

Approved: 8/13/2020

Notre Ecole COVID-19 Safety Plan

2020 - 2021

Notre Ecole is committed to providing a safe environment for all individuals who enter our building. The presence of COVID-19 in our community places added responsibility on all Notre Ecole employees to ensure safety for each other and for our students, families and communities.

The following guidelines make up our safety plan. This plan is a “work in progress” and will be changed as new developments occur related to COVID 19 or any other virus that threatens the health of the school community.

1. All who enter Notre Ecole will have a temperature check upon arrival at the building. If an individual has a temperature higher than 100.4°F they will be asked to communicate with their physician to assist in monitoring the fever. Individuals will be allowed to re-enter Notre Ecole when they have had a 24 hour period of no fever without medication and have a temperature below 100.4°F during their entry check.
2. A student or staff member that has been identified by a physician as being tested positive for COVID-19 should remain at home until receiving a negative test result or has quarantined for a minimum of 10 days. Individuals will be allowed to re-enter Notre Ecole when they have no fever without medication and have a temperature below 100.4°F during their entry check.
3. If a student, teacher, or staff member in contact with others from their cohort/group, tests positive for COVID-19, families will be notified. Those in the same cohort/group should remain at home until receiving a negative test result or have quarantined for a minimum of 10 days. Distance learning will go into effect for students in quarantine.
4. Classroom teachers must wear a face shield indoors, even when social distancing. Because facial expressions and showing students how to form sounds with their lips, tongue and teeth is a vital part of early language acquisition, the face shield allows for students to see the teacher as they demonstrate these sounds.
5. Students must wear face masks in doors, even when social distancing. Masks are required in line for lunch, in line for transition to bus, on the bus, or other school related tasks.
6. A face mask is defined as a face covering that meets the minimum requirement of covering the nose and mouth.
7. Teachers are allowed to run small student groups at a teacher table when the in-person learning scenario, as defined by the MN department of health, applies to Notre Ecole. Guidelines for face shields and face masks must be followed during small group instruction.

8. Students may temporarily remove their masks indoors to eat, drink, or participate in a physical activity where the level of exertion makes wearing a face mask difficult (e.g., exercising in a gym, recess, after school sports activities). When face masks are off, a minimum of 6 feet will be placed between each student. This applies to the lunch service and during indoor gym instruction.
9. Face masks may be temporarily removed during classes or activities held outdoors. People participating in these activities should maintain 6 feet of distance so to the extent feasible.
10. Student work spaces will be disinfected each day. It is important that each surface used by students is wiped at least once per day, sometimes more frequently.

An example would be the teacher small group table. This needs to be wiped at the end of the day as well as during the day when students come and go from this work space. Students should wipe their desktop as well as their chair each day at the end of school. If food is eaten in the classroom extra precautions should be taken to ensure desktops and other surfaces are wiped down before the food is unwrapped.

11. Once students have left the building for the day staff will clean the classrooms and disinfect the school materials and shared objects such as classroom manipulatives, doorhandles, light switches, and recess/gym equipment.
12. Windows and doors will be opened as much as possible to permit the circulation of fresh air within the classrooms.
13. Hand washing or use of hand sanitizer is required for each staff member each hour or more frequently if needed. Handling text books, student workbooks, student papers or having students exchange these materials increases the spread of germs. Teachers and staff are conscious of organizing a clean and safe environment and routines that support this effort.
14. Hand washing will be reinforced during key times during the day. Students must wash hands before eating lunch, snack or any other food in our classrooms. Students must wash their hands anytime they return from the bathroom as well as physical education and recess, as well as any out of room activity.
15. It is preferred for students to bring their own materials and supplies and keep them in their own materials box. Pens, pencils, markers, crayons, rulers, glue sticks, etc. Students should use materials only from their own boxes of supplies as best as possible.
16. Teachers are expected to demonstrate and teach health and safety protocols to students such as proper hand-washing, use of hand sanitizer, and turning away to cough into one's elbow. Visual aids will be placed around the building to remind students of the proper methods or gestures.
17. Notre Ecole protocol for sick students is to remove the student from the classroom and to immediately sanitize the student's desk and chair. That student will be in isolation until pick up. Students who arrive at school with a fever will be isolated upon arrival for parent pick up.
18. Markers will be placed every 6 feet in areas where students and staff may congregate to remind students to stay 6 feet apart. (e.g., during lunch, arrival and dismissal, restrooms, etc.).

19. Nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups or organizations are restricted from entering the building.
20. Students and staff in small cohort groups will stay together as much as possible to limit mixing between cohort groups.
21. Notre Ecole will have staggered start and end times during the school day to prevent student clusters in the entryway.

Notre Ecole will be closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation following the MDH guidelines. If the number of COVID cases increases to a point where the school learning plan needs to be modified to a hybrid or distance learning model Notre Ecole families, teachers, and staff will be notified.

In accordance with Governor Walz's Executive Order 20-82 and the MN Safe Learning Plan an equitable distance learning model will be offered to all families who choose not to attend in-person learning due to medical risks or other safety concerns. Families are not required to provide documentation of risks.

There are other circumstances that may not be foreseen with the guidelines above. If different situations arise that need to be addressed, please contact Michele Chalmeau at michele.chalmeau@notreecole.org or (952) 228-1097.