

Greenbush Middle River School District



Back to School Planning Guide - Fall 2020

From the School District Office

Larry Guggisberg - Superintendent

Our school year is fast approaching and there is much uncertainty surrounding everything including what will school look like.

This document is a framework that will provide some insight on what the GMR School will look like this school year.

Regardless of what scenario we are in, our goal is to work with students and families to ensure they make academic growth throughout the school year.

Whether the school's learning model is in- person, completely distance or a hybrid of both, our goal is to create an environment that focuses on stability of instruction, flexibility for families, safety and equity for all.

We are aware that this is a very challenging time for our school families, as there is much we do not know about what our future will bring.

The Safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

We will provide updates and resources in an effort to help families. The GMR School District intends to adhere to guidance from the Roseau County Public Health (RCPH), the Minnesota Dept. of Health (MDH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Minnesota Dept. of Education (MDE). We are closely monitoring updates as guidance is changing frequently due to local, state and even global developments.

With information changing daily, we encourage families to stay up-to-date on information regarding COVID-19 and protect yourself and the community. The school's website will be the original source for updated information and resources.
<www.middleriver.k12.mn.us>



On July 22, 2020, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-81, it states:

Beginning on Friday, July 24, 2020 at 11:59 p.m., Minnesotans must wear a face covering in indoor businesses and indoor public settings. This includes School buildings and on buses unless a certified medical exemption form is completed by a physician and provided to the district. Workers must also wear face coverings outdoors when it is not possible to maintain social distancing. When leaving home, Minnesotans are strongly encouraged to have a face covering with them at all times to be prepared to comply with the requirements of this Executive Order.

Because wearing a face covering is such an important mitigation strategy, the State of MN is ensuring all public school students and staff have the face coverings they need for in-person and hybrid learning. Minnesota will provide the following supplies to all public schools:

- Every K-12 student will receive one cloth face covering
- Every school staff member will receive one cloth face covering
- Every school will receive three disposable face masks per student

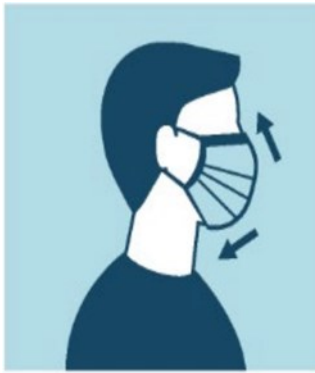
Every school will receive face shields for all licensed teachers and 50% of non-licensed staff

In addition,

- GMR placed a face mask its 2020-2021 back to school supply list
- The GMR School District will provide three “Gator themed” cloth face masks to staff
- The GMR School District has purchased additional face shields for staff
- Students and staff may choose to supply their own face covering compliant with school dress code and district mission statement and meeting

MN Dept. of Health
guidelines





Wearing a mask enhances the effectiveness of other measures like physical distancing, handwashing and staying home when ill, it does not negate or diminish their use.

It is important to remember that face coverings protect those around you, so it is important to wear your face covering whenever lip visibility is not crucial to classroom learning.

Can students and staff wear face shields instead of face coverings?

Students and staff have flexibility to wear face shields instead of face coverings to allow visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception, in certain situations. These situations include:

- For students in kindergarten through grade 8 when wearing a face covering is otherwise problematic for the student.
- Students who are unable to tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, behavioral, or medical condition.
- Teachers of all grades when a face covering would impede the educational process.
- Staff providing direct support student services when a face covering would interfere with the services provided.

When can I remove my face covering?

