

COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies For 2022-23 School Year



COVID-19 has not disappeared, and leading epidemiologists believe we've entered the endemic stage. After four major waves in the past two years, new more infectious variants can be expected. In light of this new reality, our goal remains the same: to ensure our mitigation strategies and guidance are in place to provide safe and healthy school environments for students and staff. We've compiled this updated list of mitigation strategies to start the school year.

Here are a few of the most important mitigation strategies to start the school year.



Safety

- Frequent hand washing and use of school hand sanitizers.
- Classrooms and offices are equipped with medical grade HEPA purifiers.



Isolations, Quarantines & Contact Tracing

- Positive COVID-19 cases must be reported to the school nurse's office, and requires a five-day isolation from symptom onset or date of positive test. Siblings, family members and close contacts are not required to quarantine.
- Persons testing positive may return after five days IF symptoms have improved or resolving.
- We do not require a negative test to return to school.
- Persons returning to school or work after five days are required to wear a mask for an additional five days.
- MDH no longer requires school districts to complete contact tracing, only weekly surveillance reporting positive cases by school or site.
- We no longer provide a COVID-19 weekly dashboard of cases.



Masks

- Use of masks are optional for students and staff in early childhood through age 21.



Health Screening

- Required daily for students and staff BEFORE coming to school or work.
- Remain home if showing any signs of illness.
- Students who become ill at school will be sent home. Parents must pick up their child in a timely manner.



Testing & Vaccinations

- Recommended testing for anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, and after known exposures.
- Immunization is the single most effective strategy to prevent COVID-19. Get a vaccine and stay up-to-date on recommended boosters, if eligible.
- Vaccine info: blm.mn/clinics or vaccines.gov.
- All school-based volunteers required to be fully vaccinated (boosters for persons eligible highly recommended)