

## **Escanaba Area Public Schools Return to Learn and Continuity of Services Plan 2023-2024**

The Escanaba Area Public Schools will continue to prioritize full, in-person teaching and learning which provides the greatest benefit to students. Ensuring that this can happen both consistently and safely during the upcoming school year, the 2023-24 Return to Learn Plan provides detailed guidance to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are implemented in a way that fosters optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety for students and staff.

*Please Note: This plan may evolve as knowledge changes surrounding current and potential variants or if the risks of severe disease, hospitalizations, or death increase. The plan may also vary based on in-school COVID-19 activity and outbreaks. If such changes are necessary, transition time may be needed to allow the district or building to make adjustments to mitigation strategies. Periodically, but not more than every six months during the life of the grant, the plan will be reviewed and updates will be completed, if deemed necessary.*

Supporting Documents: <a href="#">MDE and MDHHS "Managing Communicable Diseases in Schools"</a> <a href="#">MDHHS Readiness, Response, Recovery Cycle</a> <a href="#">CDC Community Levels</a> <a href="#">Mi Safe Start Map</a>
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The CDC will determine the COVID-19 community levels. Based on the local COVID-19 level, as determined by the CDC, the Escanaba Area Public Schools, in consultation with MDHHS and PHDMC as necessary, will determine the number of mitigation strategies to implement to maintain optimal learning environments while simultaneously ensuring the health and safety of students and staff.

***The district will comply with legally binding local, state, and federal mandates/orders.***

The following plan outlines measures for the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels of low, medium, and high.  
The levels may not apply in COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, classrooms, or athletics.

**Recommended Prevention/Mitigation Strategies:**

Low	Medium	High
<b>Instructional Format</b>		
In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur.	In-person instruction will occur, but some classes, grades, or buildings may be moved temporarily to remote instruction if mandated by the health department due to outbreaks and to control in-school spread.
<b>Athletics</b>		
Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions will be permitted and additional health and safety protocols as deemed appropriate may be put into place. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.	Athletic practices and competitions may be paused. MHSAA guidelines will be followed.
<i>Athletic testing <b>will not be required</b> unless mandated by the MHSAA or a local or state agency and/or a sanctioning body.</i>		
<b>Cleaning and Disinfecting</b>		
The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures.	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html</a>	The district will follow regular cleaning and disinfection procedures. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented in classrooms during the day as recommended: <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html">https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/disinfecting-building-facility.html</a>

<b>Cohorting</b>		
Mixing of students will not be restricted.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.	Mixing of students may be restricted in some areas, activities, classrooms, and/or buildings.
<b>COVID-19 Testing</b>		
Testing will not be required but may be used as a Test to Stay (TTS) option under medium and high levels of transmission.		
<b>Extracurricular and Field Trips</b>		
Extracurricular activities may occur as scheduled.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.	Short-term dismissals and suspension of extracurricular activities and field trips may be paused.
<b>Face Coverings (Masks)</b>		
Staff, student, volunteer, and visitor masking is optional.	Staff, student, volunteer, and visitor masking may be recommended.	Staff, student, volunteer, and visitor asking may be strongly recommended.
<b>Food Service</b>		
Normal foodservice operations will occur.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place.	Normal food service operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place in consultation with the health department.
	<b>Gathering and Facility Use</b>	
No restrictions on gatherings or use of facilities.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.	Restrictions on gathering size and/or use of facilities may be implemented. Outside agency use of facilities may be restricted.

## Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected.

Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing may be made available. Hand sanitizing may be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.

Hand Hygiene/Hand Sanitation and Respiratory Etiquette are expected and additional opportunities for proper hand washing will be available throughout the day. Hand sanitizing may be required when students leave or enter the classroom and other designated areas.

## Isolation and Quarantine

The District will follow legally binding mandates pursuant to the district's authority under MCL 380.11a(3) and Rule 325.175(2).

## Meetings and Conferences

In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences will be permitted.

In-district/out-of-district meetings and conferences may be limited, virtual, or may be suspended.

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## Offices

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. Visitors and guests are allowed in buildings per district policy.

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. The District may prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate.

District and building offices will be open for normal school business. The District may prioritize visits to minimize office visitor traffic. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Visitor access may be limited.

## Remote/Virtual Learning

The district does not have a standard synchronous virtual option and will do its best to provide resources for students who are unable to attend in person due to isolation or quarantine.

## Social Distancing

Social distancing is not required.

Social Distancing measures may be implemented as practicable. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made.

Additional Social Distancing measures may be implemented. Adjustments to school procedures, schedules, activities, etc., may be made.

## Health Screening

Parents/guardians should conduct a daily student wellness check prior to sending students to school.  
***DO NOT SEND STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IF THEY ARE SICK.***

## Student Illness

Students exhibiting the following symptoms should remain home until symptom-free for 24 hours without the aid of medication or as indicated by a medical professional.

- Fever (temp over 100.4) or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough, shortness of breath
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose (not allergy related and in combination with other symptoms)
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches (in combination with other symptoms)
- Unusual fatigue or lethargy
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Unusual or severe abdominal pain
- Rash (in association with fever or in combination with other symptoms)
- Skin sores that cannot be covered
- New loss of taste or smell

## Transportation

<p>Normal transportation operations will occur.</p>	<p>Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures may be implemented.</p>	<p>Normal transportation operations will occur. Additional health and safety protocols may be put in place as deemed appropriate. Additional cleaning and disinfecting procedures will be implemented.</p>
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**Vaccinations**

The District does not require staff or students to be vaccinated against COVID-19. PHDMC, MDHHS, and CDC recommend COVID-19 vaccination as the leading public health prevention strategy.