



**Cloquet Public Schools**  
**Summer 2021**  
**Safe Learning Plan**

June 7, 2021



## **CLOQUET PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUMMER 2021 SAFE LEARNING PLAN**

**June 14, 2021**

### **Introduction**

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) released the *Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools: 2020-21 School Year Planning* (from MDE) and the *2020-2021 Planning Guide for Schools* (from MDH). These guides established requirements and recommendations for schools in safeguarding student and public health for the coming school year. These guides also established three scenarios under which education was to be provided during the coming school year. The Cloquet Public Schools created a 2020-2021 School Year Plan which received public comment and was publicly shared throughout the year on the district website.

Since the creation of the plan, the country and state have made progress in curbing the pandemic and, as a result, have adjusted the requirements and recommendations for schools throughout the year. Recently, the state of Minnesota, through the work of the MDH and MDE released updated guidance for summer school for 2021. This updated plan will highlight Cloquet Public Schools implementation of the guidance.

### **Health and Safety Practices for Summer 2021**

#### **Social Distancing**

Cloquet Public Schools will encourage distancing, where practical, for summer session. Consideration and priority will be given to the education objectives of the lesson and activities when determining when distancing will occur.

#### **Face Coverings**

##### *On School Transportation*

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has mandated masks on all public transportation, including school buses until further notice. At this time, masks are still required on school transportation.

### *In School Buildings*

Face coverings may be worn during summer session but will not be required. Students were instructed on proper masking throughout the 2020-21 school year. Masking procedures were reinforced throughout the year.

### Hygiene Practices

Cloquet Public Schools has reviewed MDH's Recommended Supplies for Schools and ensures the availability of appropriate supplies to support healthy hygiene behavior (e.g., soap, hand sanitizer, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, and tissues) and strategically place supplies in areas where they may be frequently used. Cloquet Schools has developed processes to frequently check and refill supplies at the point of use (e.g., hand sanitizer available near shared equipment, hand sanitizers near school building entrances/exits, etc.).

Media, posters, and other tactics will be used to promote health etiquette expectations in highly visible locations.

### Monitoring and Excluding for Illness

Cloquet Public Schools will follow Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) protocol for monitoring and excluding students and staff with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID.

### Handling Suspected or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19

Each individual school health office staff will be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns. The School Health Office staff will communicate to District Nurse Sarah Ellena, RN, LSN to coordinate with local health authorities regarding the positive COVID-19 case(s).

For the safety of all students, families and staff, it is imperative that individuals self-report to their respective school's health office any symptoms consistent of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or a close exposure to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days in a manner that is consistent with applicable law and privacy policies including HIPAA and FERPA.

Students or staff with a confirmed or suspected case of COVID will be excluded from school until they meet all three of the following conditions:

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and,
- It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive; and,
- They have no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

Close contacts of confirmed cases will be identified by school nursing staff. Families and staff will be notified if they have been deemed a close contact. Close contacts will be asked to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14-days following exposure and report to school nursing staff if they develop COVID-like symptoms. Close contacts will not be required to

quarantine. Those who develop COVID-like symptoms will be required to isolate/quarantine until they receive a negative test or until they meet all three of the following conditions:

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and,
- It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive; and,
- They have no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

### Diagnostic and Screening Testing

Parents/guardians are asked to screen their child each morning before sending them to school for symptoms of COVID-19. If your child is displaying symptoms, parents should keep their student home from school until a negative test result has been received or until they meet all three of the following conditions:

- They feel better. Their cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms are better; and,
- It has been 10 days since they first felt sick or tested positive; and,
- They have no fever for at least 24 hours, without using medicine that lowers fever.

### Cleaning and Ventilation

Cloquet Public Schools has a routine cleaning schedule and standards of cleanliness in place for each building. This routine will be followed for the duration of summer school.

Staff have been informed of the practice of opening windows and doors to increase cross flow of fresh air in classrooms. This practice will be encouraged throughout the summer as weather conditions permit.

Ventilation systems are regularly monitored for consistent airflow and exchange within each building.

### Health Accommodations for Children with Disabilities

Cloquet Public Schools will follow all active requirements from MDH regarding infection prevention and control practices for delivering direct support services to students.

Parents should connect with their child's case manager and/or building principal to arrange a discussion regarding specific concerns.

### Vaccination

Vaccination is a personal choice for consideration by staff and families of students. Cloquet Public Schools has regularly shared information regarding vaccination opportunities within the region and will continue to share future summer opportunities when requested by Carlton County Public Health or local health care partners.

## Coordination with State and Local Health Officials

Cloquet Public Schools has been in consistent communication with Carlton County Public Health and other local health care officials throughout the period of the pandemic. We will continue to work with local and state officials as may be necessary to comply with requirements from MDE and MDH throughout the summer session and to monitor the status of COVID-19 prevalence in our region.

## Continuation of Services

Cloquet Public Schools has intentionally expanded summer school services to support a broader need for academic help in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 school year. We will also plan for expanded summer support in the summer of 2022. We encourage families to communicate your student's academic, social, emotional, mental health and other needs to school staff/administration. This will assist the district greatly in establishing proper supports to assist students with the effects experienced as a result of the pandemic.

## Food Service

Cloquet Public Schools participates in the summer food service program. Community residents age 18 or under are eligible for free lunch during weekdays from June 14<sup>th</sup> through August 20<sup>th</sup>. Free lunch is available for walk-in pick up at Washington Elementary School and Cloquet High School.