



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND
— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —

Return & Learn Plan

Summary Document

***This document is subject to change throughout the school year as we learn more about the impacts of COVID-19 on our community and schools.*

General District Operations

Learning Format

- To ensure the highest quality experience, PK-12 students will return to full time in-person learning. Hybrid instruction will not be provided to ensure rigor and access for students.
- Virtual learning will only be offered through Rural Virtual Academy on a first come first serve basis
- Virtual instruction may occur if entire classrooms must quarantine

COVID-19 Signs, Symptoms And Exposure For Staff And Students

The District will follow the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\) Guidelines](#) to determine when staff or students must stay home from school or work.

Staff or students must stay home from school or work if:

- They have tested positive for COVID-19, with or without having symptoms, and have not yet finished their isolation period per public health recommendations.
- They have been diagnosed with COVID-19 by a healthcare provider, and have not yet finished their isolation period per public health recommendations.
- They are not fully vaccinated and within the last two weeks they have come in close contact with anyone who has COVID-19.
- OR within the last 24 hours, they have experienced the following symptoms above their baseline:
 - Either cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of smell or taste OR
 - At least two of the following symptoms:
 - Fever (measured or subjective), or chills or rigors
 - Myalgia (muscle aches)
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

These symptom criteria apply to COVID-19-related exclusions for in-person instruction. Other symptoms may also require exclusion for a different communicable disease. Generally, children with fever, diarrhea, or vomiting alone should be sent home or stay home for at least 24 hours, even if it is unrelated to COVID-19 infection.

Face Covering Requirements and Decision Criteria

- Each Friday morning, the district will look at the updated positive case rate ([DHS website](#)) and community transmission level ([CDC website](#)). When both indicators are “High”, the district will require masking PK-12 for all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Parents and staff members will be alerted each Friday by noon of the following week’s face covering policy.

Athletics & Activities

- The School District of Ashland will work with the WIAA to establish guidelines for extracurricular events and participation
- Click [here](#) to view “WIAA Guidelines for the Return to 2021 Fall Sport Seasons

Band/Choir

- The District recommends that we plan to begin the year with choir and band with practicing outside as much as possible
- The District may determine it necessary to require masking for band and choir depending on recommendations and local factors

Key COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Strategies

The CDC recommends layering the following COVID-19 prevention strategies. These COVID-19 prevention strategies remain critical to protect people, including students, teachers, and staff, who are not fully vaccinated, especially in areas of moderate-to-high community transmission levels. The need for layering specific prevention strategies will vary, and localities might implement fewer COVID-19 prevention strategies based on community transmission levels, vaccination coverage, and local policies and regulations. CDC continues to recommend masking and physical distancing. However, if considering whether and how to remove prevention strategies, one prevention strategy should be removed at a time and students, teachers, and staff should be closely monitored (with adequate testing through the school or community) for any outbreaks or increases in COVID-19 cases.

Promoting Vaccination

- The District will promote vaccinations among teachers, staff, families, and eligible students in partnership with Ashland County Public Health and in accordance with CDC recommendations.
- Approximately 85% of staff were vaccinated in the District coordinated vaccine efforts in Spring 2021.

Consistent and Correct Mask Use When Required

- Indoors: Masks will be required when community transmission is in HIGH category per CDC. This will be evaluated by the district on a weekly basis, with parent communication released each Friday by noon for the following week.
- Outdoors: Students, teachers, and staff do not need to wear masks when outdoors in general.
- Exceptions may apply for anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove the covering without assistance; for medical considerations, including disabilities and respiratory conditions, as well as traumatic personal experiences. Exceptions may be sought through the IEP, 504, or ADA process by working with the Administration and/or HR as applicable.
- Masks are required for all staff and students on School District of Ashland Transportation in accordance with CDC Order (applies to all public transportation, including school transportation).

Physical Distancing

- In general, schools will maintain 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms when possible.
- Increased social distancing is an additional layer of prevention that could be implemented at a future date if conditions change.
- Lunch will be served in cafeterias or normal dining spaces. Administration may shift lunch and other procedures when COVID-19 prevalence is high.

Screening testing

- The District will not be performing its own screening or testing to start the 2021-22 school year.

- Efficient and reliable testing resources are available in our community.
- However, this is an additional layer of prevention that could be implemented at a future date if conditions change.

Ventilation

- Ventilation systems are being run with maximum outdoor air intake based on current conditions.
- Outdoor airflow rates significantly exceed ASHRAE and state standards for indoor air quality.

Handwashing and respiratory etiquette

- The District will teach and reinforce handwashing and [respiratory etiquette](#) (covering coughs and sneezes) to keep from getting and spreading infectious illnesses including COVID-19.
 - The District will continue to provide adequate hand washing supplies.
- If handwashing is not possible, staff and students can use hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol (for teachers, staff, and older students who can safely use hand sanitizer).
 - Hand sanitizer will continue to be provided by the District in every classroom and in public spaces. Hand sanitizer should be used only with adult supervision for children under 6 years of age.

