

Jennings Community School

Learning Scenarios Guide

Fall 2020

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Introduction

As the JCS community looks ahead to this school year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that many families, staff members, and members of the JCS community have significant concerns about the risks posed by returning to school in a full, in-person form. We also recognize that many families, staff, and community members have serious concerns about continuing school through distance learning, which brings several of its own risks to learning, employment, mental health and more. During this challenging period in history, there exists no path without risk, and many unknowns remain.

Schools typically rely on advice from the medical and scientific communities when it comes to health-related policies and procedures. At most, we are seven months into the pandemic, and advice from the medical and scientific community has been variable, as knowledge resulting from research on the virus has been developing. How we respond to other illnesses is based on decades of data giving us reliable guidance to follow to protect the health and safety of students, families, and staff. More information about COVID-19 is shared daily and we are having to adjust accordingly. JCS needed to create plans, regardless of how much or how little is known about COVID 19. This document shares these plans.

JCS COVID-Coordinator: Krissy Wright

The COVID-Coordinator is responsible for keeping our school community up-to-date and in compliance with best practices, regulations, and guidelines for school reopening. COVID-related questions and concerns can be directed to the JCS COVID-Coordinator email.

COVID-Coordinator email -- krissy@jenningsclc.org

JCS website for COVID updates: www.jenningsclc.org

Agencies providing COVID and planning guidance to JCS include:

- Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) -- <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19>
Information on MDE's "[Safe Learning Plan for 2020-21](#)" created to assist MN schools
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) -- <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus> and
- Centers for Disease Control -- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV>
- Local public health agencies through MDH-established Regional Support Teams

Learning Scenarios - General Information

How will JCS determine their “safe learning scenario”? (a local and data-driven approach)

On July 30th, Governor Walz released the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan for this school year.

Minnesota schools will be able to move forward into the distance learning, hybrid learning, or full in-person learning scenario based on local factors. The largest factor is the level of COVID-19 activity in the counties served by the school district.

JCS draws students mostly from 2 counties, Ramsey and Hennepin, and we will need to consider both counties in our decision-making process. We will coordinate with county and state departments of health as we determine the safest and most appropriate learning scenario for our school community. Considerations will include:

- o The number of positive COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents in each county
- o The number of students attending JCS from each county
- o Overall activity trends (growing or shrinking number of cases over the most recent 14-day period)

It is likely that the JCS learning scenario will change over the course of the school year, as current health and local COVID-19 data changes. *Because scenario options are based on county case data, JCS may need to adopt a more or less restrictive learning scenario as case rates change.*

In person and hybrid learning scenarios also depend upon JCS having sufficient healthy staffing, and the ability of staff, students, and families to maintain a reasonably safe learning environment. We will be following the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and CDC guidelines for face coverings, physical distancing, sanitation, symptom screening, and exclusion of symptomatic or exposed persons from entering our buildings.

Reminder: Full-time distance learning (DL) will be an option for any JCS family, regardless of the learning scenario in place at any given time.

Learning Scenarios

General Health and Safety Practices

- JCS has a designated COVID-19 Coordinator.
- JCS will have a designated, isolated space for suspected cases of COVID-19.
- Cleaning and sanitizing will be increased in building and vehicles – JCS will follow all safety requirements on products used for this purpose.
- Markings / reminders in place throughout school building to keep students and staff 6-feet apart in gathering areas and wherever possible.
- Additional hand sanitizer stations have been placed throughout the building.
- Face coverings will be worn at all times by any person in the JCS building or on transportation to and from school in accordance with state requirements.
- Building will restrict non-essential visitors and volunteers.
- JCS will limit large gatherings in the buildings.
- Distance learning will be available to any student/family at any time throughout the year.
- JCS will work with families to ensure that all contact information is updated and accurate.

In-Person Learning (Scenario 1)

In this scenario, JCS will create as much space between students and teachers as is feasible during the day but will not be held strictly to enforcing 6 feet of social distancing during primary instructional time in the classroom.

