

Please refer to the [Return to School 2022-2023 Plan](#)

Proctor Public Schools 2021-2022 Safe Return to School Plan COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

Updated and Reviewed May 24th, 2022

Proctor Public Schools are committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for our faculty, staff, students, and visitors. To ensure a safe and healthy workplace and School environment, **Proctor Public Schools** has developed the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The administration and directors are all responsible for implementing this plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our schools and communities, which requires full cooperation among our faculty, staff, students, and communities. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of all persons in our school district.

Proctor Public Schools are excited and optimistic about returning to a school year that provides an engaging learning environment for our students, faculty, staff, and community for the 2021-2022 school year. The following information is based on current guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education.

Bussing and School Hours

As we entered the month of July, plans for the start of the next school year were well underway. Last school year, we moved to a two-tier bussing system because of our busses' capacity restrictions and social distancing concerns. In two-tier bussing, we bring elementary and secondary students to school on separate schedules. Two-tier bussing also requires different start times for elementary and secondary students. Because there is still some uncertainty on transportation guidance, we will remain on the same two-tier schedule we used last school year. The start and dismissal times for our schools will remain the same as they were last year. Those times are **tentatively** set as follows:



Proctor High School: 7:45 - 2:31
Jedlicka Middle School: 7:45 - 2:31
Bay View Elementary: 9:00 - 3:30
Pike Lake Elementary: 9:05 - 3:35

Monitoring COVID Infection Rates

We anticipate a regular start to the school year with in-person learning for all schools in grades PreK-12. We continue to monitor COVID-19 statistics with the MDH and St. Louis County Public Health. On July 15, 2021, the Proctor, Duluth, and Hermantown school district area had an infection rate of less than one (.92). That is an incredible reduction in infections from a high of 135 last January, and it is directly related to our vaccination rates. Currently, in St. Louis County, we are at 67.2% vaccination status for 16+ and 65.4% for 12+. **We highly recommend and encourage our parents and students to consider getting vaccinated this summer or when students are eligible.**

Indoor Facilities and Ventilation

Proctor Public Schools has evaluated the operational capacity of indoor ventilation systems and developed a plan to increase and maintain ventilation provided throughout indoor spaces. Steps have been taken to improve the intake percentage of outside air to increase contaminants' dilution and minimize recirculation whenever possible while maintaining indoor air conditions. In the absence of adequate mechanical ventilation, steps will be taken to increase natural ventilation as much as possible, including opening windows when possible and safe. This plan is consistent with applicable Stay Safe Industry guidance.



Summer Masking and Face Covering

During the first Summer School Session, all students, faculty, and staff who have not been fully vaccinated are highly encouraged and recommended to wear masks indoors. Masks are recommended outdoors but are not required. Proctor Public Schools will be following the mask guidelines in this Safe Return to In-Person Learning Plan and will modify our [Covid-19 Face Covering Policy Board \(Policy 808\)](#) once the MSBA announces official recommended changes to Policy 808. Beginning August 9th, masks are required in all buildings in the Proctor School District.

REGULAR SCHOOL YEAR MASKING PROCEDURES/POLICY

2021-2022 Regular School Year: We will continue to review infection rates in our schools and our region to determine if we need to change our mask requirements and recommendations. If infection rates and transmission rates change, there may be a need to implement different mitigation strategies.

Masks will be required in all school buildings for the 2021-2022 school year. The Board will reevaluate mask requirements three weeks after the start of school. The District will use the CDC Data Tracker and Bi-Weekly Infection Rates as a metric for mask requirements. If the Bi-Weekly Infection Rate is at 3.0 or below, the District or its Superintendent can modify the “mask requirement” to “strongly recommend and highly encourage” at either the secondary or elementary level.



- Pre-K - 12 Grades are required to wear masks while attending indoor classes
- Faculty and Staff are required to wear masks while in school during the school day and workday.

Transportation and busing: Federal rules require anyone using public transportation must wear masks. Because Public school buses are defined as public transportation, students and drivers must wear masks while riding our Proctor Public School buses.

Summarized Changes to Masking

"As we watch infection rates fall, we are hopeful that the trend will continue. Next week we are seeing a projected drop of almost 70 in infection rates from this week. This trend was discussed at our Rail Safe Meeting on Wednesday, February 16th. After reviewing infections rates and positivity rates, we decided to dial back some of our mitigation strategies and update those changes in our [Safe Return to School Plan](#). We plan to have final edits to the Safe Return to School Plan completed by February 18th."

