

WINONA AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



COVID-19 Protocols and Information- In effect until June 30th

While fewer children overall have become seriously ill with COVID-19 than adults during the pandemic, children can be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, get sick with COVID-19, spread the virus to others, and have severe outcomes. Vaccine eligibility has been expanded to include some school-aged populations, however children aged 12-15 have only recently become eligible and children under 12 years of age are still ineligible to be vaccinated. For these reasons, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) continues to recommend the consistent use of layered mitigation strategies to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in school communities.

Winona Area Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all of our students, employees, and the public we serve. The following COVID-19 protocols, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, were developed to mitigate the potential of COVID-19 transmission in our schools and communities. Please review the [COVID-19 Preparedness Plan for Summer Programming](#), which will be in effect through June 30th, 2021 for all students, staff members, and visitors during summer programming. The district's Incident Command Team will evaluate, revise, and communicate changes for the future summer months.

Use of Face Coverings Indoors

Winona Area Public Schools will be requiring the use of face coverings indoors for *all persons ages 2 and up* entering district buildings from 6:30 am until 5:30 pm, regardless if they are fully vaccinated. The face covering requirement does not apply while outdoors, for organized sports, or facility rentals/events hosted at the school outside of the designated operating hours (6:30 am - 5:30 pm). For those who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition, they are exempt from this requirement.

When to Stay Home

Students, Staff, and Visitors must remain home if any of the following are true;

- *They are currently experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, symptoms include;*

fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher; new cough or a cough that gets worse; difficulty/hard time breathing; and new loss of taste or smell; sore throat; nausea; vomiting; diarrhea; chills; muscle pain; extreme fatigue/feeling very tired; new severe/very bad headache; and new nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose.

Students, staff, and visitors who begin experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 in attendance will be sent home from the program immediately. Parents/guardians will be required to pick up their student if they begin experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.

- *They have been identified as a close contact and are in quarantine.*

A close contact is ANY person who lives in the same household as a person who tested positive for COVID-19 OR someone who has been within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more throughout the course of a day (24 hours). If a person is a close contact, the person should stay home from ALL ACTIVITIES for up to 10-14 days (quarantine). Day 1 of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

Winona Area Public Schools has implemented suggested considerations from the MDH [Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19](#), to allow a shortened quarantine period of 7 days. Parents/guardians can request a shortened quarantine period for their student if all requirements are met and appropriate documentation has been submitted.

- *They test positive for COVID-19 and are currently in isolation.*

They should stay at home and away from others who live in the house (isolation) for at least 10 days from the time the symptoms started (or test date if they have no symptoms) and until symptoms have improved and they have had no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. Siblings and all others who live with the person who tested positive will need to stay home and stay away from activities for at least 14 days from their last date of close contact with the positive household member.

Free Saliva Testing Available

Winona Area Public Schools will continue to offer free testing for students and staff members, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education and the Minnesota Department of Health. At home Zoom-Enabled COVID-19 test kits will be available upon request from Jacqueline Henderson, WAPS COVID-19 Coordinator. Parents/guardians can request to pick up a test kit from the District Office, at any time, including when their student is experiencing

symptoms or currently in quarantine due to a close contact. For students who are in isolation or quarantine, there will be a contactless pick up/drop off arranged between the parent/guardian and the COVID-19 Coordinator. Contact Jacqueline Henderson at jacqueline.henderson@winona.k12.mn.us or (507) 494-0867 to request a Zoom-Enabled test kit for your student.

Thank you for taking measures to keep our schools and community safe.

Contact the District Wide COVID-19 Coordinator at the information listed below for any COVID-19 related matters or questions.

Jacqueline Henderson, jacqueline.henderson@winona.k12.mn.us | (507) 494-0867