- Daily symptom pre-screening required for staff and students before coming to school.
- Face coverings will be worn at all times by any person in the JCS building or on transportation to and from school in accordance with state requirements.
- Staff will monitor student arrivals and departures to minimize crowding.
- Modified lunch schedules and eating spaces to minimize gatherings.
- Students may drink water at the water cooler using the disposable water cups and practicing 6 feet physical distancing or may bring a personal water bottle.
- Students are discouraged from bringing extra personal items to school.

Hybrid Learning (Scenario 2)

In this scenario, JCS must limit the overall number of people in school facilities and on transportation vehicles to 50% maximum occupancy. Sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people must occur at all times. If distancing cannot be achieved in a space or on a transportation vehicle, the number of occupants must be reduced. This scenario may also be implemented within the JCS building if cases within an advisory occur.

- Daily symptom pre-screening required for staff and students before coming to school.
- Face coverings will be worn at all times by any person in JCS the building or on transportation to and from school in accordance with state requirements.
- Students and staff are required to maintain 6-feet of distancing at all times in school buildings.
- Staff will monitor student arrivals and departures to minimize crowding.
 - Students will attend 1 day per week as scheduled with their advisory. The schedule of days will be shared with students and families. Any days a student is not on site, will be distance learning days.
- Distance Learning materials and support will be provided on days when students are not attending school in person.
- 5-day breakfast and lunch food bundles will be provided for pickup or delivery. Food is to be consumed off-site.
- Students may drink water at the water cooler using the disposable water cups and practicing 6 feet physical distancing.
- Students will not be allowed to bring food or drinks to school to be consumed on-site.
- Students are discouraged from bringing extra personal items to school.

Distance Learning (Scenario 3)

- Students do not attend school in-person.
- Distance Learning instruction and support will be provided by advisors

General Information About Choosing Distance Learning

- **You can opt your student into Distance Learning at any time during the school year by:**
 - Notifying your student's advisor
- **If extenuating circumstances require your student to return to in-person or hybrid learning (when available) at any point during the school year:**
 - Notify your student's advisor
 - Notify the JCS COVID Coordinator at krissy@jenningsclc.org
 - Once it is determined JCS can safely accommodate your child in returning to in-person or hybrid learning (building capacity, appropriate staffing, etc), we will contact you with a returning to on-site learning date.

JCS Learning Scenario Summary

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Scenario determination will be based on MN Department of Education matrix in the [MN Safe Learning Plan](#) and in consultation with MN Department of Health

JCS serves students primarily from 2 counties, Ramsey and Hennepin. It is likely there will be some shifting between the scenarios below in response to COVID-19 activity levels in our entire JCS community throughout the year. JCS will work closely with local county departments of health and the MN Department of Health when considering possible changes in scenarios. If you have any questions, email krissy@jenningsclc.org

Scenario 1: In-person (0-9 cases/10,000)

- In-person learning for all students
- In this scenario there will be: increased cleaning/sanitizing, face covering requirement and best possible physical distancing

Scenario 2: Hybrid (10-29 cases/10,000)

- Hybrid learning for all students
- In this scenario there will be: increased cleaning/sanitizing, face covering requirement and strict physical distancing

Scenario 3: Distance (30-50+ cases/10,000)

- Distance learning for all students
- Follow MDE/MDH guidelines

Reminder: Full-time distance learning (DL) will be an option for any JCS family, regardless of the learning scenario in place at any given time.

Daily Symptom and Health Pre-Screening at Home

Daily symptom pre-screening should be done at home each day and is REQUIRED for all staff and students before riding school transportation and/or coming to school

Families will be responsible for daily symptom and health pre-screening of each student, each day, prior to their students entering buses and school buildings.

Staff will also be responsible for their own symptom and health pre-screening prior to entering buses and school buildings.

Please use the criteria in the following section each day before your student leaves for school to check for symptoms and determine possible exposure to COVID-19. A pdf of this screener is available for download here: [Daily Home Screening for Students](#).