All staff, students, and others in schools may temporarily remove their masks when alone in these circumstances:

- Alone at an office space, classroom, vehicle or workspace who do not have person-to-person interaction;
- Communal work spaces (desks or cubicles) that have barriers such as plexiglass or a wall between employees that are above face level;
- Face coverings may be temporarily removed when engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g. during recess, after school sports, or when exercising in a gym) where the level of exertion makes wearing a face covering difficult, and during classes or activities held outdoors. People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance while doing so to the extent feasible.
- While eating or drinking;
- Activities involving singing, acting, public speaking, or playing musical

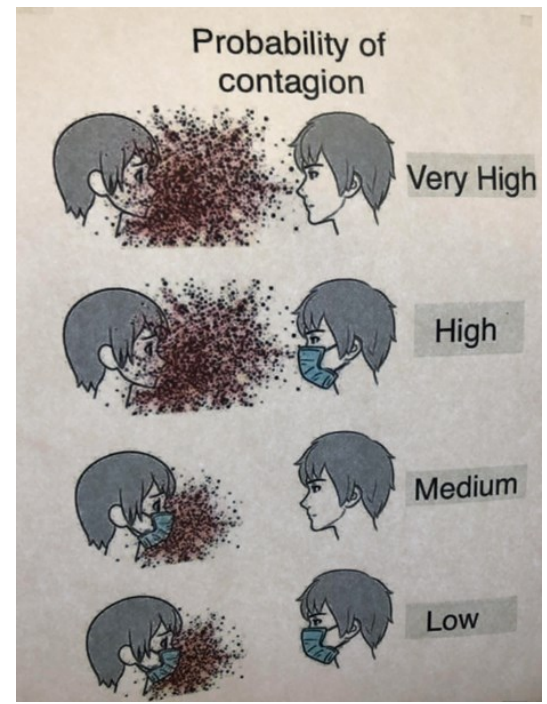


Do I have to wear my mask outdoors?

Masks are strongly recommended outdoors when it is not possible to maintain physical distancing.

Who does not have to wear face coverings?

- Children under age 2 years must not wear face coverings.
- Children between the ages of 2 and 5 years old are not required to wear face coverings, but are encouraged to wear a face covering when in public if they can do so reliably in compliance with CDC guidance.
- Persons who have medical or other health conditions, disabilities or mental health, developmental, or behavioral needs that make it difficult to tolerate wearing a face covering. Requests for accommodation(s) along with documentation to support the accommodation must be submitted to the Principal's Office.
- Any person who has trouble breathing, is unconscious, sleeping, incapacitated, or is otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance.
- Persons at their workplace when wearing a face covering would create a safety hazard to the person or others as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
- Alternatives to masks such as clear face shields may be considered for those with health conditions or situations where wearing a mask is problematic.



Care & Cleaning of Cloth Masks

Here is a resource (link) for washing/sanitizing cloth face masks.

<https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/coronavirus-how-to-care-for-your-face-mask>

What if a student fails to comply with wearing face coverings?

A student who does not comply with wearing face coverings will be directed to the GMR distance learning program.

Reporting Symptoms and Exposure

Prior to sending their student(s) to school, parents will be responsible monitoring their child(ren)'s health and for reporting to the school the presence of any symptoms, or possible COVID-19 exposure. Quarantine requirements as outlined by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) must be followed.

Students and staff will be subject to a touchless forehead infrared thermometer prior to entering the building on a school day. The temperature reading must be $<100.4^{\circ}$. Prior to getting on the bus, students will be asked if they are experiencing any symptoms at the start of each school day as well as be subject to a touchless forehead infrared thermometer prior to getting on the bus. The temperature reading must be $<100.4^{\circ}$ to ride the bus (or enter the school). Students will be reminded of what symptoms to report to an adult at school if they begin to feel ill.

Any student or staff member who experiences symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and must comply with quarantine requirements as outlined by the MDH and GMR School policy(ies), guidelines and employee Agreement(s).

• COVID-19 Symptoms Include:

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| ⇒ Fever of $<100.4^{\circ}$ or greater 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 | |

- Minor complaints and simple injuries will be addressed in the classroom to reduce possible transmission of COVID-19.
- Additional information regarding reporting and quarantine requirements will be provided once finalized in coordination with the state and local health departments.



What if someone tests Positive for COVID-19?

Using guidance from LifeCare Medical Center, “If a person has been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive person for greater than 15 minutes, they would be considered a close contact exposure,” says Brooke Homstad, Public Health Nurse.

Quarantine must occur for 14 days after the last day of close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19. “It is important to know that if someone gets tested and the result is negative, that person needs to continue to quarantine for a full 14 days after the last exposure and monitor for symptoms,” says Homstad. “The infection can develop at any time during the quarantine period.”

