

## Preparedness Plan Albert Lea Public Schools

Updated August 1, 2022



Albert Lea Area Schools is committed to ensuring systems are in place to provide a safe environment for students and staff both physically and emotionally. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to modify and adjust the following Preparedness Plan to provide guidance to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our schools. If a dramatic change in the public health situation were to occur, we will consider reactivating district wide safety protocols.

### UPDATE

Effective August 1, 2022:

- Students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for five days from the date of the positive test result, or first day of symptoms if any. If symptoms improve and the student or staff is fever-free for 24 hours (without using fever-reducing medication), they may return to school. It is recommended they continue to wear a mask when around others for five more days.
- Contact tracing will continue to be limited to general notifications, exposures at pre-K and elementary schools, and secondary lunch close contacts. Licensed School Nurses understand this to be best practice with any infectious disease and will continue this practice.
  - Parent/guardians determine when to send their child back to school based on close contact
  - Staff will be notified of close contact but will not be required to quarantine
  - Tests will be provided to staff and students\*
  - *\*MDE has announced this, but no details yet. Optional use of tests by students and staff*
- Reporting--As of August 1, MDH will transition to Covid19 Surveillance in PreK-12 & Childcare
  - Submit aggregate numbers of cases from their facility on a routine basis (weekly)
- In addition, the following recommendations are updated from the Minnesota Department of Health around Covid19.
- Check the CDC: COVID-19 Community Levels tool to see what is happening with COVID-19 in our area, and to determine what prevention measures are recommended for you.

## Ongoing Protocols

### Covid Testing & Vaccinations

[Testing and vaccination options in our community are available from Freeborn County Public Health website.](#)

### Quarantine



### Cleaning & Sanitizing

Our district will provide disinfecting spray and paper towels in each classroom. Hand sanitizer and portable hand sanitizer stations will be distributed throughout the district. Most elementary classrooms have handwashing sinks. Handwashing signs will be posted.

### Coordination with Nurses & Health Departments

The superintendent and covid coordinator will meet virtually with our nurses as necessary. Positive cases will continue to be reported to MDH as required weekly under August 1 guidance. The covid coordinator will work with Freeborn County Public Health through monthly partner calls.

### Mental Health & Well Being

Social workers, counselors, and other mental health providers will provide support to address student mental and emotional wellness. This may occur face-to-face, distance, or a combination of both.

[Infectious Disease Fact Sheet--Covid 19](#)