



**2021-2022 School Year
Mitigation Protocols
for Students and Families**



Goal Statement

As we approach the start of the 2021-22 school year on Wednesday, September 1, the Appleton Area School District has established protocols for:

- mitigating the spread of COVID-19 utilizing layered strategies
- prioritizing the continuity of in-person, academic, and social-emotional learning for all students five days a week
- minimizing social disruption for students, families, and staff

Flexibility within recommended protocols may be needed in order to achieve these goals. The District Leadership Team will work closely with public health officials to address any increased transmission of the COVID-19 virus in our classrooms, schools, programs, or facilities.

Mitigation Strategies

Daily Self-Screenings

- Daily symptom screening will be expected for all students and staff. [Find our Student/Staff Screening & Illness Guide here.](#)
- Families will be asked to continue to be vigilant in checking the health of their students each morning.

Vaccinations

- We will continue to promote and encourage vaccination opportunities for eligible populations.
- All students 12 and older have been eligible to be fully vaccinated with parental consent with ongoing vaccine trials for children under the age of 12.

Masking

- Masks/face coverings are required for all students, EC-12, all district staff, and all visitors while indoors within district facilities. *(As shared on [8-20](#), this will be reviewed on October 11, 2021.)*
- Masking on school transportation, see [Transportation](#) below.
- Masks will continue to be made available on-site to students, staff, and visitors.
- Any requests for accommodations for this requirement should be directed to the school principal.
- The process that will be followed if/when an individual attempts to enter the building or attend classes without the required mask/face covering can be found [here](#).



Physical Distancing

- Similar to last year, District Leadership will direct schools to continue to find opportunities to encourage and promote physical distancing whenever possible to reduce the chances of spreading the virus.
- Schools will orient classrooms and desks to maximize distance, maintaining 3-6 feet whenever possible, or create smaller group clusters or pods.

Contact Tracing

- School nurses or designated staff will continue to conduct contact tracing for positive cases of AASD employees and students.
- Contact tracing will only be conducted for AASD household members of the positive case.
- Staff and families of students in the classroom where the positive case occurred will be notified and encouraged to watch for symptoms.

Quarantining

- Unvaccinated AASD siblings/household members of a positive case will be required to quarantine.
- Asymptomatic AASD siblings/household members of a positive case who provide documentation that they are fully vaccinated are not required to quarantine.
- AASD siblings/household members of a positive case who are not vaccinated must use the 7-10 day quarantine guidance (from the last date of contact) for return to school and school activities.
- The quarantine protocols also apply to **co-curricular activities**.

COVID-19 Testing

- Using the testing resources provided through the state, our goal is to offer both in school and in the home testing options for staff and students (with consent), depending upon the assigned vendor.
- We will offer diagnostic PCR testing for symptomatic staff and students beginning with the start of the 2021-22 school year.

Positive COVID-19 Test

1. Employees and students who have a positive PCR test result are to remain at home until:
 - a. at least 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms,
 - b. AND at least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of fever without the use of medication,
 - c. AND other symptoms have improved.
2. Families must call their student's school to report the positive case.



Visitors/Volunteers to Our Schools

- Visitors/volunteers should follow district protocol (self-screen before coming into buildings).
- Masks are required for all visitors while in schools and other AASD facilities.
- Outside groups may use school facilities when students are not in classes and upon prior approval of mitigation strategies.

Transportation

- All students and drivers will be required to wear masks/face coverings.
- Students must sit in their assigned seats at all times.
- Students from the same household must sit together.
- Distancing rules will be enforced as much as possible, however, we will maintain a full route schedule as we have in previous years.
- Bus seats, along with other high-touch areas, will be sanitized regularly during the day.
- The entire bus will be sanitized each night.

Other Mitigation Strategies

- Hand hygiene stations will continue to be available throughout our buildings.
- Disinfecting wipes will be available throughout our buildings.
- Additional disinfecting of desks and surfaces will take place.
- No quarantine of classroom materials/LMC materials/tech equipment will be implemented.
- Hand-touch water fountains will be disabled. Touchless bottle fillers will be available. Students are encouraged to bring a labeled water bottle to use.
- We continue to use upgraded filters in our air handlers and increased frequency of outside air circulation.
- Lunch will be eaten within the lunchroom or in other areas that the school has used previously to accommodate physical distancing (at least 3 feet or podding).