Greenbush-Middle River School will use a new feature in its electronic student database to aid in contact tracing. Each student and staff member are linked to their associated “groups.”

For example, if 5th grader Sally tests positive, is on Wally the Bus Driver's route and she's in elementary basketball, we would be able to readily generate lists of her classmates, teacher, bus driver, kids on her bus, and kids at her BB practices. Then we can contact those parents immediately by phone call or email to let them know someone in their group tested positive.

What does it mean to quarantine?

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/contact.pdf>

- Stay home
- Separate yourself from other people in and out of your home by designating a specific room and bathroom if able.
- Stay away from people who are high-risk for getting very sick
- Do not use public transportation
- Wear a face mask if you need to be around other people
- Avoid sharing personal household items
- Wash your hands often

Visitors

- Only students and staff will be present inside school buildings to abide by MDE's guidance restricting non-essential visitors in school building
- Visitors (eg: copy machine repairman, product deliveries) will be limited to only accessing the building after being pre-approved from the administration.
- As per Governor's executive order, while indoors, face coverings are required. All persons entering the building will be required to verify they are feeling well (ie: free of COVID-19 symptoms) and subject to a touchless forehead infrared thermometer.
- Any communication/engagement that can be conducted outside (weather permitting), through electronic communication or phone, should be done so to limit the number of individuals inside the school building.



Transportation

- In compliance with the Minnesota Department of Education guideline, school buses and school transportation vehicles are to carry students at 50% of full capacity during a hybrid scenario.
- All students and drivers will wear a mask or protective covering while in school vehicles.
- Unless assigned a particular seat, students will fill the vehicle starting from the back and fill to the front.
- Students are only allowed to share a seat if they are from the same household.
- Before and after school busing will be for the students on listed bus routes, there will be no transportation for students not listed on the 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.
- Parents/Guardians of students eligible for bus transportation services should indicate if they plan to use the service.
- Prior to entering the bus during the morning route, students will be asked if they are experiencing any poor health symptoms as well as be subject to a touchless forehead infrared thermometer . The temperature reading must be $<100.4^{\circ}$. A reading of $<100.4^{\circ}$ and above will result in the student not being able to ride on the day's bus route. (see *Reporting Symptoms & Exposure*) (see Parents, Plan Ahead).



Building and Classroom Use

- To avoid congregation in the hallways, lockers will not be used to store school supplies. Students must carry materials in a backpack or bag.
- ⇒ Lockers will be used in the winter months to store coats, snow pants, boots etc.
- ⇒ Gym lockers will still be used to store gym clothes.
- All non-essential furniture is being removed from classrooms to allow for greater physical distancing. Students will have assigned seats, facing the same direction.
- We encourage students to bring their own labeled water bottle as drinking fountains will only be used to refill a water bottle or cup.



NEW automatic water bottle filling stations are replacing the existing water fountains. The hand-activated fountain will be shut off.

Cleaning and Sanitizing

Cleaning and sanitization will include frequent cleaning of high touch points. Thorough cleaning will occur each evening with added staff hours.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved disinfecting products will be used to disinfect hard surfaces throughout the day and after school.

Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and in common areas of the buildings.

The GMR School will be reinforcing frequent hand washing by students and staff.

Reminders for proper handwashing, physical distancing and the use of face coverings will be posted throughout the school.



Learning Scenarios

2020-2021 School Year

Scenario 1: In-person learning

- Students attend school, following additional safety precautions, including face coverings as mandated by state officials
- Students would attend school following the Elementary and High School time schedule within classroom settings.
- Families have the option of distance learning for the academic school year.



Scenario 2: Hybrid learning

- Students attend school with a modified schedule.
- School work is completed through an in-person and distance learning platform.
- Students schedules limit the amount of students moving throughout the building during the day.
- Families have the option of distance learning for the academic school year.



