disease Rule*

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/reportable/rule/index.html

Hygiene Practices

The school will ensure the availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors and place supplies in areas where they may be frequently used.

Handwashing: The school will teach, model and provide time for handwashing and/or hand sanitizing routines in the daily schedule.

Staff and students are instructed to wash their hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially when working with shared items, prior to meals or snack time, or using the restroom.

Respiratory Etiquette: Staff and students are instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing to avoid touching their face, in particular their nose, mouth or eyes with their hands. Tissues should be disposed of and they should sanitize or wash their hands afterwards.

Special Education

Programming and services are based on the individual student's needs as determined by the individual education program (IEP) team and as documented in the IEP or 504 plan.

Students with an IEP may also have a contingency learning plan (CLP) to address and individualize their IEP. Parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager to inquire about appropriate accommodations with respect to health and safety policies and procedures.

Transportation-Buses

All passengers and driver will wear a face covering while in school vehicles. **This is not a local decision.**

A driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.

Students will have assigned seats; students may be assigned by family/household or learning pods.

No eating or drinking on the bus.

No bus passes will be given out. Transportation change requests will be limited to childcare needs only; any and all communications must go through the school office.

Before and after school busing will be for students on the listed routes, there will be no transportation for students not listed on designated routes, unless there is a set routine at the beginning of the year. This means families are responsible for birthday party kids, friend overnights, any event that rides are needed for other students not on the original route.

Daily bus cleaning and disinfecting procedures will continue after each route or event trip.

Partnership with Health Agencies

Badger School will collaborate on issues related to COVID with Roseau County Public Health, LifeCare Medical Center, MDE and MDH. Local COVID infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the listed agencies.

Subject to Change

This plan and all areas of operation for Badger Community School are subject to change at any time due to new state and/or federal mandates regarding COVID. And if necessary, the Badger School Board will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members.