



FRIDLEY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**REOPENING
SCHOOLS
2020-21**

**LAST
UPDATED:
AUGUST 3,
2020**



Planning a safe return to Fridley Schools



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

To our Fridley Families:

We hope that all our families and students are enjoying the warm summer weather and staying safe. This is a time when districts are preparing for a new school year and are looking forward to welcoming students and families back to school. While our reopening will not look the same as it has been in the past, we are planning on welcoming students back to school in the fall. The COVID-19 virus is still present in our communities, so the decision on how to reopen schools has rightfully raised questions, and even caused anxiety.



The state guidelines on reopening schools allows school districts to make decisions based on the prevalence of the illness in their counties, as well as other factors. Just like each student and family is unique, each school district and county is also unique, and the spread of the COVID-19 virus affects communities differently. While it is not the decision we expected, we understand the need to allow school districts to customize their reopening plans according to the available data on the spread of COVID-19 in their local counties.

Reopening schools during a pandemic presents a lot of challenges and, in the past several weeks, the district and school leadership teams have spent significant time planning on a reopening model that will maximize learning opportunities for students while keeping students and staff safe. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to our students, regardless of the delivery model. Our focus throughout this process is doing so in a manner that prioritizes safety. We surveyed our parents/guardians and staff, collaborated with our buildings and departments, and included our labor union representatives to ensure all voices were represented.

We know the spread of a virus is unpredictable and things can change rapidly. While we plan to reopen schools with a hybrid model and full distance learning option for students, we know we will need to be flexible to accommodate change when necessary. We will do our part as a district to follow recommended guidelines to help slow down the spread of the COVID-19 virus in our school community.

This planning document will give you more information on our learning models, how we are going to maintain safety while educating our students, and providing services such as meals, transportation, and childcare. The district and schools will be communicating with you regularly in the coming weeks as we near the start of the school year.

We are in this together, and we will get through this together.

Thank you,
Kim Hiel, Ed. D
Superintendent





Fridley Public Schools follows guidelines issued from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to determine how to safely reopen schools.

STAY SAFE MN

The decision on which models to implement are based on Anoka County data on the spread of COVID-19 virus and:

- Prioritized the safety of students and staff.
- Prioritized in-person learning, especially for young learners.
- Considered the infectiousness and transmission risk among different ages.
- Supported the planning, while permitting flexibility for districts.
- Took into account the prevalence of COVID-19 in our county.

Along with reopening guidelines, MDE is also requiring districts to look at the spread of the virus in the school district's county of residence and, based on that data, determine the best option of reopening that will maximize safety for students, staff and the community.

LEARNING MODELS BASED ON CALCULATED SPREAD OF COVID-19

MDE has established the following ranges to determine learning models based on the number of COVID-19 cases per 10,000 over a 14-day period:

- 0-9 cases: In-person learning for all students.
- 10-19 cases: In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary (middle and high school) students.
- 20-29 cases: Hybrid learning for all students.
- 30-49 cases: Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary (middle and high school) students.
- 50 or more cases: Distance learning for all students.

According to MDE guidelines and other factors, this means that Fridley Public Schools will start the school year in hybrid learning for K-12 students and will provide distance learning as an option for families who prefer that learning model for their children.





School districts will base their models throughout the year (unless otherwise directed by MDE or the Governor's office) on this data, along with consideration of several factors impacting school or district capacity to fully implement a particular learning model for students and staff.

The infection rate and spread of COVID-19 may change frequently in the coming weeks and months. We will continue to monitor the data and adjust our learning models as needed, especially if our school district is not able to maintain staffing. This means, even if our cases fluctuate up or down, we may need to implement distance learning for all K-12 students due to other factors.



IMPORTANT REMINDER

If the COVID-19 pandemic were to change in a significant way between now and the start of the 2020-21 school year, we may need to shift models per the guidelines provided by MDE and MDH.



What returning to school will look like for students and staff

AT A GLANCE

Returning to School

Students and staff will return to school with increased health and safety measures in order to combat the spread of COVID-19 in our schools. District leadership has received input from its stakeholders and will follow health and safety recommendations and guidelines from MDE and MDH on a reopening model that prioritizes safety of students and staff.

Face Coverings

Per Governor Walz's executive order, all students and staff will be required to wear a face mask (where exemptions do not apply) while in district buildings. Students will also be required to wear face masks in district transportation vehicles. Visitors will also be required to wear a face mask.