Scenario 3: Distance learning

- All academic work is completed at home.
- Instruction is taught by MN certified teachers.
- Curriculum will align with MN State Standards
- On a daily basis, student can expect 3-4 hours of instruction, learning, activities, daily interaction with teachers, and grades/assessments would count toward an overall grade.
- Daily attendance is required.
- Pick up and drop off classroom work will occur one day per week during a regular bus route

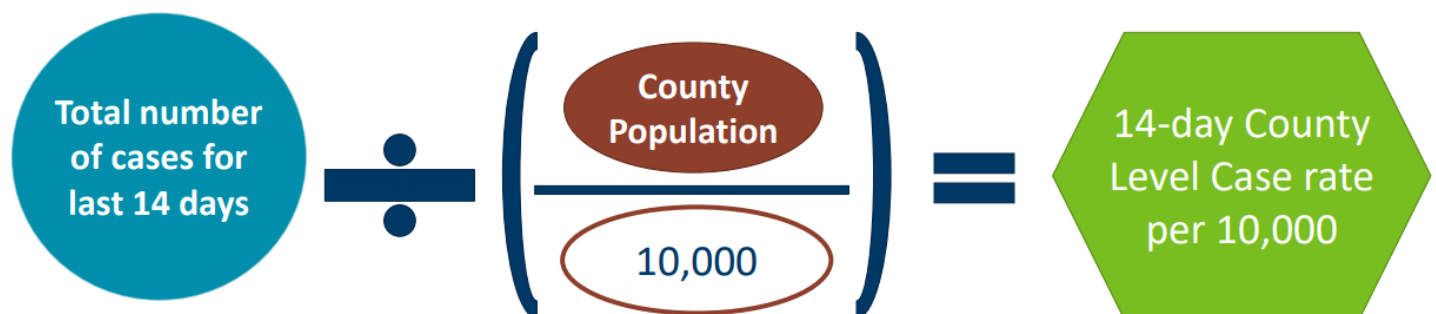


Transition to / from Learning Models

Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-82 states that all Minnesota public schools must adhere to parameters determined by MDH in implementing or shifting between the three learning models laid out in the 2020-21 school year planning guidance: in-person learning, hybrid learning and distance learning.

Determining a safe learning model will be different when communities across Minnesota are experiencing the impact of COVID-19 in different ways. While some areas of the state have seen significant outbreaks, other communities have experienced steady or relatively low numbers of new cases. While there are many factors to take into consideration when determining an appropriate learning model for school opening, the decision-making process will first center on local data indicating the level of viral activity in the surrounding community. School districts are encouraged to use the following process in assessing and determining an appropriate learning model for school opening:

Consult the MDH learning model selection parameters as indicated by county-level data to determine the base learning model. In order to determine the base learning model, school districts and charter schools will be advised of the bi-weekly case rate (over 14 days) by county of residence. These data are the number of cases by county of residence in Minnesota over 14 days per 10,000 people by date of specimen collection (when a person was tested). While any increase in case incidence represents greater potential risk, schools may consider a bi-weekly case rate of 10 or more cases per 10,000 to be an elevated risk of disease transmission within the local community, especially when the level of cases per week is sustained or increasing over time.



Thresholds for Learning Model Selection based 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County				
Minnesota Department of Health / Minnesota Department of Education				
Roseau	County Name		Note: The GMR School District is in THREE (3) counties. The county with the HIGHEST case rate is used for determination.	
15,150	Population of Roseau County			
7/30/20 - 8/12/20	Time Period		Graphic provided by	
8	Current # of Cases in Time Period		Roseau County Emergency Management as of 8/13/2020	
5.28	Current 14-Day Case Rate			
$14\text{-day county level case rate per }10,000 = \frac{\text{Total number of cases for last 14 days}}{(\text{County population} / 10,000)}$				
			Recommended Learning Model	
# of Cases per 10,000 over 14 Days	Min # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Max # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Elementary Students	Middle/High School Students
0-9	0	15	In-Person	In-Person
10-19	16	30	In-Person	Hybrid
20-29	31	45	Hybrid	Hybrid
30-49	46	75	Hybrid	Distance
50+	More than 75 Cases	More than 75 Cases	Distance	Distance
Daily Situation Update for COVID-19 from the Minnesota Department of Health is available at:				
https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/situation.html				

