

Springfield 'Return to Learn' Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

This document provides answers to some common questions regarding Springfield School District reopening in the fall of 2020. Questions are identified by category. We will update this document as questions are received.

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What is In-Person Learning?

In-Person refers to all students back in the school building and a school trying to socially distance students as much as possible.

All instruction is delivered onsite with some building and group modifications. Daily modifications and procedures will facilitate a school environment consistent with the hybrid learning guidance such as maximizing room capacity, staggered lunch time, and school dismissal. This allows the district to move quickly between the two and is least disruptive for families.

Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule.

Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety.

What is Hybrid Learning?

Hybrid Learning is defined by the Minnesota Department of Education as the school building running at 50% or less of facilities maximum capacity as determined by the State Fire Marshall. Springfield School District is able to adhere to this requirement and have all students back in building each day. During the Hybrid Learning all students will be 6 feet apart when in classrooms.

For Springfield School District, all students will report to school. Due to room capacity students may need to flex into different learning spaces to receive their instruction. All instruction is delivered onsite with building and group modifications. Due to room capacity limits students may need to flex into a different space and will receive their instruction by an online or alternate delivery model, but onsite.

Multiple hybrid models of instructional delivery may be appropriate to meet the educational needs for certain courses through a variety of delivery models.

Teachers and students maintain a normal daily schedule.

Safety precautions are implemented to enhance staff and student safety

What is Distance Learning?

All instruction is provided off-campus through the use of distance learning resources. Classroom teachers will identify a schedule syncing distance learning students with in-person classroom activities and daily class routines. Student work could be completed electronically, paper, pencil, or a combination pending on course type and student age.

What is Distance Learning-Family Choice?

Students will start the year in a model pending the State of Minnesota Safe Learning Plan. Parents may elect to have their child(ren) participate in a Distance Learning only platform. Since the Distance Learning Plan would be in sync with classroom learning, parents could have their child switch to in-person learning. For planning purposes, we ask that the switch occurs at mid-term or semester breaks. If a family elects this option, we ask that they complete a Distance Learning Only registration form.

Although students will not attend school physically, they will still be assigned a class schedule (secondary students) and a classroom teacher (elementary students). To participate in teacher lessons, teachers will have a schedule posted on their website or Schoology, syncing at home learners with in-person classroom activities. Students may attend via Google Meet. Lessons will be recorded and posted, if for some reason your child cannot attend their virtual lesson. This option helps preserve relationships between your child and school staff.

Will meals be available during Distance Learning?

Families who choose distance learning will be provided opportunity to get a “grab and go” lunch. Lunch pick-up will be at the West Cafeteria Door W6. Lunches will not be delivered to homes. A pick up time between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. will need to be coordinated with food service. Regular lunch fees apply.

If the school building is under Distance Learning, then the district will coordinate meal delivery drop sites as we did in the Spring of 2021.

We do not have Internet at home, how will my children distance learn?

Please contact your building principal with this concern. The school district will work to help resolve this internet issue. The district has advocated and continues to advocate for the internet capacity for our region of the state.

Will childcare be available during Distance Learning?

Yes, when our elementary school is under school wide Distance Learning. The school will provide childcare for Eligible Children at no cost during this, as per executive orders.

Who do I contact if we are interested in Distance Learning-Family Choice option?

Contact Mr. Moriarty (High School) and Mr. Kuehn (Elementary). They will provide you with a Distance Learning-Family Choice enrollment form.

If we no longer want to Distance Learn-Family Choice, when can we return to in-person?

Return to in-person learning will need to be coordinated with the building administration. Ideally, families who are Distance Learning-Family Choice will coordinate a return to school at mid quarter or the beginning of a new quarter. Exceptions to this would be students who are required to quarantine due to COVID-19 exposure or diagnosis. Students in Distance Learning will adhere to the Springfield School District Handbooks and Policies.

Masks/Face Coverings Questions**Does my child need to wear a face covering when at school?**

Yes. As of July 25, 2020, per the [Governor's Executive Order 20-81](#), people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering in all indoor businesses and public indoor spaces, unless alone.

What is an appropriate face covering/mask?

Face coverings can include a paper or disposable mask, a cloth mask, a scarf, a bandanna, or a neck gaiter.

Does my child need to wear a face covering at all times while at school?

Students will need to wear their face covering on their bus route, and once they enter the school building. Students, when engaged in physical activities (recess or physical education), may not be required to wear a mask. Students will be allowed to remove their face cover during meal time, outdoor time, and during water breaks.