Social Distancing

Students will practice social distancing from their arrival at school through departure to limit exposure. Grab-and-go breakfasts will be available and where possible, eaten in classrooms in order to deter students from congregating in the lunchroom. Staggered release schedules may be utilized in an effort to decrease crowding.

Classroom Modifications

Student desks will be spaced six feet apart at all times. Extraneous furniture will be removed from each classroom as much as possible for proper social distancing practices.



Meal Service

Students will receive breakfast in a grab-and-go style in the morning and will be asked to eat in their classrooms. Lunch will include pre-packaged items that can be picked up quickly to reduce time waiting in line. Lunch arrival and dismissal times will be staggered.

Mass Gatherings

For the safety of staff and students, large gatherings will not be permitted until further notice.

Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Our district will follow guidance from the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) to make a determination on sports and activities. Currently, athletes are taking part in outdoor and indoor workouts in smaller groups and are following social distance and face mask requirements.

Before and After School Programs

Student-to-staff ratios will be reduced to encourage social distancing. Students will be assigned to small, separate groups with staggered outdoor activity time.





How we will maintain a safe environment for students and staff

FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

In compliance with Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-81, Fridley Public Schools requires all students, staff and visitors to wear a mask while inside our buildings and transportation vehicles. We suggest that parents have masks that their students can bring with them and wear at school. In addition, the State of Minnesota will provide the following supplies to all public schools:

- Every K-12 student will receive one cloth face covering.
- Every K-12 staff member will receive one cloth face covering.
- Every K-12 school will receive face shields for all licensed teachers and 50% of non-licensed staff.



SOCIAL DISTANCING

- Reconfiguring or moving work spaces to comply with current guidelines
- Reconfiguring or moving teaching spaces to comply with current guidelines
- 6 foot separation stickers in high traffic areas to comply with current guidelines
- Directional signage on the floor to keep student traffic flowing in one direction
- Staggered use of shared and communal spaces
- Increased cleaning protocols in shared and communal spaces



INCREASED SANITATION STATIONS

- Increased number of areas throughout each building with hand sanitizers for students and staff





DRINKING WATER

- Bottle filling only. Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own water bottles.

SAFETY SIGNAGE

- Recommended hand washing hygiene
- Recommended physical distancing
- Awareness of symptoms of COVID-19 virus

CLEANING AND DISINFECTING

- Increased daily and weekly cleaning and disinfecting protocols

SHARED OBJECTS

- Individual supplies where possible
- Sanitization requirements after use

HAND HYGIENE

- Teach and reinforce
- Strategic signage placement

MODIFIED BUILDING LAYOUTS

- Adjusted student pedestrian patterns
- Creative use of classroom locations within buildings to provide distancing



Addressing presumed and confirmed exposure to COVID-19

In the event a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, our District Nurse and COVID-19 Coordinator Linda Snyder, works immediately with the Minnesota Department of Health and Anoka County to take the appropriate steps. Information is gathered for close contacts, and a very structured process is followed in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Health.

Our district will follow the procedures outlined in the charts. Click the links below to view:

[Staff Member Feels Sick](#)

[Staff Member Exposed
to COVID-19](#)

[Student Feels Sick](#)

[Student Exposed to
COVID-19](#)





Fridley School District follows guidelines issued by the Minnesota Department of Health

- The name and contact information for any known staff member or student who is testing or has tested positive for COVID is referred to Linda Snyder, the District Nurse and COVID Coordinator in the District Health Office.
- The District Health Office gathers information to share with the MDH follow-up team.
- MDH evaluates next steps and provides guidance. If notifications are necessary, the district will use MDH templates to notify parents and staff.
- Fridley School District will follow MDH guidance and notify all identified close contacts of their exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with state and federal law.
- The MDH notification template includes a fact sheet that the school district will provide to all close contacts. The letter and fact sheet share instructions for close contacts, including what they need to do to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- If notifications were to occur, MDH contact tracers make outgoing calls to check on symptoms and to give further guidance to any person with a positive test.
 - A trained worker calls the people who test positive for COVID-19 to ask about their symptoms, how they may have been infected, and who they may have infected.
 - A trained worker calls the people who spent time close to the person with COVID-19.

MDH may recommend:

Below is a list of examples of possible recommendations from MDH. This list does not include all possible recommendations from MDH. Recommendations depend on the extent of the exposure and what mitigation measures were in place at the time of exposure.