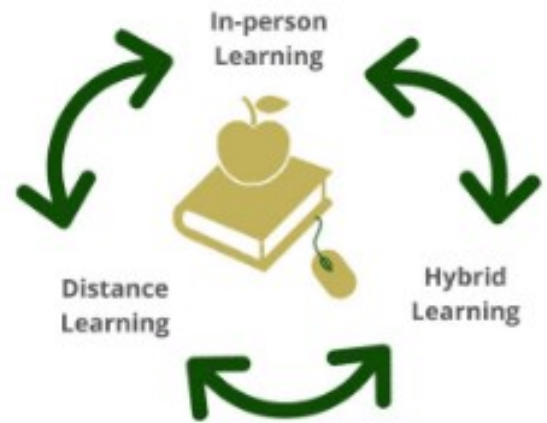
To begin the 2020-21 school year, MDH has developed parameters using county public health data to support the determination of learning models for each school district and charter school.

The Minnesota Department of Education provides a chart to guide schools' decisions regarding which learning model to use, depending on local counties' two-week case averages.

If local COVID-positive case numbers rise, GMR will give notice of its intent to move from in-person to a hybrid or distance learning model. If -- after that period of time -- case numbers fall, GMR will give notice of its intent to move back to a less restrictive model.

Families and staff need to be prepared for a change in learning model at any time. Note: There may be one or more non-student contact days in order to allow teachers to plan for transition.

These learning models apply to each individual school and recommendations based on health parameters vary by grade. This is because the risk of COVID-19 transmission is lower for younger students and public health strategies like consistent groupings or co-horting commonly practiced in elementary schools are demonstrated to mitigate and prevent transmission. Further, in-person learning is more critical at younger ages due to child development.



Special Education

Programming and Services

Special Education and related services are based on individual student needs as determined by the individual education (IEP) team and documented in the IEP or 504 plan.

Environments

Access to education will be reconfigured to meet physical distancing guidance while meeting the needs of individual students.

Case Loads

Staff or schedules may be redesigned to provide access to individualized learning to meet IEP and 504 plans.



Food Service

School breakfast and lunch will be available for all learning scenarios.

Food Service during Scenario 1: *In-person learning*

School meals will be served in the cafeteria, hallway adjacent to the cafeteria and some classrooms and perhaps picnic-style outside in good weather.

Students opting for distance learning can receive a school “Grab & Go” meal but must pick them up in a non-contact manner at a pre-determined time and school entrance.

Food Service during Scenario 2: *Hybrid learning*

School meals will be served in the cafeteria, hallway adjacent to the cafeteria and some classrooms.

Students opting for distance learning can receive a school “Grab & Go” meal but must pick them up in a non-contact manner at a pre-determined Time and school entrance.

Food Service during Scenario 3: *Distance learning*

School meals will be delivered similar and like what was offered March through May 2020.



Child Care

Child Care services will only be available during full Distance Learning and available to Tier I essential workers.

Child Care Services during Scenario 1: *In-person learning*

NOT AVAILABLE

Child Care Services Scenario 2: *Hybrid learning*

NOT AVAILABLE

Child Care Services Scenario 3: *Distance learning*

Available to Tier I essential workers (parents of professional health care and emergency workers).



Students may qualify for free or reduced price meals. Please fill out the **Free and Reduced Price Meal Application** to determine eligibility. Apply online at <middleriver.k12.mn.us> or <www.LunchApplication.com>

MEAL APPLICATION

For the GMR School District

-If you have been affected (reduced pay or no pay) by layoffs, furloughs or reduced work hours, please consider completing a free/reduced school meals application.



-If your family qualifies for free/reduced school meal benefits now, the benefits carry over into next year for the first 30 school days. You will want to apply again next year to determine eligibility for the full year in 2020-2021.

-All application information is confidential.

There is a new way to apply:

1. Go to www.LunchApplication.com
2. Select 'Apply Now'
3. Follow the steps on screen to enter your student(s), household members and income.
4. Questions? Please contact Leah at 782-2232 or lhasson@greenbush.k12.mn.us

Apply Online!