Staying home when sick and getting tested

- Students, teachers, and staff who have symptoms of infectious illness such as influenza or COVID-19 should stay home and refer to their healthcare provider for testing and care.
- Students, teachers, and staff should follow CDC guidelines and local health department directives on when and how long to [isolate](#) or [quarantine](#).
- [What to do if a student becomes sick or reports a new COVID-19 diagnosis at school](#)

Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine

- The District will not perform contact tracing beyond family units to start the 2021-22 school year. However, this is an additional layer of prevention that could be implemented at a future date if conditions change.
- The District will continue to collaborate with the Ashland County Public Health, to the extent allowable by privacy laws and other applicable laws, to confidentially provide information about people diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19.
- The District will report, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, new diagnoses of COVID-19 to Ashland County Public Health as soon as we are informed.
- The District will notify, to the extent allowable by applicable privacy laws, teachers, staff, and families or students who were close contacts as soon as possible after the District is notified that someone in the school has tested positive.
- Students, teachers, and staff who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms following exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 do not have to quarantine, be restricted from school or work, or be tested.
- Students, teachers, and staff should notify their administrator if they have tested positive for COVID-19, and should follow CDC guidelines and local health department directives on when and how long to [isolate](#) or [quarantine](#).

These preventative strategies will be scaled up or down in response to local conditions as described below. Changes would be based on trends seen for at least 2 weeks at a time.

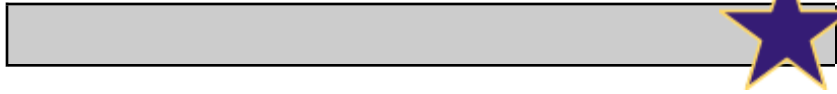
- Low community transmission**
- Minimal or no hospitalizations
 - Minimal or few cases in schools
 - High community vaccination rates

- Moderate to high community transmission**
- Low to moderate hospitalizations
 - Low to moderate cases in schools
 - Moderate community vaccination rates

- Moderate to high community transmission**
- Moderate to high hospitalizations
 - Moderate to high cases in schools
 - Low community vaccination rates

Masks: Required for 4K-grade 12 when community transmission is HIGH

No masks required



Masks required for all

Distancing: Increased social distancing to 3 ft. when possible.

No social distancing



Increased social distancing to 6ft where possible

Visitors: Visitors may be restricted, must follow guidelines in building.

No restrictions



No visitors

Field Trips: Permitted without restrictions, per principal approval

No restrictions



No field trips

Facility Rentals: Permitted without restrictions

No restrictions



No rentals to groups outside Ashland County

Spectators at Activities & Events: Permitted with some restrictions, increased social distancing

No restrictions



Very limited

Contact Tracing: Contact tracing to immediate household members

No contact tracing



Tracing to classroom contacts, more likely to quarantine entire classrooms

Screening/Testing: No testing

No testing



Regular required testing

Personnel Procedures

Employee Vaccination

- All employees are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 though employees will not be required to be vaccinated.

Employee Exposure

- Employees who test positive for COVID-19 are to be isolated based on recommendation of the medical provider and/or public health recommendations.
- Employees who are not vaccinated and are deemed a close contact to a positive COVID-19 case may be required to quarantine per public health directive
- District sick leave may apply, but it only applies for the illness of the employee or where necessary to care for a sick family member per the Employee Handbook. As in the past, medical verification may be requested and necessary.
- Except in unique circumstances, employees will not be permitted to work from home during the period of quarantine. All requests must be pre approved by the direct supervisor.

Staff Meetings

- Staff meetings will be held in-person unless otherwise indicated by meeting organizers.

Administrative Contacts

Department	Name	Email Address
Director of Building & Grounds	John Berglund	jberglund@sdak12.net
Director of Student Learning	Katie Matthias	kmatthias@sdak12.net
Director of Activities	Travis Larson	tlarson@sdak12.net
Director of Student Services	Dani Mikula	dmikula@sdak12.net
District Nurse	Megan Kupczyk	mkupczyk@sdak12.net
Food Service	Amanda Tutor	atutor@sdak12.net
Business Manager and Human Resources	Bonnie Stegmann	bstegmann@sdak12.net
Office of District Administrator	Exec. Asst. Michelle Vuorenmaa	mvuorenmaa@sdak12.net
Ashland High School Principal	Brian Trettin	btrettin@sdak12.net
Ashland High School Associate Principal	Pam Huston	phuston@sdak12.net
Ashland Middle School Principal	Jake Levings	jlevings@sdak12.net
Ashland Middle School Associate Principal	Paul Fandre	pfandre@sdak12.net
Lake Superior Elementary Principal	Kathleen Thiele	kthiele@sdak12.net
Lake Superior Elementary Associate Principal	Melissa Fiamoncini	mfiamoncini@sdak12.net
Marengo Valley Principal	Angie Parduhn	aparduhn@sdak12.net

COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [Wisconsin Department of Health Services: COVID-19 K-12 Schools](#)
- [US Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook Volume 1](#)
- [US Department of Education COVID-19 Handbook Volume 2](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention: COVID-19 Guidance for Schools and Childcare Programs](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: COVID-19 Information](#)