- Based on the details provided during the case investigation, MDH may recommend:
 - Exclusion of close contacts, which involves requiring close contacts to stay home for 14 days.
 - Closing an entire classroom, school, or child-care setting for 14 days (e.g., an in-home child care where children and staff are consistently in close contact). This will depend on the extent of exposure and whether there is the possibility of ongoing transmission in that setting. Any decision to close should be made in consultation with the MDH follow-up team.
- Take no further action if there is no infection.



Following MDE and MDH guidelines, Fridley Public Schools has increased its sanitation protocol. These include:

- Classrooms cleaned and fog sanitized each night
- High contact areas sanitized during the day and each night
- In addition to cleaning, sanitizing spray bottles and rags will be available for staff to wipe down desks and high contact areas in their teaching areas
- Restrooms wiped down and sanitized during the day, deep-cleaned each night
- All hard surface floors scrubbed with sanitizer daily
- Offices cleaned and sanitized each night
- Lunchroom tables cleaned and sanitized after each student has finished eating
- All buildings will be deep-cleaned on Wednesdays



MSHSL Fall Sport Activities Update



- The MSHSL activities are guided by the spread of COVID-19 in each participating county and the learning models implemented by districts.
- For example, any school with a mandated distance learning model is limited to distance learning training/season.
- Fall activities weeks are reduced by 20%.
- Fall activities competitions are reduced by 30%.
- Competitions will be limited to 1-2 per week.
- Whether defined by school, conference or district, local travel will be emphasized.
- Bus and spectator guidelines will be based on recommendations and guidelines from Minnesota Department of Health.
- The district Activities Department will communicate updates and changes regarding fall activities to families.





Maintaining safety while serving meals to students

School meals will be available for pick up for students who are learning at home, both in the distance or hybrid learning models.

Please remember: Student meal accounts will be charged based on their status of Educational Benefits (free, reduced, or paid status).

HYBRID MODEL

SCHOOL MEALS DURING IN-PERSON LEARNING

(Meals On-Site)

- Breakfast and lunch will be available for on-site students
- Students will come to the kitchen to get their meals following social distancing protocols
- Students will be eating in the cafeterias or other large spaces while maintaining social distancing requirements
- Meals will be pre-packaged or a grab-and-go option
- Physical distancing will be used in the kitchens and cafeterias
- Nutritional Services staff will be wearing facial coverings
- Students will wash their hands before and after meals
- Limited use of high touch areas, including key pads

SCHOOL MEALS DURING HYBRID LEARNING AT HOME

- Multiple days of pre-packaged meals will be available for students, and delivery/pick up methods will be communicated to families as soon as determined
- Meals will be packaged for 3 days' worth of breakfast and lunch for hybrid learning

DISTANCE LEARNING MODEL

SCHOOL MEALS FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE DISTANCE LEARNING ONLY

- Multiple days of pre-packaged meals, including school-made student favorites, will be available for students/families at designated times and locations
- Meals will be packaged for 5 days' worth of breakfast and lunch for distance learning
- Delivery/pick up methods will be communicated to families as soon as determined





Maintaining safety while transporting students to and from school

Fridley Public Schools will ensure that our bus drivers are taking every precaution to maintain safety and will follow guidelines and recommendations from MDE and MDH.

STUDENT CAPACITY ON OUR BUSES

- We will use MDE/MDH guidelines to determine the number of students per bus.
- Students from the same household may need to sit together.
- Students may need to sit at windows to provide additional separation.
- Students will load the bus using seats in the back first and unload the bus from front to back.
- **Students with disabilities:** Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) or 504 plan-driven accommodations will be reconfigured to meet physical distancing guidance while meeting the needs of individual students.



DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONES

- The district may need to modify bus and parent drop-off and pick-up zones and loading/unloading times to accommodate a potential increase in self-transported students.

KEEPING OUR BUSES SAFE

- Buses will be disinfected following each route with special attention to high touch areas.
- Additional ventilation may be provided from partially opening windows and/or roof hatches as conditions permit.
- Safety signage may be added to promote physical distancing based on MDE/MDH bus capacity limits.

FACE COVERINGS

- The state requires face coverings for bus riders, including students in Kindergarten through grade 12. While not required, face coverings are recommending for preschool students.
- Bus companies will provide face coverings for their employees.



Childcare is available in the hybrid model for children of essential workers in grades K-7.

