



Diocese of New Ulm Pandemic Criteria and Response Plan

August 30, 2021

The table below provides a tool for schools to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 with criteria that determine a corresponding level of response. Schools will use current data (identified in the criteria section) to determine their response and ultimately their operational practice. A school may determine the level of response based on where criteria exist at the highest level. For example, if a criteria statement exists within level 3 but not in level 4, the school will identify in level 3 and implement mitigation responses accordingly.

The school will identify and regularly communicate the level at which the school needs to operate.

As we continue to struggle with the pandemic, we continue to encourage all those eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine safely to do so.

COVID Planning Goals:

- Understand that the local reality is fluid and requires agility and flexibility in all plans, including this document.
- Make decisions locally by monitoring and using data to implement measured responses accordingly.
- Evaluate all decisions with emphasis on providing the best possible environment for our students and staff to learn and work.
- Keep our students and teachers in their classroom for in-person learning throughout the year.
- Actively collaborate with our diocese, local agencies, and other schools.
- Embed the mission of each school in word and action.

Level	Criteria	Mitigation Response	Operational Practice
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Transmission Rate = "Low" based on CDC COVID Data Tracker. - Rates are minimal/10,000 based on their county COVID-19 Weekly Report - No positive COVID cases identified within a school over a 14-day period. - No transmission identified at school. - Positive compliance with MDH Decision Tree for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. <p>*Consider current model of local school district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate). Parent / Guardian decision for masking during the school day. → Quarantine / Isolation – Consult with local public health to determine the level of quarantine necessary considering local transmission rates. → Health Screening - Household affirms child(ren) are not symptomatic of COVID before attending school. → Cohorting - In place to assure ability that Decision Tree is able to be implemented. → Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in each school. → Ventilation - Assure the school has appropriate ventilation throughout spaces used by students and staff. → Guests and Visitors - Welcome in school with health screening in place. 	
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Transmission Rate = "Moderate" based on CDC COVID Data Tracker. - Rates are less than 25/10,000 based county COVID-19 Weekly Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate). Parent / Guardian decision for masking during school day. → Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of MDH Decision Tree for students / staff that are symptomatic or considered a close contact. Shortened quarantine option available with 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3% or less of a school population has tested positive for COVID over a 14-day period. - No transmission identified in school. - Positive compliance with MDH Decision Tree for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. <p>*Consider current model of local school district.</p>	<p>affirmation of appropriate testing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Health Screening - Household affirms that child(ren) are not symptomatic of COVID before attending school. → Cohorting - Implementation to assure ability that Decision Tree is able to be implemented. → Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in school. → Ventilation - Assure the school has appropriate ventilation throughout spaces used by students and staff. → Guests and Visitors - Welcome in school with health screening in place. 	
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Transmission Rate = “Substantial” based on CDC COVID Data Tracker. - Rates are between 25 and 50/10,000 based on county COVID-19 Weekly Report - 3% of a school population has tested positive for COVID over a 14-day period. - Increasing lack of compliance with MDH Decision Tree for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. <p>*Consider current model of local school district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate) and during the school day for students, staff, and visitors. Exceptions are during lunch/snack, physical activity, and when outdoors. → Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of MDH Decision Tree for students / staff that are symptomatic or considered a close contact. Shortened quarantine option available with affirmation of appropriate testing. → Health Screening - Household affirms that child(ren) are not symptomatic of COVID before attending school. → Cohorting – in place to assure ability that Decision Tree is able to be implemented. → Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in the school. → Ventilation – Assure the school has appropriate ventilation throughout spaces used by students and staff. → Guests and Visitors - Limited to necessary needs of a school, health screening in place. 	
Level 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Transmission Rate = “High” based on CDC COVID Data Tracker. - Rates are greater than 50/10,000 based on county COVID-19 Weekly Report - More than 3% of school population has tested positive for COVID over a 14-day period. - Transmission identified within a school. - Lack of compliance with MDH Decision Tree for keeping child(ren) home if presenting symptoms of illness related to COVID and/or fulfilling quarantine guidance. <p>*Consider current model of local school district.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Masks / Face Covering - Required during all bus/public transportation (federal mandate) and during the school day for students, staff, and visitors. Exceptions are during lunch/snack, physical activity, and when outdoors. → Quarantine / Isolation - Implementation of MDH Decision Tree for students / staff that are symptomatic or considered a close contact. Shortened quarantine option available with affirmation of appropriate testing. → Health Screening - Household affirms child(ren) are not symptomatic of COVID before attending school. → Cohorting - In place to assure ability that Decision Tree is able to be implemented. → Cleaning / Disinfecting - Implementation of disinfecting and personal hygiene best practices in each school. → Ventilation - Assure school has appropriate ventilation throughout spaces used by students and staff. → Guests and Visitors - Limited to essential needs of a school, health screening in place. → COVID Testing Option - Students / Families who would like to have COVID screening test completed, the school will offer information on how and where to obtain testing. Some schools may offer an onsite option through a grant at the MDH. Testing type will depend on availability. 	