



COVID CONVO: ENGAGE WITH LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON COVID-19

Every Friday through September 25th
September 4th | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Introduction from Arif

- **Fred Nolan:** working from home accommodations, MDH decision tree, and routines
- **Update from each district (Bemidji, East Central, and Mora)**
 - Plans for gaining cooperation for masks, distancing, etc. the first week of school
 - Hopes and fears for the first week of school
 - Any additional updates around reopening schools
- **Neil Carlson:** MDH decision tree and ventilation/filtration calculation from the U of M
- **Todd Rapp:** communications around reopening schools
- **Q&A**



Updates from MDE and MDH

- Working from home and requests for accommodations need to be considered on a **case-by-case basis**
- Teaching new safety routines and gaining cooperation for masking up, social distancing, and hand washing
 - Create a decision tree for holding students accountable and always offer a mask
- MDH has issued a complex decision tree [here](#)
- USDOE waiver stating schools may continue the summer foods program through the 2021 school year as the Federal Funds last – MDE is seeking guidance
- More on these topics and other topics available at E&F Services Blog [here](#)



COVID Convo

Bemidji Area Schools ISD 31



Student Cooperation and Masking

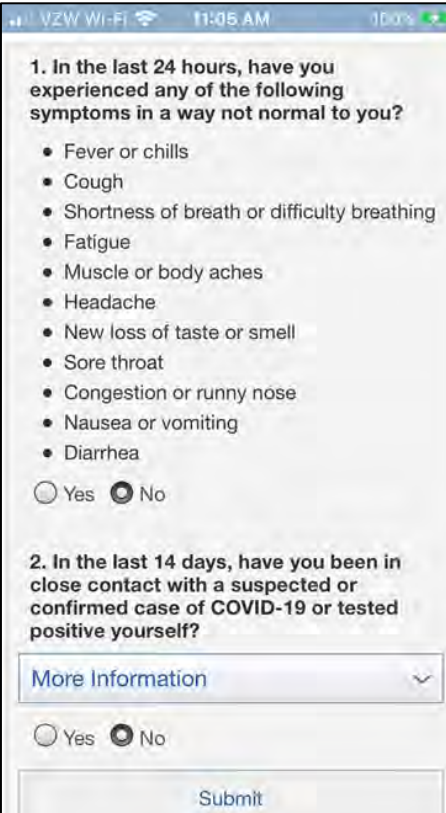
- **Positive approaches through relationships**
 - PBIS, responsive classroom, CPI de-escalation, and intervening approaches
- **Education and reminders**
 - Why we need to wear masks (public health concern, protecting others, etc.)
- **Positive peer pressure**
 - Students as leaders
 - Making it "cool" to wear a mask
 - Compare to smoking in restaurants, etc.



**Masks
and Face
Coverings**

First Week's Hopes + Fears

- **1st day – Monday, September 14th**
 - Learn from other districts and their issues
 - Distance learning: 771 students
- **Parents and students cooperating**
- **Staff member concerns**
- **Admin and staff following guidelines**
- **Bus drivers**



VZW Wi-Fi 11:05 AM 100%

1. In the last 24 hours, have you experienced any of the following symptoms in a way not normal to you?

- Fever 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

☐ Yes ☒ No

2. In the last 14 days, have you been in close contact with a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 or tested positive yourself?

[More Information](#)

☐ Yes ☒ No

[Submit](#)

What's New in Bemidji Area Schools

- **Distance learning teams**
 - DL team for elementary
 - BMS and BHS teachers teach all students
- **Staff members asking for more time to prepare**
- **Next steps**



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East Central Public Schools



Student Cooperation and Masking

- Adult attitude = students' attitudes
- Administrative support for staff
- Bus drivers
- Empathy for each other
- Dress code applies to masks
- Refusal without medical exemptions
 - Parent meeting(s)
 - Distance learning
- PBIS – masking presentation for all kids
 - Why we need to wear masks
 - Why some will not be wearing masks
 - When will breaks occur
 - “Why I wear my mask”



First Week of School

- First day of school – **Tuesday, September 8**
- Pine County case rate = **4.81** (next week 8.5 expected)
- Exclusion criteria – **we need to be ready right away!**
 - Communications ready to send out
 - Letters ready to send home to parents
 - Isolation spaces
- **Opportunities, possibilities, and hope**



What's Next

High School:

- Final prep – hybrid model
 - A&B schedules
 - New staff up-to-speed
 - Technology support

Elementary:

- Refocus on instruction
- Support staff with masking issues
- Distance learning department
- Technology support

District:

- Communications
 - Exclusion criteria
 - Prep – hybrid communications
 - Update plans – ongoing
- Meet with Union leadership
- Review custodial plans and communicate
- Food Service – pivot if needed
- Support new leaders



