

02-18-2021

EVW Families,

First and foremost, thank you again for the outstanding support, flexibility, and patience you've demonstrated this past year.

Wednesday morning, February 17th, Governor Walz and Deputy Education Commissioner, Heather Mueller had a phone conference with school district superintendents and charter school leaders. The following modifications in CDC, MDH and MDE guidance will go into effect on Monday, February 22. Currently, only 25% of MN students are receiving some form of in-person learning. As a result, there is a growing emphasis on getting more students back to the classroom. Following is a snapshot of the information taken from the conference call, and please reference the highlighted (02/17/2021) details in the **Safe Learning Plan** that go into effect on 02/22/2021.

I'll continue to work with the school board, administrative team, and Union reps. to maintain a balance between Risk and Benefit to our staff and students. Currently, we have an in-person transition plan in place for March 8 (grades 7-9) and March 22 (grades 10-12). We'll continue to unpack the February 22 changes in mitigation requirements and keep you informed of any modifications to our established transition timelines. You can anticipate another update on in-person transition plans following the February 24 school board meeting.

Please [Click this Link](#) to provide us with feedback on in-person summer school opportunities.

- CDC updated guidance and mitigation expectations for schools last Friday, Feb. 17
- As a result, MN officials updated the [Safe Learning Plan](#) to go into effect Feb. 22
- Less decision-making weight placed on County COVID Case Rate data
- More decision-making weight placed on school transmission rates and staffing capacities
- Eliminate the "Rolling Start" of 3 grade level bands
- Implement and include a 5% influenza/COVID metric in decision-making
- MDE/MDH consultations are no longer required when transitioning to less restrictive models
- Elementary Schools - 3 feet of social distancing
- MS and HS - 6 feet of social distancing whenever feasible, 3 feet of social distancing required
- When County COVID Case Rate data falls between 0-9 cases/10,000 residents, schools are not required to meet any specific minimum of social distance, but continue to encourage distancing whenever feasible
- MS and HS - document daily lunchroom seating of students to assist in contact tracing

Thank you for all of the student support and patience as we transition to more in-person learning opportunities.

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