

North St. Paul, Maplewood, Oakdale School District Pandemic Flu or Other Infectious Respiratory Illness Preparedness Plan

Purpose

The purpose of the ISD 622 Pandemic Flu or Other Infectious Respiratory Illness Preparedness Plan is to outline action steps that will be taken in the event of an influenza or other respiratory illness pandemic, which could include seasonal influenza, other strain of influenza (H1N1), measles, coronavirus infections (SARS, COVID-19), or other respiratory infectious diseases. This plan was developed by a team of district administrators and staff using information and guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), and Local agencies. The primary focus of this plan is to protect the health and wellness of district students and staff.

Preparation

ISD 622 will assist State and Local agencies in the collection of data to monitor the different stages of an outbreak. This information will include, but may not be limited to, educational progress, the number of cases of illness, availability of food, medicine, heat, etc. The sharing of data will be consistent with CDC and MDH guidelines.

The “Is My Child Well Enough” information sheet will be shared with parents/guardians on an annual basis and as needed. Modes of sharing:

1. A paper copy is given at Open House or during the first week of school
2. Posted on the district website
3. Mass email to parents/guardians
4. Other electronic modes(s)

Preventative measures such as hand hygiene, cover your cough, and staying away from others who are sick will be reviewed with staff and students on an annual basis and as needed.

Reminders of these methods may be placed throughout the school buildings. Disinfectant and other appropriate cleaning supplies will be distributed for use in each building. Custodial staff will be trained in cleaning and housekeeping procedures and on the use of products that will prevent the spread of a pandemic illness.

Parents/Guardians or other emergency contacts will be called immediately to pick-up their student if they are exhibiting flu-like or infectious respiratory illness symptoms. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Cough
- Chills and/or Fever (temperature greater than 100 °F)
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Headache

Students exhibiting flu-like or other infectious respiratory illness symptoms may be kept in a separate, monitored location from other students and staff as designated by building principals and/or asked to wear a surgical mask per CDC and MDH guidelines.

When the number of absences for an infectious illness reaches 5% of the student population in a building (or 3 absences on any given day in the same classroom in an elementary school), the LPN/ARN and/or BSN will file the appropriate reporting form with MDH.

Persons exposed to pandemic flu/respiratory illness may be encouraged to remain home per CDC and MDH guidelines to avoid the spread of the disease before symptoms occur, as for many illnesses a person may be contagious for a period of time before symptoms begin.

Persons diagnosed with influenza or other infectious respiratory illness will be asked to stay home from school per the medical provider recommendations according to CDC and MDH guidelines. Students may be screened upon returning to school for fever or other flu-like symptoms.

The LPN/ARN and/or BSN will contact parents/guardians of students who are most vulnerable to serious illness (i.e. compromised immune system, chronic illness, etc.) to inform them of the increased risk.

Response

Upon notification by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), MDH, or Local Public Health Official; or upon consultation with the school board regarding a significant risk of spreading the illness, and/or lack of staffing to continue the safe operation of schools; the Superintendent shall order the schools closed for the duration of the outbreak.

The Superintendent shall implement the Early School Closure Procedures.

If an extended school closure is ordered, the school district may make online learning or other at-home learning options available to the extent feasible.

The Maintenance and Operations Supervisors, or designee, shall implement procedures to close all school buildings. All surface contact areas will be cleaned and disinfected. Buildings will be readied for the reopening of schools.

The Director of Communications and Technology Innovation, or designee, will implement procedures to maintain district communication networks. The district website will be kept current with pertinent information as provided by the Superintendent. District employees will receive pertinent communication via district email.

All non-essential staff will be sent home for the duration of the school closure. Essential staff include:

- The Superintendent
- Building Principals and Program Directors
- District Office personnel essential to the continued functioning of the district
- Buildings and grounds staff needed to clean and maintain school property
- The Health Services Supervisor
- Other personnel deemed essential by the Superintendent

Should the Superintendent be ill or otherwise unavailable during the course of the pandemic crisis, a district administrator licensed as a District Superintendent or a district administrator for whom the district has requested a variance as a District Superintendent shall immediately assume the role of Acting Superintendent.

Recovery

Upon notification by MDE, MDH, or Local Public Health Official that the pandemic crisis is under control, the Superintendent shall order the schools to be reopened.

The Maintenance and Operations Supervisors, or designee, shall implement procedures to reopen all school buildings.

The District shall assist staff and students and provide grief counseling, as necessary.

The Health Services department will resume heightened surveillance and reporting to State and Local agencies.