

# ACGC Public Schools Safe Return to School Plan 2021-2022

Updated August 10, 2021

*This plan is subject to change based upon requirements of Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education.*

ACGC Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, families, and visitors. To ensure a safe and healthy environment, ACGC Public Schools has developed the following 2021-2022 Return to School Plan.

ACGC Public Schools will return to near-normal in the fall of 2021 for schedules, programming and operations including the following:

## **Schedules**

School will be in-person, four days per week with start times:

Elementary Student Drop Off Time: 7:45 AM

Elementary Start Time: 8:00 AM

Jr/Sr High Start Time: 7:45 AM

## **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are optional and will not be required during the school day or during after school activities. However, masks are required while riding on a school bus per federal guidelines regarding public transportation.

## **Health Screening and Quarantine**

- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be required to be done at home. Individuals who are ill are to stay home and report symptoms to the school nurse.
- As prior to COVID-19, the school policy remains that students and staff must be fever free for 24 hours with no medications prior to returning to school.
- Schools are mandated to report positive COVID-19 cases to MDH.
- COVID-positive students/staff will be required to quarantine 10 days from symptom onset and must be fever free for 24 hours with COVID symptoms improving prior to returning to school. If a COVID positive individual is asymptomatic, they will 10 days from the date of the test.
  - Unvaccinated siblings of COVID-positive students and unvaccinated children of a positive household member will be required to quarantine for a minimum of two (2) days and may return to school following quarantine if not exhibiting symptoms. If symptoms begin, please report symptoms to the school nurse.
- Students/Staff determined to be close contacts of a COVID positive individual will not be required to quarantine. Parents/guardians of students who are determined to be close contacts will be notified and asked to monitor their symptoms closely as well as report any symptoms to the school nurse.

## **Vaccines**

ACGC Schools will not require COVID vaccinations for students, staff or visitors.

### **Physical Distancing**

ACGC Public Schools will accommodate physical distancing to the extent feasible but will not require a specific distance.

### **Instructional Models**

School will be in-person, with support offered to students who need to be absent for COVID-related reasons. There is an online option available for families through a program with Southwest West Central Services Cooperative. Parents interested in this option should contact the office at their child's school.

### **Meals**

Free breakfast and lunch is available to **all** students during the 2021-22 school year. The only fee will be for a la carte items and/or extras.

### **Healthy Facilities**

ACGC Public Schools has improved indoor air quality and improved mechanical systems and have increased ventilation provided throughout indoor spaces. Airducts, air handlers, and exhaust fans have been cleaned during the construction process and throughout the summer. Cleaning protocols implemented during the 20-21 school year will continue to support mitigation of COVID-19. Drinking fountains and water refill stations will be open for students.

### **Good Hygiene**

Students/Staff will continue to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks. Hand sanitizer will be provided in each classroom.

### **Transportation**

Per federal requirements, all students (PreK-12) and staff must wear masks on school busses/vehicles during any school district transportation. Busses will be sanitized after each route.

### **Accommodations for Special Education**

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. Parents/guardians should contact their child's case manager to inquire about accommodations.

### **Partnerships with Health Agencies**

ACGC Public Schools will continue to collaborate on COVID-19 issues and concerns with Kandiyohi and Meeker County Public Health, MDE and MDH. Local COVID infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the agencies listed above.

### **Subject to Change**

If necessary, ACGC Public Schools will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members, based on factors such as local conditions, state and federal mandates.