

Minnesota Transitions Charter School

Independent School District #4017



Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan 2021-2022

Minnesota Transitions Charter School (MTCS) strives to provide the best learning environment and experience possible for all students. School districts in Minnesota have been directed by the Minnesota Department of Education and the United States Department of Education to develop a “Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan”. In accordance with this requirement, the following is the plan that MTCS will implement at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year.

Educational Learning Method Options for Students in K-12

Students have the following educational learning options:

- In-Person Learning for five days per week
- Online-Only Learning through MN Virtual School (grades 6-12 only)

Safety and Security

MTCS recognizes that the safety and security of each student is of the utmost importance. The district wants to ensure that as many of the elements of health and safety for our staff and students are addressed and supported. Throughout this document there will be many references to best practices, guidelines, recommendations, and strategies that will be implemented and followed to ensure that each school building is as safe and secure as possible during summer programming. Aside from following the district’s traditional and previously determined safety and security policies and procedures, the district will integrate and intensify many other practices specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

These practices are determined after consulting the following guidance:

[Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#)

[American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

[COVID-19 Prevention Guidance for Summer School](#)

[Stay Safe Guidance for All Businesses](#)

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- All staff and students will not be required to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the form of a face mask if they are fully vaccinated. Staff and students who are not fully vaccinated are highly encouraged to wear PPE in the form of a face mask throughout the school day. Staff and students are allowed to use their own personal PPE.
- If an individual does not have their own PPE, the district will provide one for them to use during the school day.
- If staff are working directly and in close proximity with a student, they are highly encouraged to wear a face mask and also don a face shield during that time. A plastic desktop barrier will also be available for their use when appropriate and able to be implemented without impacting the staff to student interaction.

Classroom Practices / Social Distancing

- Staff should attempt to maintain a distance of 6 ft, but a minimum of 3ft, from other staff and students. When possible, students should also maintain a distance of 6 ft (with a minimum of 3ft) from other students.
- If it is necessary for staff to work directly with students (closer than a social distance of 6 ft), then a plastic desktop barrier, along with personal protective equipment should be used during this time.
- Students will be placed in a classroom / cohort, which they will continue in throughout the school day. Only when educational programming (accessing specialized services, English Language Learner services, etc.) will the student be allowed away from their cohort.
- Learners with special needs will be provided all of their instruction, support and services as outlined on their individual plans. This will include access to all services providers, accommodations, modifications and support that are legally needed to ensure a Free and Appropriate Public Education.
- Learners with additional services, such as social/emotional/behavioral support, Title services, English Language Learner services, and 504 plans, will be provided with these services and have access to their needed service providers, curriculum and educational activities to support their progress in these areas.
- The classrooms will work to arrange the individual student work spaces abiding by the three (3) foot distance between students as possible.
- Classroom staff will make every effort to remain six (6) feet (minimum of three (3) feet) away from students unless absolutely necessary (emergency situations).

Cleaning / Learning Environment

- Each classroom space utilized for learning will have an air purifier to be used when staff and students are present.
- If classrooms have windows, it is highly encouraged that the windows be open to allow the circulation of fresh air throughout the classroom.
- Classrooms will be provided with individual cleaning supplies for staff and students to use throughout the school day to ensure that the student work spaces and classroom materials / surfaces are clean and sanitized.
- Each building will be provided with a routine maintenance cleaning (at minimum 1x/week) to support the additional mitigation strategies that are completed during the school day.
- Visual aids will be posted throughout each building to support the proper use of personal protective equipment, personal hygiene practices, and guidance on healthy habits (covering cough, sneezing, etc.).
- Building Directors will establish a schedule for each classroom to assure that staff and students are being allotted bathroom breaks, and time to maintain personal hygiene needs, such as frequent hand washing.

Screening and COVID-19 Contact Tracing / Response

Screening

MTCS will not be screening or conducting symptom screening for students daily. We will work closely with families to determine if a student is demonstrating symptoms. If a student is demonstrating symptoms and is ill, they will be asked to stay home. If a student becomes ill or begins demonstrating symptoms while at school, they will be placed in a location where they can be isolated from others and the student's legal guardian will be contacted to come pick them up from school.

Based on the current information from the CDC, the following is recommended:

- CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.
- Parents / Guardians should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day. Parents / Guardians may be provided with a list of symptoms and home screening tools to help with this process.
- Students who are sick should not attend school in-person.

Sample Home Screening Checklists

[Screening checklist in English](#)

[Screening checklist in Somali](#)

[Screening checklist in Spanish](#)

[Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist](#)

COVID-19 Parent / Guardian Positive Case

- If a parent / guardian has a positive case and the parent / guardian is not able to isolate away from the student, then the student must be in quarantine for the 10 days of the parent / guardian's isolation and then an additional 14 days for quarantine from the last day of the parent / guardian isolation. This means that a student may be out of school for up to 24 days. If the parent / guardian can fully isolate from the student, then the 14 days of quarantine begins as soon as the student is no longer in close contact with the parent / guardian. **Families are highly encouraged to report positive cases to the school district.**

*Note this is the protocol assuming that the student does not show any symptoms or test positive.

Classroom Exposure - Student Tested Positive

- If a student tests positive, they are to isolate for 10 days. On the 11th day, they are free to resume activity like normal, assuming that they have been fever and symptom free for 24 hours.
- The other students and staff who are considered to be a close contact with that individual will be notified by the district and will be required to quarantine for 14 days from their last point of contact with the positive case. If others, who were in close contact with that student begin having symptoms, they should get tested and isolate for the 10 days from the symptom onset. If they choose not to get tested, then they should quarantine for 14 days from the symptom onset.
- If a student has tested positive, followed the proper protocol for isolating for the 10 days, then if they are in a situation of close contact again, they do not need to quarantine again.
- If the student chooses not to be tested, therefore no determination of actually having COVID-19, then the student must follow the proper protocol and quarantine every time they are considered a close contact.

(Note: There are some adjustments and considerations that can be made to the above guidance, however, these adjustments will be made on a case by case basis and determined in collaboration with the family, student, and medical professionals.)

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations:

- COVID-19 Testing will be available to staff and students who would like to participate in testing, as directed and supported by the Minnesota Department of Education. The Minnesota Department of Health provides a multitude of opportunities for families, staff and students to receive COVID-19 testing at no cost, both in the community and at home. For individuals who are interested in being tested for COVID-19, information regarding these opportunities can be found here:
- MTCS will continue to stay educated and updated on additional opportunities or guidance regarding COVID-19 testing or vaccines which is provided by the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. MTCS will continue to post this information on the district website, as well as share out with families through a variety of communication methods.

[COVID-19 Testing Information](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)

COVID-19 Collaboration and Resources

The district is focused on working collaboratively with families and the community to ensure that students and staff are safe while at school. MTCS will continue to coordinate with state and local public health agencies, as well as continue its efforts to remain informed and educated on the guidance provided to reduce the impact of COVID-19 within our community.

[Minnesota Department of Health - COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

[Minnesota Department of Health - COVID-19 Testing](#)