What if my child cannot wear a face covering due to a medical condition?

A student who has a medical condition preventing them from wearing a face covering must supply documentation from their care provider to the school district health office. The child would then be issued a face-shield. As per executive order, people who are not tolerant of either are encouraged to stay home then as much as possible.

Drop Off and Pick-Up Questions**What is the procedure for dropping my child off?**

Students in grades 4-6, will enter door E14 (elementary playground).

Students in grades 2-3, will enter door S1 (elementary office).

Students in grade K-1, will enter door W8 (bus stop).

Students in grades 7-12 will be able to enter through either door E1(district office), E3(Ag room), and W5 (Cafeteria).

What is the procedure for picking up my child?

Parents are asked to wait outside the school to wait for their children. Children will exit the doors that they enter, so please coordinate family pick-up location routines.

Bus Transportation Questions

Does my child need to wear a face covering on the bus?

Yes. As of July 25, 2020, per the [Governor's Executive Order 20-81](#), people in Minnesota are required to wear a face covering on bus transportation.

How do I register for bussing?

Contact the elementary, high school office or Superior Transportation directly at 507-723-5018

Will there be social distancing on the bus?

Superior Transportation will be following the capacity limits set by MDE and MDH. They will be operating at 50% capacity. If this were to change, parents will be notified.

Cleaning Practices Questions

How often are restrooms cleaned?

Restrooms will be on a schedule to be cleaned multiple times per day.

Are water fountains available and cleaned?

Water bottle fill stations will remain open and cleaned daily. Students that need a water bottle/forgot theirs at home, should ask the school office for a drinking cup.

How often are classrooms cleaned?

Classrooms will be cleaned as needed during the day, and cleaned in the evening by custodial staff.

How are library books cleaned?

Library books will be cleaned with a UV light sanitizing wand.

Health/Sick Child Questions

Who do I contact if my child is sick?

Please contact the elementary or high school office.

Do siblings and others in the household need to stay home if one person is diagnosed or has symptoms?

Current documentation by MDH recommends siblings to stay home. Please refer to the [MDH Decision Tree](#) for more information.

If my child has a fever, do they need to have a test before returning to school?

According to recent guidance, fever is to be accompanied by another symptom according to recent MDH decision tree guidance. Please refer to the [MDH Decision Tree](#) for more information. For students who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, MDH guidance determines that students are to stay home for 10 days since first symptoms appeared and until no fever for at least 24 hours. If a student has a fever at school, they will be sent home and we will follow the COVID protocols.

Can I enter the building to pick-up my sick child?

Yes, if you do not have symptoms or have been diagnosed, you can enter the district office to pick-up your child.

How do I know if I should keep my child home if they have a symptom?

If you are unsure, call your medical care provider or the school nurse (507-723-4286). Also, please refer to the [MDH Decision Tree](#) for more information.

What do we do if we are waiting on a family members COVID-19 laboratory test result?

Please refer to [MDH What To Do If You Are Waiting For COVID-19 Test Results](#)

What do we do if we have been notified that we have had close contact with a person with COVID-19?

Please refer to [MDH What to Do If You Have Had Close Contact With a Person With COVID-19](#)

What is the difference between Quarantine vs. Isolation?

Please refer to [CDC COVID-19: Quarantine vs. Isolation](#) . As it explains it as well as anything else.

Will the school tell parents each time there is a positive COVID-19 case at school?

The school will communicate appropriate information with parents and families about positive COVID-19 cases at school while protecting family's privacy rights under FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act). We will work collaboratively with County Public Health officials on communicate's.

After School Guidelines

Can my child stay after school and wait for their sibling to finish practice?

No, students are not allowed to stay after school unless they are in a school-sponsored event. Students are not permitted to wait in the commons for sporting events to begin. They are to leave after dismissal.

Can my child stay after school to receive help from a teacher?

Yes. A student will need prior permission from the teacher to stay after, and must leave the building once they leave the teacher's room.

Athletics/Activities

Will there be Athletics and other Extra-Curricular Activities?

Springfield activities will operate under the guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota State High School League. Further guidance on activities will be upcoming.

Visiting School

Can I visit the classroom?

Visitors will only be allowed in the building with an appointment. All visitors will have to complete a health screening before they are allowed to enter the building.

Can I talk to my child's teacher face-to-face?

Yes, please contact your teacher to make an appointment.

Can I walk my child to the classroom on the first day of school?

Parents wishing to escort their children to school may escort them to the doors of entry, but will not be allowed to go through into the building.

Other Questions?

Please contact the school.