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Mora Public Schools



Teaching Healthy Expectations

- Before school District newsletter – communication with parents and staff
- All students and staff are required to wear masks in the buildings
 - [How to make face masks more comfortable for kids](#)
 - [Breathing tips and mindfulness while wearing a mask](#)
- **Another great tip – have your child practice wearing it at home while watching their favorite tv show!**
- Medical exemptions for not wearing a mask at school OR the Family Flex plan is an option
- Mask exemption form - excellent tool for handling masking/shielding questions for parents (contact me)
- Screening tool for parents at home
- At school – teaching & practicing healthy expectations (PBIS locations/matrix)
 - Masking, distancing, hand washing, close contacts, and seating charts
 - Areas – in class, hallways, bathrooms, lunchroom, recess, and specialists

Hopes for a New School Year

WE are EDUCATORS and WE are ...

- **WE are the LEAD learners** - Cutting edge of teaching and learning
- **We are ready to learn** how to better serve our students
- **We are prepared** use what we know works (relationships & relevance)
- **WE are open to new** and better ways of educating our students
- **WE are innovative** in the way we teach and learn
- **WE are professionals** in what we do and how we do it
- **WE are comfortable** with being **uncomfortable**

Exploring. Engaging. Empowering.

Silver Linings

BLUE HOUR

Building Learners up to Excellence

Why this way? 😞

- Builds structure into a LONG BLUE class
- Helps students have time to build skills for success in block schedules & pandemics.
- Gives students and teachers a chance to catch up on some work and just chill.
- Creates space for required mandates, like college & career readiness / bullying
- Builds Learners Up to Excellence!

Daily Lesson
(20 - 30 min)

Study Hall Checklist
(40 min)

Daily Recap
(10 min)

Complete a pre-planned lesson from one of the following categories:

1. D.E.A.R. Day
2. College & Career Readiness
3. Bullying / Social Emotional Health
4. Study Skills
5. Community Building & Diversity
6. Life Skills

Students complete a to-do list every meeting

List includes checking grades, emails, classroom, working on & turning in assignments, and organizing their backpack & notebooks

Students who have completed the checklist or worked hard for 25 min get free time

Wrap up the day

- Make a list of homework happening in that grade level for the next few weeks.
- When hybrid, make sure students know how to access at home materials for the next few days
- Check emails / Synergy / Classroom
- Goals/Aspirations for the week/day/month

High school goes hybrid

Updated Sep 2, 2020 0

School hasn't started yet and both Mora and Oglivie public schools have needed to change plans. Originally ready to hold in-person classes for all grades starting Sept. 8, classes for grades 7-12 have switched to a hybrid model of learning. Elementary classes will still be held in person.



NEWS

FEATURED

Music perseveres

Updated Sep 2, 2020 0

Educational degrees in music education and the skills to play a mean French horn are about what you would expect of any school band director; but Mora's Anna Patenuade has a unique skill few of her peers can match: She's a proficient seamstress.



Fears – How Can We Best Support?

- **Students:** Fear of the unknown - what will this school year look like? Almost everything has changed for them: learning model, classes, expectations, before/after school, lunch, hallways, athletics, etc.
- **Families:** Fear of sending their students to school? Will my students be safe? Many questions and unknowns: transportation, food service, in-class, outside of class, lunchroom, athletics, band, and choir
- **Staff:** Mixed emotions – Excited, nervous, afraid, unsure, stressed. How do we manage all the changes and potential changes? Our teaching models are flipped upside down.
- **Administration:** Managing all the different stakeholders – students, parents, staff. Trying to ensure all the operations are in place (impossible) and managing all the changing learning models, decision trees, masking, MDE, MDH, CDC, etc.

Thoughts on Re-Opening

- Building processes for changing learning models
- Building confidence in ourselves
- **“Do what you can, with what you have, at this time.”** –Teddy Roosevelt
- **“Public Schools Always Rise to the Challenge”**
– Article from the Star Tribune by Deb Henton
- *“Positive teams confront the reality of challenging situations and work together to overcome them.”*
– Jon Gordon

