

SAUK CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(ISD #0743) 903 State Road, Sauk Centre, MN 56378-1698 (320) 352-2258

ADMINISTRATION

Don Peschel, Superintendent
Amy Millard, Elementary Principal
Sheila Flatau, Secondary Principal
Matt Aker, Secondary Assistant Principal
Brent Lieser, Community Education Director
Scott Bergman, Activities Director

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mike Bushard, Chair
Ann Hess, Vice-Chair
John Drevlow, Clerk
John Rasmussen, Treasurer
Joe Borgerding, Director
Scott Pearson, Director
Josh Rieland, Director

Sauk Centre Public Schools Return to School Plan 2023-24

Updated September 18, 2023

This plan is subject to change based upon requirements of Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education.

Sauk Centre Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all students, staff, families and visitors. To ensure a safe and healthy environment, Sauk Centre Public Schools has developed the following 2023-2024 Return to School Plan.

Sauk Centre Public Schools will return to normal status in the fall of 2023 for schedules, programming and operations including the following:

Schedules

School will be in-person, five days per week with regular start and end times.

Face Coverings

Face coverings are optional and will not be required during the school day or during after school activities. Sauk Centre Public Schools fully supports individuals who choose to wear a mask.

Health Screening and Quarantine

- Self-screening for symptoms of illness will be required to be done at home. Individuals who are ill are encouraged to stay home and report symptoms to the school nurse.
- As prior to Covid, the school policy remains that students and staff must be fever free and/or vomit free for 24 hours with no medications prior to returning to school.
- Schools are mandated to report positive Covid cases to MDH, contact health office as soon as possible to report any positive cases.
- District # 743 staff and students who test positive for Covid are recommended to stay home for 5 days and return with a mask for days 6-10.

- Unvaccinated siblings of Covid-positive students and unvaccinated children of a positive household member are recommended to quarantine for a minimum of two (2) days and may return to school if not exhibiting symptoms. If symptoms begin, please report symptoms to the school nurse.
- If **ONE** or more of the following symptoms: cough, fever over 100.4, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell or **TWO** or more of the following symptoms: sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, extreme fatigue, severe headache, nasal congestion stuffy/runny nose please keep your child home and contact the health office. Students with symptoms should get tested, if negative, they can return as long as fever free/vomit free for 24 hours without use of medication and feeling well enough to participate in school. If you choose to not test your child, you will need to keep them home until symptoms have subsided for at least 24 hours without medication.
- Students determined to be close contacts of a positive student will not be required to quarantine. Parents/guardians of students who are determined to be close contacts will be notified and asked to monitor their symptoms closely as well as report any symptoms to the school nurse.
- Vaccinated students will not be required to quarantine.

Vaccines

Sauk Centre Schools will not require Covid vaccinations for students, staff or visitors.

Social Distancing/Cohorts

Sauk Centre Public Schools will be encouraging social distancing to the extent possible and feasible but will not require a specific distance as was previously used.

Distance Learning

Distance Learning is no longer an option as Executive Order 20-82 has expired. Teachers will provide absent students with homework via Canvas and Seesaw.

Meals

Social Distancing strategies may be used during meal times if necessary. Starting school year 2023-24, we are joining Minnesota's Free School Meals Program. All students can get one breakfast and one lunch free of charge each day at school.

Healthy Facilities

Sauk Centre Public Schools has evaluated the operational capacity of indoor ventilation systems and developed a plan to increase and maintain ventilation provided throughout indoor spaces. Steps have been taken to increase the intake percentage of outside air to increase dilution of contaminants, and minimize recirculation, whenever possible, while maintaining indoor air conditions. In the absence of effective mechanical ventilation, steps have been taken to increase natural ventilation as much as possible, including opening windows when possible and safe. This plan is consistent with applicable Stay Safe Industry guidance, and Sauk Centre Public Schools has consulted the resources in applicable industry guidance and others, as necessary, in developing this plan. Sauk Centre's HVAC system's automation is programmed to ensure it is running in accordance to COVID-19 guidelines. Staff members have been informed of additional practices to enhance room ventilation, including opening windows when feasible.

Cleaning

Cleaning protocols will continue to support mitigation of Covid-19. Drinking fountains and water refill stations will be open for students.

Good Hygiene

Students will continue to be encouraged to practice good hygiene by washing their hands with soap and water during bathroom breaks and before meals and snacks.

Accommodations for Special Education

Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to health and safety policies and procedures will be provided. Parents/guardians should contact his/her child's case manager to inquire about accommodations.

Partnerships with Health Agencies

Sauk Centre Public Schools will continue to collaborate on Covid-19 issues and concerns with Stearns County Public Health, MDE and MDH. Local Covid infection rates will be monitored closely in collaboration with the agencies listed above.

Subject to Change

If necessary, Sauk Centre Public Schools will make changes to ensure the health and safety of students, staff and community members, based on factors such as local conditions, state and federal mandates.