Information Considered

These recommended mitigation protocols are based on review and consideration of the following information:

- Current community transmission rates
- Summer School In-district Data
- DHS/CDC/Local Public Health Guidance
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Guidance
- Local Vaccination Rates
- Availability of PCR Testing Options for Students and Staff



Tracking and Monitoring

The District Leadership Team will collaborate with public health officials and AASD school nurses to review cases and data on a continuous basis to discuss trends and mitigation strategy implementation.

If an adjustment to mitigation strategies is needed, the updated expectations will be communicated to staff and families as soon as possible

Student Learning

Plan for Accelerated Learning

As part of the AASD's multi-level systems of support, teachers will utilize student assessment data to drive instruction and to address individual learning needs. Literacy universal screening for grades 5K-6 will take place very early in the school year in order to match students more effectively and efficiently with the right text and materials during the launch of reader's and writer's workshops.

Unfinished learning in literacy and mathematics will be diagnosed for grades EC-12 through the following assessments:

Grades EC/4K

- Teaching Strategies Gold Assessment

Grades 5K-1

- Letter Identification
- Concepts About Print
- High-Frequency Word/Read Write
- Sentence Dictation

Grades 1-6

- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment

Grades 5K-8

- i-Ready Reading and Mathematics Diagnostic

Grades 5K-12

- Common Formative Assessments



In-Person Learning

All AASD schools will be in-person five days per week at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Physical distancing will occur to the degree possible (3 - 6 feet recommended) as district facilities will be used to their maximum potential to support student learning. Teachers will be able to utilize small group and individual student learning conferences as needed.

Learning Management System (EC-12)

All AASD courses will continue to use Canvas as the learning management system as part of the delivery of instruction and resources. Similar to the 2020-21 school year, courses in grades 7-12 will continue to use Canvas for the implementation of instruction.

In order to provide students and families with consistency in information as well as to plan for unexpected changes in the delivery of instruction, the weekly **lesson overview (ex. Lesson topics and/or learning targets)** with intended assignments will be published/posted within Canvas by the **start of each school week**. To clarify, the lesson overview for the week will be posted within Canvas. Teachers may need to adjust either the lesson plan or the instructional materials throughout the week to accommodate student/class needs.

Virtual Learning Options

The AASD offers two virtual learning opportunities for full-time enrollment (not for periodic illness/quarantine) through [WCA](#) (4K-12) and [Appleton eSchool](#) (9-12). Enrollment information can be found at the school's respective websites.

Absent Students

Normal absence protocol will be followed. If a student is out for an extended absence, their teacher will provide necessary materials as needed so they can continue their coursework. Virtual learning opportunities will not be provided for the start of the 2021-22 school year for individual absences and quarantines.

However, in the event of large-scale quarantine needing to take place (i.e. whole class / school / program), there will be a temporary transition to virtual learning.

Student Services

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is fundamental to success for every student, every day. We will continue to incorporate it into every classroom and throughout each day. This is essential now more than ever, as we know that this long-term public health emergency has resulted in different types of trauma and high levels of stress for our students, staff, and our families.



Supporting SEL:

- Provide Early Childhood through 4K students with access to social and emotional learning through the Pyramid Model for Social and Emotional Competence Framework
- Provide Kindergarten through 8th Grade students with access to social and emotional learning (SEL) through Second Step
- Continue our Soft Landing at the start of the day through a class meeting and/or Community Building Activity at the elementary level
- Integrate social and emotional learning into Canvas as a course with resources.
- Provide SEL lessons and materials for high school staff to make connections through Advisory and Homeroom
- Continue [Sources of Strength](#)
- Provide opportunities and support for ongoing social and emotional learning for our staff and students
- Utilize the [CASEL Road Map to Reopening](#)
- Adapt our United Way School-Based Mental Health-[Providing Access to Healing \(PATH\)](#)
- Continue our 9th and 11th-grade Wellness Screenings through Samaritan Counseling and added 7th-grade screenings for this school year