Extra Curricular Activities

The Minnesota State High School League's Board of Directors, at its meeting on Aug. 4, approved moving Football and Volleyball to a modified spring season. (This will require further work in scheduling seasons through the winter and spring to provide opportunities for participation in multiple activities with minimal overlap of seasons.)



- These decisions were made based on:

- *Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-82 declaring that the return to learning would be a localized decision aligning with the current statistical situation and mitigation measures available in each district,

- *The Minnesota Department of Education's specific plan for returning to learning for the 2020-2021 school year,

- *The Minnesota Department of Health's "Guidance for Youth Sports" along with the National Federation of High Schools "Return to Sports" document,

- *The MSHSL Return to Participation Task Force multiple frameworks for returning to participation,

- *Review of and feedback from lead physicians from the MSHSL Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

- All aspects of athletics including meetings, practices, competitions, transportation and facility usage must align with the requirements of the Minnesota Dept. of Education plan for return to learning, must follow the requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health's "Guidance on Youth Sports," and must include the required actions identified in the Governor's Executive Orders.

- For schools that are required by localized metrics to be in a distance learning mode, practices are limited to virtual contact only.

- Athletic programs must follow the identified protocols for students or coaches who have tested positive, are experiencing symptoms consistent with a COVID-19 diagnosis, or have had exposure to an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.

- Additionally, spring coaches, as well as football and volleyball coaches, have the option to run PRACTICE ONLY sessions this fall with MSHSL approval. These decisions have not been made yet locally, but will be posted once decisions and schedules are created.
- As a result of the football and volleyball shifts in seasons, traditional winter and spring sports seasons will be adjusted as well. (This information will be released by MSHSL at a later date).



PARENTS, PLAN AHEAD

Consider using this website link to plan ahead “for whatever comes your way” in the up-coming school year.

<https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/make-a-plan.jsp>



Make a Plan Minnesota! Plan. Prepare. Share.

Developing an emergency plan can help you and your family be prepared for whatever comes your way. It is never too early to develop a plan for your family. It is also a good idea to revisit and update existing plans. This is especially true during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is requiring us to plan in different ways than other emergencies. One important plan to have in place is what to do if a parent or guardian becomes sick or hospitalized due to the virus.

We encourage you to develop a plan for how you, your family, and caregivers will respond to a potential illness or hospitalization. Having a plan can help reduce stress in the event of an emergency and help everyone transition. Start by having a conversation with everyone involved and use this as a guide.



Step 1: Plan



Step 2: Prepare



Step 3: Share

We want to hear from you if you have questions or concerns.

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<skschultz@greenbush.k12.mn.us>

It's clear "back-to-school" will take on a whole new meaning this academic year. Whether students return to the school campus, log in from home, or a combination of both, the GMR *return-to-learn* plan strives to prioritize student and staff safety and educational success.

This back-to-school framework offers broad guidance to support scenario-based planning. Supplemental guidance and tools will be updated and released by MDH and MDE as more is learned from experiences in Minnesota and as directed by the CDC. With that said, new information will be coming out as we get closer to the start of the school year. Changes and modifications may need to be made to the plan as situations, experience, and challenges arise. We thank you for your continued trust and support as we navigate these unprecedented events in public education.



FAQ

What if my child becomes ill in school?

If a student gets COVID, how will make up work “go?”

What about use of the school building by outside groups?

During in-person or hybrid learning models, clubs and activities may take place with physical distancing and safety measures in place only after submission and approval of MDH’s COVID-19 Preparedness Plan” and consistently following the plan.

Various Resource Links

DESCRIPTION	LINK
PARENTS, MAKE A PLAN	https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/make-a-plan.jsp
STAY SAFE MN COVID-19	https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/index.html
MN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH	https://www.health.state.mn.us/
CDC (Centers for Disease Prevention)	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
COVID-19 DATA FOR K-12 SCHOOLS MAP	https://infogram.com/cf800390-74b8-498e-bda8-c921f09c0a54
MN Safe Learning Plan 2020-21	https://mn.gov/covid19/assets/safe-learning-plan_tcm1148-442202.pdf