MASKING

- **EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 22ND** - Change “Mask Requirement” to “Mask Recommendation” at our athletic and extra-curricular events.
- **EFFECTIVE MARCH 7TH** - Change “Mask Requirement” to “Mask Recommendation” in our school facilities and on School Transportation. Continue to monitor infection rates for possible changes.

Masks Required	Masks Recommended
Universal Mask Wearing: Does not apply effect March 7, 2022. We will continue to monitor rates for possible changes. Masks will be recommended in Proctor	Outdoor Activities: Masks are optional for outdoor activities. This includes the following: ★ Recess ★ Physical Education Classes ★ Outdoor Activities

Public Schools facilities and on school transportation effective March 7th. We will continue to monitor rates for possible changes.

★ Outdoor After-School Activities

Cafeteria or Eating: Mask wearing is not required when eating; however, physical distancing is necessary. Additional spaces outside the cafeteria for mealtime seating, such as the gymnasium or outdoor seating, can help facilitate physical distancing. Schools will utilize best practices for physical distancing in cafeterias and other areas where it would be difficult for students to wear masks.

EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 22, 2022: masks will be recommended at Athletics and Activities Events. This includes during play, in locker rooms, weight rooms, and other related indoor events that are not part of the regular school day.

Masks will be recommended in Proctor Public Schools facilities and on school transportation effective March 7th. We will continue to monitor rates for possible changes.

Outdoor Athletics: Students and staff are not required to wear masks for outdoor athletics such as football, baseball, cross-country, track, etc.

Indoor Athletics: Students athletes are not required to wear masks for indoor athletics, while actively participating in games or practices. Coaches are required to wear masks while coaching and while in school facilities.

Band and Chorus: Masks are not required for outdoor practices and events, such as marching band.

Learning Models for All Students

Proctor Public Schools will not offer Hybrid or Blended Learning Models during the 2021-2022 school year. **All students will return to an in-person learning model 5 days per week.** Proctor Public Schools will not offer Distance Learning this year because we are not authorized by the Minnesota Department of Education to be an online learning provider.

If students are under quarantine and can't be in school, the District will work with students and their families to complete missed assignments. All students have been assigned a chromebook and will use their digital device to complete missed assignments and access student makeup work. Some students may need to be assigned homework packets depending on students' individual needs and requirements. What we expect from Families is that they are familiar with this plan and that [COVID testing is done when indicated due to an illness or exposure.](#)

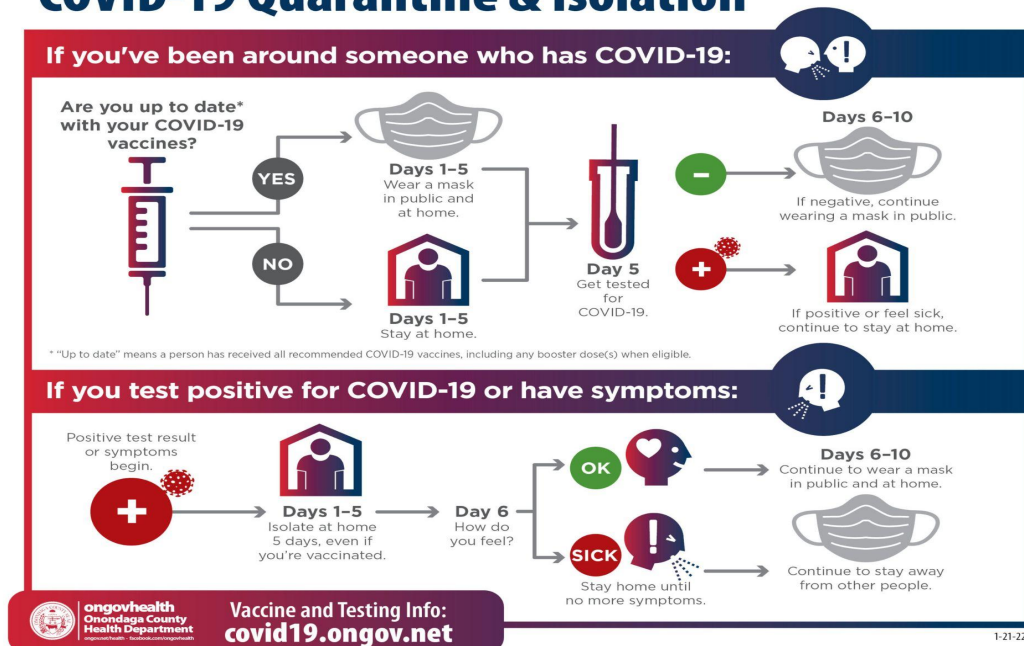
Quarantine of Suspected Cases of COVID-19, and Social Distancing