Symptom screening:

If your student has any of the following symptoms, it may indicate the onset of illness and possibly put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- new onset cough or shortness of breath
- fever (100.4 degrees F or higher),
- chills
- muscle pain
- sore throat
- loss of sense of smell or taste
- gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their healthcare provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.

Close contact and potential exposure screening:

Ask, has this person (student or staff):

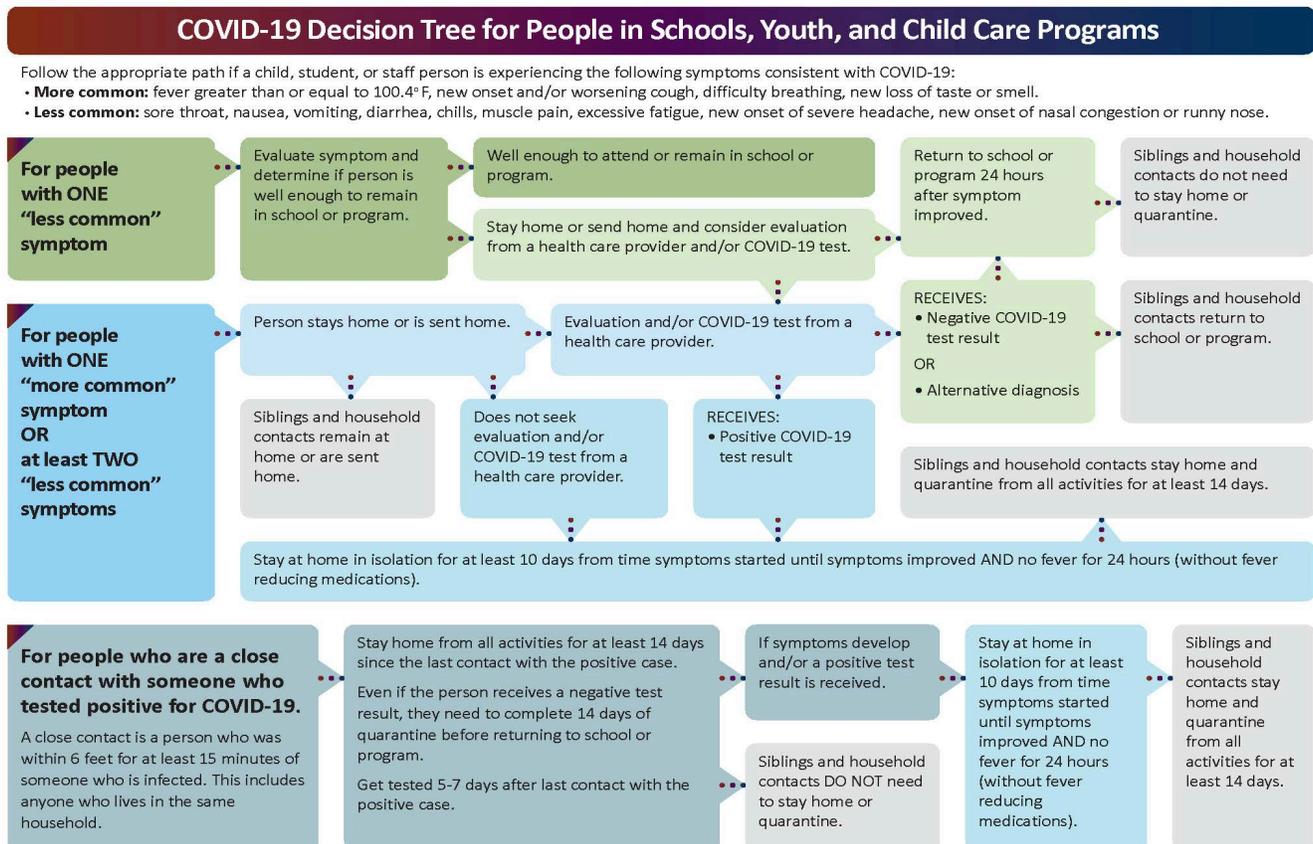
- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19, or
- Has close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person under quarantine for a possible exposure to COVID-19, or
- Traveled or lived in an area where local or state health officials are reporting large case spread of COVID-19, or
- Live in areas of high case transmission of COVID-19 while the school remains open.

