



## SPPS Family Forum Q&A February 11, 2021

[Watch a recording of the live meeting here.](#)

**Q: When can we expect secondary students to return?**

*A: The first week of in-person support for secondary (6-12 grade) students begins Monday, February 22. This date was selected because the [COVID-19 case rate for Ramsey County](#) has remained below 30 for two consecutive weeks. More info: [spps.org/secondarysupport](https://spps.org/secondarysupport)*

**Q: When will SPPS begin providing materials about COVID-19 to families in their first language? This is a complex topic to be sending home information (especially if a student is sent home sick) when it is all in English. Also-- when will the COVID-19 reporting form online be made accessible for these families?**

*A: All information from the district is sent in 5 languages - English, Hmong, Somali, Spanish and Karen. The COVID-19 Reporting System includes a phone number for families to call who need assistance in their native language*

**Q: How was it determined that 3' of distance is adequate for children?**

*A: SPPS is following the [Minnesota Safe Learning Plan](#) which states that three feet of physical distancing or more is strongly recommended for elementary students. These guidelines were created by the Minnesota Departments of Health and Education.*

**Q: Are you considering doing a hybrid model or just 100% in person?**

*A: For elementary and some special education programs, students are 100% in person unless they opted for virtual learning. At the secondary level, we are beginning with an on-site support model for targeted students while remaining in distance learning. We will continue to monitor conditions and work to increase the number of students and amount of time on-site as possible.*

**Q: My family doesn't see fit for my kid to return to school on the 16th. Been trying to contact spps but no answer. I need my child to remain virtual learning. I will not send my kid back to school on the 16th. Can the school work with me to keep my child in virtual learning??**

*A: Yes, you are able to keep your child in distance learning. Please contact the Student Placement Office at 651-632-3760 to address your child's enrollment status.*



**Q: When will high school return to in person classes? Are you planning on a virtual fall for high school?**

*A: We are planning for in person high school for most students this fall and also considering the needs for continued Virtual Learning School. We have submitted an application to the Department of Education to have a new online high school starting this fall for grades 9-12.*

**Q: So again, secondary grades are starting school 2/22 just Mon-Thurs?**

*A: Yes, in-person support will be offered Monday-Thursday. Your school will be communicating which day(s) your student is assigned to come in. Fridays will remain distance learning days for all secondary students.*

**Q: Will the student's temperature be taken daily as they go to class?**

*A: Temperatures are not taken at school unless a child is exhibiting symptoms and sent to the nurse's office. Families should conduct a health screening every morning, and may take their child's temperature before sending them to school.*

**Q: What is the expectation for students and staff if they have been traveling? Do they need to test or quarantine upon return from vacations?**

*A: Travel guidelines are included in our SPPS COVID-19 guidelines for families and staff. Unnecessary travel is highly discouraged. You can read the full travel recommendations on page 5 here: [bit.ly/3bveEf4](https://bit.ly/3bveEf4)*

**Q: Could you please elaborate on the sanitation procedures that are in place between class attendance?**

*A: The COVID-19 four-tiered cleaning protocols are available here: [spps.org/Page/41270](https://spps.org/Page/41270)*

**Q: When will seniors go back to school? When will those seniors that need help be back in class?**

*A: Secondary on-site support begins on February 22. Schools will be contacting families with information about what this looks like.*

**Q: How will students who are not on track to graduate be supported? Is there support for Latino children and children from other communities who are not participating in school 100%?**

*A: Schools are prioritizing in-person support for students who have struggled during Distance Learning and are not on track to graduate. Students will receive support from their teachers, counselors and other support staff to get on track. Schools are also creating innovative credit recovery options.*



*We encourage parents to partner with their child's teacher to identify the areas of need and additional resources as appropriate. Most of our schools have a Spanish bilingual EA who can assist parents and students regarding engagement. Bilingual EAs main role is to support student academic engagement.*

**Q: Are meals free for preschoolers?**

*A: Yes, all meals are free for Saint Paul Public Schools students at all schools. Meal boxes are also free and can be picked up at SPPS schools. For more information: [spps.org/2021meals](https://spps.org/2021meals)*

**Q: So, are we to understand that the secondary model will be changing to more in person a month from now if numbers continue to improve or stay low? Would it not make more sense to just wait for the time when greater in person would be appropriate?**

*A: We are able to begin meeting needs now through the on-site support model. We will build from the experience of this model in adding more on-site time in the future.*

**Q: If someone in my family gets COVID, could my child enter virtual school or how would he receive classes?**

*A: Students who test positive or are quarantined due to exposure to COVID-19 will be able to complete their assignments in Seesaw or Schoology until they are cleared to return to school*

**Q: We did not receive any information about the bus. We saw found it on student portal.**

*A: If you have additional questions about your bus please email [transportation@spps.org](mailto:transportation@spps.org) or call 651-696-9600.*

**Q: Why are some exposure to positive classmates 7 days and others with same exposure 14 days?**

*A: The minimum quarantine is 10 days from the exposure if someone is quarantined but does not have symptoms or a positive test. It is 14 days if they have a positive test or are symptomatic. See full guidelines here:*

*<https://www.spps.org/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=16668&ModuleInstanceID=125552&ViewID=6446FE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=120713&PageID=41330>*

**Q: My daughter is a high school student, with commonly 40 kids in her classrooms. How will SPPS be able to physically provide for 3 feet of space between students? This does not seem physically possible, based on current class sizes in the high schools.**

*A: SPPS is starting on-site support recognizing the need for social distancing. Groups will be small, in most cases between 10 and 14 in a room.*



**Q: Why are high school teachers being vaccinated before the teachers actually returning? If they want to be they have to wait in the line while others jumped the line.**

*A: SPPS has prioritized vaccinations for staff working with special needs students and younger learners. Due to issues with the state testing process, a few high school staff may also have received vaccines. As more vaccines become available, SPPS will continue to prioritize staff who are working with students in person.*

**Q: As families are not able to enter the building, how do we know that COVID guidance is being followed in our child's classroom?**

*A: All schools are implementing the [Minnesota Safe Learning Plan](#) guidelines in the way that works best for the size of their classrooms, number of students and other factors. Open communication with your school's principal and child's teacher is encouraged if you have concerns about how these guidelines are being implemented at your school.*

**Q: Is middle and high school returning Feb 22?**

*A: Yes. K-8 and 6-8 schools are providing support to all middle school students in small groups in order to maintain social distancing and individualize help. Students will be on-site one morning per week. 6-12 and 9-12 schools are targeting students to bring in for help, for example seniors who are not on track to graduate or students who are multilingual learners.*

**Q: Can you speak a little bit more on the secondary students in-person support so parents understand that not all students will be returning on the 22nd?**

*A: Please see the information provided here, [In-person Support for Grades 6-12: spps.org/secondarysupport](https://spps.org/secondarysupport)*