

On the evening of August 4th, the Cloquet School Board approved a resolution to follow the guidelines in the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan, as written, in determining the model for the opening of the school year. After review of the data for Carlton County and reviewing the fluctuations in data from 8 other like-sized counties in Minnesota, the Board approved monitoring data through the week of August 21st and making the final decision on the model early in the week of August 24th. Based on current data, the most likely models are in-person learning for all grade levels or in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students. We recommend that families plan for these most likely scenarios, while understanding that an unlikely and large swing in our data could result in a different model. To learn more about the models or the process for selecting the most appropriate model, please review the information below.

The possible options for models include either one, or a mix, of the options below:

1. In-person learning - students attend school in-person with added precautionary safety requirements from the Minnesota Department of Health.
2. Hybrid learning - the hybrid model is a mix of attending in-person and attending online on a multiday rotation. Cloquet Public Schools will begin with a 3 day rotation if a hybrid model is needed. This would result in students attending in person for one out of every three days and attending online for the other two days. Students would receive a schedule to indicate which days they attend in-person and which days they attend online. This setting also includes the safety precautions required for the in-person model and includes additional safety precautions.
3. Distance learning – all students attend school in an online format.

The Minnesota Safe Learning Plan directs districts to complete the following process for determining the most appropriate model:

1. Review data from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) showing the number of COVID cases per 10,000 county residents and compare the data to the model recommendation from MDH.
2. Consult with the MDH, or local health officials if appropriate, to learn more about the specific COVID rate and transmission patterns within the county.
3. Review the district's ability to follow all health and safety requirements for in-person learning mandated by the Minnesota Department of Health
4. After the base model is determined, continue to monitor county data and communicate with the MDH to determine if model changes are needed.

The Minnesota Safe Learning Plan uses the following data points as the foundation for determining the learning plan:

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

Carlton County currently has a rate of 5.06 cases per 10,000 residents. Carlton County’s rate has increased slightly over the past three weeks, but has remained within the guidelines for in-person learning for all students. Similar sized counties have experience fluctuations in their numbers which have caused them to increase to a rate above 10 per 10,000 residents. The Cloquet Public Schools will continue to monitor the data through August 21st before making a final determination. At this point, the most likely models are in-person learning for all students or in-person learning for elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students.

Safety Requirements

The Minnesota Department of Health is requiring increased safety precautions for schools when open to in-person learning for all students or hybrid learning. A list of those requirements is below:

In-person learning for all:

- Provide for increased spacing for students, noting 6 feet of spacing cannot be maintained in this model.
- Provide additional spacing on transportation as practicable – Cloquet Public Schools is adding an additional bus route to help aid in spacing.
- Provide visual reminders to maintain spacing where possible.
- Monitor arrival and dismissal to curtail congregating.
- Restrict non-essential visitors.
- Discontinue self-service food or beverage distribution in the cafeteria. Use individually packaged items where possible, serve food and beverages directly to students.
- Mandatory masks for all staff and students, consistent with the Governor’s executive order. Approved face shield can be used as a substitute for masks. This includes face mask/shields while riding in school transportation.
- Provide PPE for direct support services which require prolonged contact between student and staff.
- Create a process for students/families and staff to self-identify as high risk for illness due to COVID-19.
- Ensure availability of hygiene supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors.

- Establish a schedule for routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and shared equipment.
- Use EPA-approved disinfectant for COVID-19.
- Educate staff and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and when children/staff should stay home.
- Require staff and students stay home if they have tested positive, are awaiting test results, or are showing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Cloquet Public Schools will conduct symptom screening for any staff or student who appears to exhibit signs of illness when on campus. These staff and/or students will be required to go home if their symptoms are consistent with COVID-19. Students required to go home will have a dedicated space separate from other students while they wait to leave school.
- Designate a staff person who is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns in each building.
- Provide a system to allow staff and families to report to the school if they or their student have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive COVID test, or have been a close contact of someone confirmed to have COVID-19.
- Provide information for staff and families to access mental health supports.
- Require people who become ill during the day not use group transportation to return home.

Hybrid learning:

- Hybrid learning models require the same precautions as in-person learning and the addition of the following:
 - Limit the number of people in school facilities to 50% occupancy
 - Ensure sufficient social distancing to maintain at least 6 ft of space between people when in the school facility.
 - Implement contactless food pick-up and/or delivery for children on days not in school.
 - Limit the number of people on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy.

*It's important to note the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health will make periodic updates to the expectations for schools throughout the year and some of the above items may change slightly based upon those updates.