If “yes” is the answer to any of the questions above, keep the child at home and notify the school of your child’s absence. Confidentiality will be maintained at all times.

Students and staff exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 without other obvious explanations are asked to stay home. If a student does come to school with symptoms of COVID-19, their parents / guardians will be called immediately to pick up their child. If staff come to school with symptoms, they will be asked to leave immediately in order to prevent the spread of illness.

When should students or staff remain home and / or in isolation?

- If a student or staff member meets criteria for close contact exposure, or has a confirmed case of COVID-19, we will work in consultation with the MN Dept of Health (MDH) to determine when individuals are able to return to school.
- MDH has released the following guidelines to help inform decisions on when to return to school: [Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs](#)
- If a student or their family member or another person they live with, is waiting for a COVID-19 test result, the student should stay home until the test results return. Then use the MDH decision tree to determine when they may return to school



Student and staff isolation if symptoms arise at school:

Each of our buildings has a designated isolation space for people who start to exhibit symptoms during the day, where they will wait to be evaluated or to be picked up by a parent or guardian. Each person who enters the space, while occupied, will be required to sign-in for contact tracing. The area will be sanitized after use, strict social distancing will be required in the area, and staff will wear appropriate PPE while attending students in isolation.

If there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 at school:

The MNCS COVID-Coordinator team will follow the most up-to-date MDH guidelines and work with our MDH Regional Support Team to determine what appropriate measures to take.

For more information on current MDH recommendations, please visit: [What To Do When Notified of a Lab-Confirmed Case of COVID-19 in a School or Child Care Setting](#)

Transportation

Health and safety on district vehicles:

In general, MNCS will be following current MDE and MDH rules and recommendations while transporting students in district owned or operated vehicles. Current guidelines include, but are not limited, to the following:

- Buses will be disinfected following each route with special attention to high touch areas.
- Families will be responsible for daily health screening prior to their students entering district school buildings and/or district transportation vehicles. (*See: Symptom Screening above*)
- Hand sanitizer is readily available for drivers and students.
- Safety signage may be added to promote physical distancing based on MDE/MDH bus capacity limits.
- Additional ventilation may be provided from partially opening windows and/or roof hatches as conditions permit.
- If students need to go home during the school day, parents/guardians will be required to come pick the student up.
- If a driver becomes sick during the day they must follow protocols outlined for people who are ill and must not return to drive students.

Face coverings on district vehicles:

- The state requires face coverings for bus drivers and riders, including students in Kindergarten through Grade 12 (Executive Order 20-81).
- Families are required to provide their students with a mask. The District will provide face coverings for students if necessary.

Drop-off and pick-up:

- When bringing your child to the bus stop please have them remain in the vehicle until boarding time if possible. If there is a building at the bus stop, students will need to follow guidelines pertaining to that facility.
- Bus and parent drop-off and pick-up zones and loading/unloading times will be modified per site as needed to accommodate a potential increase in self-transported students.
- Students will load the bus using seats in the back first and unload the bus from front to back.

En Route procedures:

- Students may have assigned seating on bus routes to assist with social distancing and to determine contact tracing in the event there is a positive case.
- Students from the same household may need to sit together.
- Students may need to sit at windows to provide additional separation.

Student capacity:

MNCS will follow current MDE and MDH guidelines to determine the number of students per bus.

Trailblazer Transit:

Trailblazer Transportation is non-district transportation and operates under a different set of guidelines than district vehicles.

