

## Nokomis North: Preparing for Day 1 In Person

**This is my daughter's first year at Nokomis. Will there be an open house or something for us to visit the school before it starts?** We will be preparing our new students and families prior to the first day. We are currently in the planning stages of creating videos, lessons and other helpful resources in preparation for a smooth return to in-person learning. Please reach out to your child's teacher or Ms. Terri with any specific needs or concerns. Phone #-651-744-7440, or [email- Theresa.jackson@spps.org](mailto:Theresa.jackson@spps.org).

### Daily Practices and Safety Measures

**What would a typical day look like now?** The typical in-person school day will look very similar to traditional school days. The exceptions will be all the safety protocols that will be implemented such as: PPE worn by staff and students, social distance for students and staff, eating in the classrooms, each student will have his/her own space (desk or table) for social distance, more staggered transition times for bathroom breaks, recess, gym class, dismissal, etc.

**What will the plan be to minimize interactions between various groups of students? (i.e. will there be staggered recess?)** All staff have had safety training and will continue to receive more training in the two weeks prior to students returning to prepare all classrooms and put in all safety protocols including staggered schedules for recess and all transitions, and setting up table/desk and material spaces so that it meets the safety guidelines.

**Will classrooms combine in spaces or will each class community stay separate? Will classroom air purifiers be provided, especially considering the larger class sizes of a return to full in-person learning?** All classes will keep separate for safe social distance. Nokomis North have the Merv-11 air filtration in all spaces which meets the safety requirements.

**Will daily sanitizing still occur?** Students supported by staff help in during the day cleaning; custodians do evening cleaning; for some instances custodians have helped during the day, example mats used by athletics Students are mostly in the same room, less need for cleaning between groups; EKC (Essential Kid Care) experience worked to have students wipe down spaces as part of routine; everyone's job to support health and safety.

**What other safety measures are in place?** Facilities will continue to follow the recommended guidelines. There are an additional 60 FTE (Full time Employee) in the hiring process to support in person learning.

**Is the 3 feet recommended or expected and required?** 6 feet is still the gold standard when possible with at least 3 feet recommended when possible. **It is not a requirement**

**What if 3 feet is not possible with spaces and class sizes? How are teachers going to teach from behind a plexiglass?** The In Person guidelines recommend students when possible maintain a 3ft distance, teachers need to be 6 feet apart when possible. The plexiglass can be used when 6 feet social distance is not possible. Some schools are looking into purchasing microphones to enhance teacher voice. Teachers may also help with quick tasks in close proximity for a short amount of time, wash hands immediately following, and then return to safe social distance after assisting the student.

**Will there be restrictions or changes around school busses? How will distance and masking look on transportation?** All students will be expected to wear masks on the buses. They may have assigned seats (with their siblings, or if their ride is longer than 15 min) As always, all students are expected to remain in their seats for the full ride, there will be no movement for students while the bus is in transit until it reaches its destination.

### **Outbreak Protocol**

**What happens if there is an outbreak?** SPPS Health team will be monitoring building status, coordinating any decisions about quarantine

**What are the next steps if a student in a class is determined to have a positive COVID case? (does the class quarantine? Teacher quarantine? If not, will the students in the class be notified, for example, like when a student has strep?** This will be determined by the SPPS Health and Wellness team during the contact tracing process after a report is made. Factors such as: when were they onsite, when did they develop symptoms, and the classroom setup will weigh into that decision. Classrooms that have decreased movement through the classroom and limit intermixing within the classroom will have less need to quarantine the entire room. Case counts per classroom, school will also be looked at and we will work with MDH as needed. Communication will be sent out to families.

**What will the procedure be when a class is exposed to COVID?** This will be determined by my team during the contact tracing process after a report is made. Factors such as: when were they onsite, when did they develop symptoms, and the classroom setup will weigh into that decision. Classrooms that have decreased movement through the classroom and limit intermixing within the classroom will have less need to quarantine the entire room. Case counts per classroom, school will also be looked at and we will work with MDH as needed.

**Will there be a period of isolating, (see above) or will it be treated like strep where a letter goes home? What is the communication process for a COVID exposure?** SPPS will work with schools to send home communication to families with more information and guidelines so families will be prepared and have the information needed to plan for next steps.

### **Staffing**

**What is the plan to have adequate staffing (substitute teachers) in the event of staff illness or quarantine?** SPPS HR is reviewing sub needs and options. See also [Substitute Teacher Guidelines During COVID-19](#).

**Who will staff the classrooms when students are eating in the classroom? Will teachers have a separate duty free lunch to be able to eat in a space not with students with masks off?** This will need to be a collaborative effort. We think we will need to have building specific plans. Some buildings have TA, other support staff, some schools are already having licensed staff supervise lunches, and finally we believe that the use of additional COVID resources to help fund this work is a good use of funds.

### Other

**Is there a case count in Ramsey county that would prevent this from happening? Are their circumstances where we would not transition to in person schooling? For example, if COVID numbers get worse? What are the "readiness factors" now for in-person? (What are the criteria, like the criteria were for hybrid?** SPPS will continue to monitor case counts and advisement from local public health, MDH and the Governor, but no there is no additional safety indicator that needs to be met.

**If a staff or student gets the COVID vaccine, will they still be required to wear a mask? Will they be required to inform the school?** Currently, mask and shields are the expected PPE to be worn by for all staff.