Learning Model - Return to School

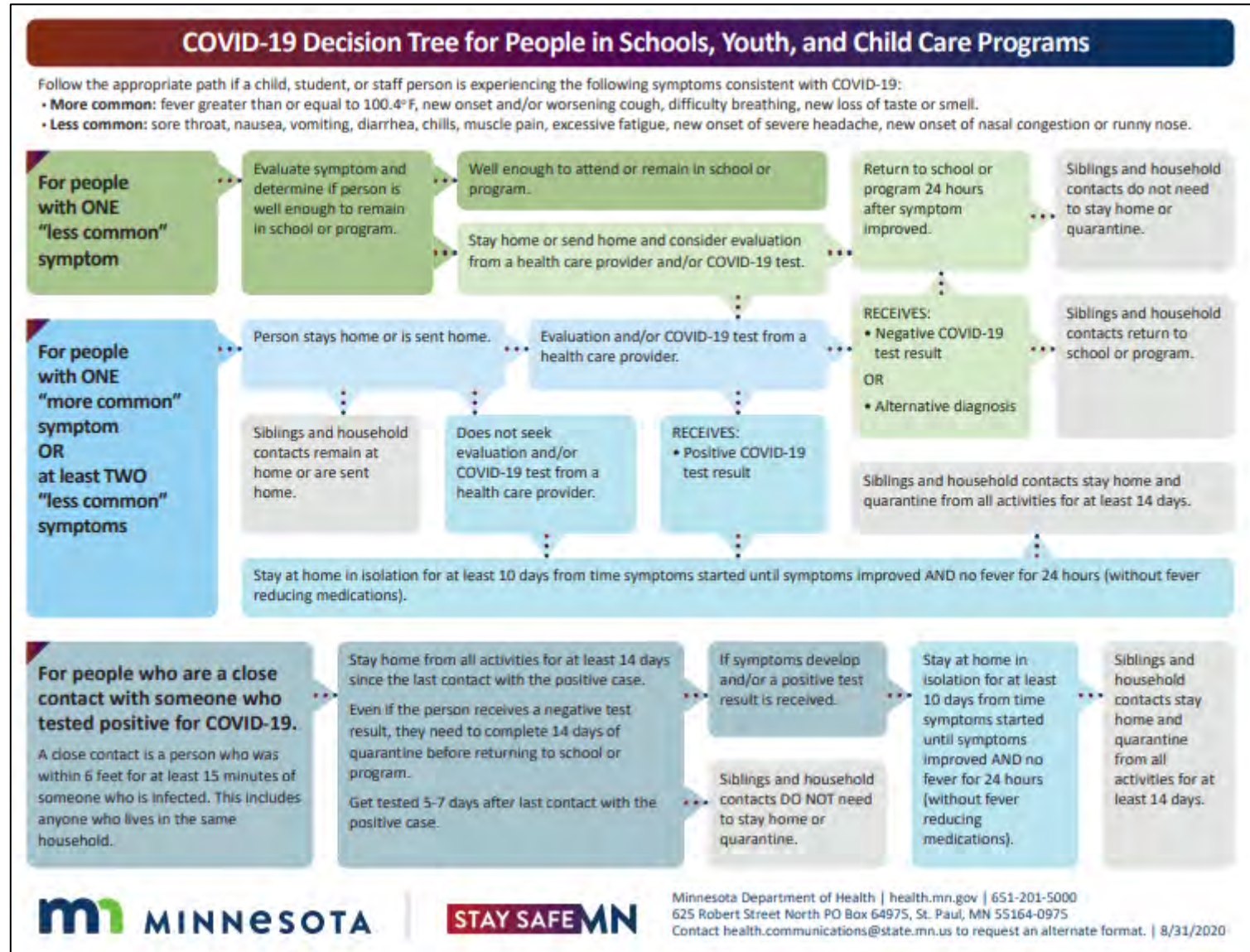
- **Kanabec County Case Rates - 16.4 = Phase 2**
 - Current - Hybrid in HS and In-person at Elementary
- **Process for transitioning Phases**
 - Consult weekly with Kanabec County Health
 - Evaluation of cases and contacts/risk to schools/community
 - Consult with school board
 - Consult with MDE/MDH Regional Support Team
 - Consult with School Advisory Committee (Setting Up)
 - Make decision from all information from all groups on safety of students and staff
- **Transitioning between models**
 - Recommended to gather three weekly data points
 - Analyze trend data to determine when/if to transition phases.

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Public Health with Neil Carlson



COVID-19 DECISION TREE FOR PEOPLE IN SCHOOLS, YOUTH, AND CHILDCARE PROGRAMS



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Communications with Todd Rapp





Q&A



Thank You for Your Time!

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Contact Information

- Fred Nolan: fred@e-f-services.com
- Jeff Schiltz: jeff.schiltz@ics-builds.com
- Arif Quraishi: arif.quraishi@ics-builds.com
- Andy Almos: aalmos@eastcentral.k12.mn.us
- Dan Voce: danvoce@moraschools.org
- Tim Lutz: tim_lutz@isd31.net
- Jeremy Kovash: jkovash@lcsc.org
- Neil Carlson: carls001@umn.edu
- Todd Rapp: toddrapp@rappstrategies.com



Presentation Resources

- [East Central Public Schools Reopening Schools Plan](#)
- [Mora Public Schools Reopening Schools Plan](#)
- [Bemidji Area Schools Reopening Schools Information](#)
- [ICS Reopening Schools Website](#)
- [U of M Ventilation and Filtration Calculation](#)
- [MDH Decision Tree](#)
- [How to Make Face Masks More Comfortable for Kids](#)
- [Breathing Tips and Mindfulness While Wearing a Mask](#)
- [“Public Schools Always Rise to the Challenge”](#)