Governor Walz's Executive Orders 20-48 and 20-82 define Tier I essential workers to include:

- Healthcare and public health
- Law enforcement, public safety and first responders
- Food and agriculture
- Judicial Branch (essential services)
- National Guard (activated under a Governor Executive Order)
- Educators and school staff providing in-person instruction or caring for children of critical workers
- Childcare and school-age care providers

[Click here to view a detailed description of who qualifies under each critical sector listed above](#)

Our Fridley Public Schools Community Education Tiger Club is a 4-Star Parent Aware rated Childcare program. We follow the required state-issued guidelines and recommendations involving safety and social distancing to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

Please contact Community Education if you are an essential worker in need of childcare. Contact Tiger Club Coordinator Sally Leone at 763-502-5135 or sally.leone@fridley.k12.mn.us





FRIDLEY LEARNING MODELS: *Hybrid and E-Learning*

Due to the spread of COVID-19 in Anoka County and the data provided by MDE on the county's infection rate, Fridley Public School students will return to school in a hybrid model (some in classroom instruction and some e-learning) and full e-learning for students whose parents have selected that option for them.

OVERVIEW OF LEARNING MODELS

- Students in grades K-12 will attend school in a hybrid model. This means students will attend school in-person two days per week and will participate in e-learning from home the other three days.
- Students participating in the hybrid model will return to school at 50% capacity.
- Half of the students will attend school on Mondays and Tuesdays as part of the **Tiger 1: Stripes** group, and participate in e-learning at home on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- The other half of the students will attend school on Thursdays and Fridays as part of the **Tiger 2: Paws** group, and participate in e-learning at home on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.
- All students will participate in e-learning on Wednesdays to allow time for cleaning and sanitizing our classrooms and communal spaces.

In addition, please note that:

- The district will use its Infinite Campus information system to determine which students will be placed in Tiger 1 or Tiger 2 group. Keeping families together, bus routing options and overall total number of student are factors that impact student placement decisions.
- Wednesdays will be the district's deep-cleaning day, in which all learning spaces will be thoroughly sanitized.
- All students will receive Chromebooks for E-learning.
- All families have the option of selecting full-time e-learning for their students - **Fridley Online Academy**.





FRIDLEY FLEX HYBRID MODEL

Fridley Flex Hybrid is standards-based, rigorous coursework instruction that is facilitated by the students' primary or subject area teacher, and includes a combination of in-person and e-learning instruction.

All students (K-12) who select the **Fridley Flex Hybrid** model will have:

- A combination of in person learning and e-learning instruction.
- A similar schedule as a regular school day.

Tiger 1 - Stripes: On Monday and Tuesday, students in the Tiger 1 - Stripes group attend school and participate in e-learning Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Tiger 2 - Paws : Students in the Tiger 2 - Paws group participate in e-learning on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and in-person learning Thursday and Friday.

Our Fridley Flex Hybrid Model:

- Provides Minnesota standards-based instruction
- Rigorous curriculum
- Set schedule for subject areas
- Established schedules each day
- Learning devices will be provided to students

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



**TIGER 1:
STRIPES**



**TIGER 2:
PAWS**





FRIDLEY ONLINE ACADEMY

Fridley Public Schools has enhanced its online educational program to provide more rigor for students and to ensure that instruction will mirror what students receive during a regular in-person school day. We are excited to share this great opportunity with families.

GRADES K-5

Students in grades K-5 will participate in a high-quality rigorous, standards-based elementary program instructed by a grade level teacher.

The content for this **FULL TIME online option** will mirror the content that is used in the **Fridley Flex Hybrid** model, but 100% of the instruction, content delivery and activities will be done online.

GRADES 6-12

New this year to the Fridley Schools is the **Edgenuity** program. This is a **FULL TIME, rigorous, credit based online experience** for students in grades 6-12. **Edgenuity** is an educational platform that allows students to progress through a full individualized course schedule at their own pace.

Progress is monitored by a licensed Fridley teacher and/or a learning mentor.

Our Fridley Online Academy:

- ❑ Uses Edgenuity, a full-time online school platform
- ❑ Individualized course schedule for students

DID YOU KNOW?

Fridley students in grades 9-12 who participated in Edgenuity this summer significantly increased their credits.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

- Programs and Services: Special Education and related services are based on individual student needs. These needs will be determined by the child's team as documented in the IEP or 504 plan.
- Maintaining Safety: Physical distancing and face mask guidelines will be followed.
- Case loads: Staff or schedules may be reconfigured to meet individualized learning needs of IEP and 504 plans.