Quarantine: Individuals identified as COVID positive will be required to isolate at home; students identified as in close contact will be required to quarantine if symptoms arise. Teachers must and will keep accurate seating charts. Families will receive an exposure notification if positive cases are identified. A building specific-exposure letter will be sent to school employees when a positive case is identified in school.



- **Students:** *Isolation periods for COVID-19 positive students will be 5 days from their test date.* After day 5, individuals can return to school on day 6 if there are no symptoms. Students must wear a mask for another 5 days once they have returned.

COVID-19 Quarantine & Isolation



- **Faculty and Staff:** May return to work after 5 days (**from test date**) with no sign or symptoms. They must also wear a KN95 mask for any additional 5 days.
- **Quarantine periods for individuals identified as being in close contact** (non household) is 5 days. Stay at home for at least five full days after your last close contact with someone with COVID-19. Watch for symptoms for 10 days. If symptoms develop, test immediately for COVID-19 and follow isolation recommendations. If possible, stay in a separate room and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom if you can. Avoid sharing personal household items (e.g., food, dishes, towels, or bedding). Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing (such as Uber or Lyft), or taxis.



- **Household Close Contacts** - If there is a positive case in a household, any unvaccinated students must quarantine for 10 days, return on day 11. If the close contact develops symptoms, test immediately and isolate to prevent further spread in the household. Masking is recommended, along with separating oneself from well family members.

EXCEPTIONS

- Fully vaccinated individuals will not be subject to quarantine if they do not have Covid-like symptoms, with proof of vaccination status For the definition of **FULLY VACCINATED & UP TO DATE**, please click [HERE](#).

- CDC exception for students in K-12 settings, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if BOTH the infected student and the exposed students correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.
- Students experiencing symptoms must stay home and may return to school with a negative PCR test or an alternative diagnosis **and improved symptoms**. *Alternatively*, students can test with an at-home rapid antigen test which is part of the MDH, MDE school testing program. Those tests include BD Veritor, Binax Now, and Binax Now Professional or any test provided by a healthcare professional. Testing must be done on day one of symptoms and again on day three. **You must take two antigen tests (one on day one and one on day three); both must be negative in order to return. If your first test is positive, no need to use the second test.**
- Athletics: Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days and may return on day 6 **without symptoms**. Students **experiencing symptoms** must isolate and may return with a negative PCR test (molecular test) or **two rapid tests as described above.**
- If they have a confirmed positive Covid test within the last 90 days, they have fully recovered and **do not currently have symptoms**, they will not need to quarantine.

Social Distance Protocol: Proctor Public Schools will make efforts to social distance when possible. The District will not be working in cohort groupings and will utilize new outdoor classrooms and settings when possible.

Testing Protocols

Faculty and Staff

Although **Faculty and Staff are not required to test for COVID-19**, testing has proven to be a mitigating factor that works. During the 2021-2022 school year, Proctor Public Schools will provide, at no charge, a self-administered CUE Test to all of our employees. CUE tests are administered with a nasal swab by the individual showing symptoms. The CUE test is a molecular rapid response test letting the individual know if they are positive with the COVID-19 Virus in approximately 20 minutes.



Families, Faculty, and Staff

Proctor Public Schools will have CUE tests available in all of our health service offices **for staff who are symptomatic or have an exposure**. Employees must [sign a COVID-19 CUE Testing Consent Form](#) before using CUE tests distributed by Proctor Public Schools. Please print, sign, and give to the nurse at your testing site, prior to completing the CUE test. We will have a Docu-Sign form available soon. **Proctor Public Schools will be providing BD Veritor at-home rapid antigen tests to faculty, staff, and families upon request for symptomatic individuals.**



Alternate Sites for Student and Staff Testing

Students and staff can also utilize the Vault PCR and **Binax Professional** testing site at the DECC in Duluth or their local clinics.

Certified by:

John Engelking

John Engelking, Superintendent of Schools