Other School Safety Measures

Cleaning:

We will institute increased daily and weekly cleaning and sanitizing protocols in accordance with guidance outlined in the Minnesota Department of Health's Stay Safe MN COVID-19 Cleaning and Disinfecting Guidance for Schools and Childcare Programs.

- Increased cleaning and sanitizing of high touch surfaces
- CDC approved sanitizing products
- Staff will be trained on all cleaning and sanitizing protocols
- Deep cleaning completed 3 days each week by contracted cleaning staff

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/clean.pdf>

Safe Lunch Options:

Several changes have been made to our daily lunch program to help minimize contacts and possible spread of COVID-19.

- Students will be eating lunches at their individual workstations. Children will need to manage their own lunch, including opening and closing containers and having their own utensils.
- Students are encouraged to bring their own bag lunch from home that does not require refrigeration. Refrigerators will not be available for lunch storage at either site.
- For students not able to bring their own lunch from home, pre-packaged school lunches will be available for purchase or for students who qualify for the Free & Reduced lunch program.
- Microwaves will not be available at the elementary school.

Essential Worker School-Age Care:

- During COVID operations and in accordance with MDE requirements, MNCS will provide elementary age children of essential workers with childcare on scheduled school days when in-person learning is not available.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Will students / staff be required to wear face coverings during outdoor activities?*
 - Students and staff will not be required to wear face overings outdoors as long as social distancing can be reasonably maintained, close contact limited, or if they are engaged in vigorous physical activity.
2. *Will my student have to wear a mask for the entire day?*
 - We will be incorporating outdoor mask breaks during the day. Students will not be required to wear face coverings outdoors as long as social distancing can be reasonably maintained and close contact limited.
3. *Why are Elementary students able to come more often than High School students?*
 - Our experience with Distance Learning (DL) in the spring showed that the youngest students struggled the most with distance learning. The MN Dept of Education (MDE) agrees, and has asked us to emphasize their return to school as a higher priority.
4. *Will students at the High School be required to participate in cleaning this year?*
 - Not likely. They may be able to contribute to some routine tasks (sweeping the shop, etc) but will not be able to help with the cleaning and sanitizing that we're doing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our school.
5. *Will MNCS be providing transportation to and from school this year?*
 - Yes. Hopefully you were able to indicate your busing needs on the MRTL Options Survey. Please contact Cory Anda at the High School with any transportation concerns or questions.
6. *What will your building cleaning practices look like?*
 - Our buildings will be professionally cleaned twice a week. We will be sanitizing high touch and communal surfaces frequently. MDH is emphasizing that COVID-19 is primarily transmitted via respiratory systems. Our main focus for safety is on face coverings and distancing, but sanitizing surfaces on a regular basis is part of our plan.
7. *How will student's IEP services be delivered?*
 - Your student's SPED services team will be contacting you to determine the best way to meet the needs of your student.
8. *Will there be Experience Friday activities at the High School this year?*
 - Maybe. We hope so but right now we're focusing on getting our safe return to school practices dialed in.
9. *How will back-to-school conferences be held this year?*
 - Some online options, although we do have some flexibility to bring families into school (or outside on a picnic table) if masking and distancing policies are followed.

10. *How will 4th-5th-6th-grade students be housed at the High School building?*

- The 4-5-6 students are taking over the east side of the building. Adam's group will be in the Science Room, and Aaron's group is spread along the east wall of the school. 4-5-6 students will enter and exit the building through the Science Room door.

11. *Will students at the High School get their own desks this year?*

- No. Due to social distancing and sanitizing, students will be sharing desks. This means we only need to clean and sanitize 60 desks everyday instead of 130.

12. *Do I need a desk organizer for my High School student this year?*

- No. For cleaning purposes, students will not be able to store any materials at school at this time unless they are pre-approved for a shop project.

13. *What do I need for school supplies?*

- School supply needs may change this year. Please look for updated information from your child's advisor or on our school website www.newcountryschool.com

14. *If my student is opting into Distance Learning, will they be able to schedule time to use resources such as the High School shop?*

- TBD