

Safe Return to New Century School

In-person instruction is a priority. CDC recommends that staff and students return to full-time, in-person learning with layered prevention strategies in place.

New Century School Staff receive reiterative training and on-going updates regarding state and local requirements, recommendations, guidance, and best practices for in-person learning.

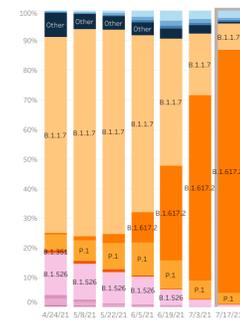
If the school community (families and students) request Online Learning (OLL), New Century School has MDE approval to offer that option.

If a student must quarantine, New Century School may offer Online Learning (OLL).

Regardless of the learning model, New Century is committed to the safety of staff and students and providing exceptional learning experiences for students during COVID-19 exigencies, undulations, and uncertainties.

COVID-19	
Trend Data	The CDC continues to release updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. Recently, CDC issued guidance due to

Delta Variant
B.1.617.2



several concerning developments and newly emerging data signals.

First, a significant increase in new cases reversed what had been a steady decline since January 2021. In the days leading up to the guidance update, CDC saw a rapid and alarming rise in the COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates around the country.

In late June, the 7-day moving average of reported cases was around 12,000. On July 27, the 7-day moving average of cases reached over 60,000. This case rate looked more like the rate of cases we had seen before the vaccine was widely available.

Second, new data began to emerge that the Delta variant was more infectious and was leading to increased transmissibility when compared with other variants, even in some vaccinated individuals. This includes recently published data from CDC and our public health partners, unpublished surveillance data that will be publicly available in the coming weeks, information included in CDC’s updated [Science Brief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination](#), and ongoing outbreak investigations linked to the Delta variant.

Delta is currently [the predominant variant](#) of the virus in the United States. Related:

- Highly transmissible - spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another, compared with earlier strains.
- Recently surged to become the predominant variant –from <1% in May to over 80% of cases in July.
- Causing some “vaccine breakthrough infections,” meaning infections in fully vaccinated people.
 - Most breakthrough infections are mild.
 - Vaccines are working as they should - they are preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death.
- Higher viral loads, i.e., more virus in the body.
- Fully vaccinated people might be infectious and might potentially spread the virus to others.

Younger COVID-19 Cases	
<p>New Concerns About Younger COVID-19 Cases During Delta Spike</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data show recent increases in infection among children • During the Fall 2020 surge, children 9 and younger made up roughly 5% of cases and older students ages 10 to 19 made up almost 12%. • Over the past two months, the overall share of cases among children 9 and younger has <i>almost doubled to 9.6%</i>. The increase over the same period in older children is less pronounced, but up slightly to 13%. • While still very low, the likelihood of child cases being hospitalized is also greater in recent months, compared to the fall 2020 peak. • This share of cases being hospitalized has increased across all age groups in recent months. • Like case growth trends, hospitalization numbers have been increasing among children under 19.

Prevention	
<p>General: Layering</p>	<p>The more prevention strategies utilized, the more New Century School will be protected against the spread of COVID. The CDC recommends layering prevention strategies, including, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular monitoring of transmission levels; • vaccination coverage levels; • screening/testing results and the occurrence of outbreaks; • physical distancing; • the use of cohorts • excluding students/staff from school when infected; • encouraging testing before a return to school • promoting vaccinations; • maintaining effective ventilation systems; • handwashing and respiratory etiquette;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cleaning and disinfection.
Vaccination	<p>Vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy. All Minnesotans 12 years old and older are urged to be vaccinated.</p> <p>The Minnesota Department of Health has launched the Minnesota COVID-19 Vaccine Connector as well as a Public Hotline at 1.833.431.2053</p> <p>The mitigating circumstances and spread of the virus are serious. New Century School Leadership is addressing the severity of the virus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All New Century School Staff are required to be fully vaccinated. • Staff who conscientiously object based on religious, health, or personal reasons must request an accommodation and test for COVID-19 weekly.
'Vax to School'	<p>The Minnesota Department of Health has launched a Vaccination Campaign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vax to school - teachers • Vax to school - students
Masking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor masking is required for all New Century School teachers, staff, students, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status. • Masking is required for students while on school buses. School districts are required to comply with the CDC Order requiring masking on school transportation.
Distancing	<p>New Century School will maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning groups will be class based in the lower (preK-5) grades and pod based for the Middle School (6-8) to minimize movement across spaces. • Meals will be consumed in classrooms.

Screening and Testing	
General	Screening testing identifies infected persons, both those with and without symptoms, who may be contagious so that measures can be taken to prevent further exposures and transmission.
Screening	<p>The <u>Decision Tree</u> and accompanying guidance (including <u>Somali</u>) establishes the screening criteria and decision matrix of options based on symptoms.</p> <p>Symptoms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● More Common are one or more of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher ○ New cough or a cough that gets worse ○ Difficulty/hard time breathing ○ New loss of taste or smell ● Less Common are two or more of these: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sore throat ○ Nausea ○ Vomiting, ○ Diarrhea ○ Chills ○ Muscle pain ○ Extreme fatigue/feeling very tired ○ New severe/very bad headache ○ New nasal congestion/stuffy or runny nose
Path 1	<p>When the person has only one symptom from the list of less common symptoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NCS will evaluate the symptom to decide if the person is well enough to stay in school. Siblings and all others who live in the house DO NOT need to go home or stay home. ● If the person is well enough, they may stay school ● If the person is not well enough, they should stay home or be sent home.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the person goes home and does not develop additional symptoms, NCS will allow the person to return 24 hours after the symptom has improved. If the person goes home, they should consider an evaluation from a doctor or health care provider and get a COVID-19 test. • If the person gets an evaluation and/or a COVID-19 test, they should follow the second path detailed below.
Path 2	<p>When the person has one more common symptom or at least two less common symptoms, when a person has any symptom while under quarantine, or when a person who started in the first path decides to get an evaluation from a doctor or other health care provider and/or get a COVID-19 test.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person must stay home or is sent home, and their siblings and others who live with them must stay home or are also sent home. • If the person does not get an evaluation from a doctor or another health care provider or get a COVID-19 test, they must stay at home away from others (isolation), including those who live in the house if possible, for at least 10 days starting from the time their symptoms started and until their symptoms have improved and they have no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. Siblings and all others who live with them must stay home and stay away from all activities for at least 14 days (quarantine). Day 1 of quarantine starts the day after their last day of contact (Day 0) with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms. For household members of someone with COVID-19, quarantine starts after the person with COVID-19 completes their isolation period. If multiple people in the home have COVID-19, the 14 days start after the last person has completed their isolation. This may

	<p>mean that other household members will need to quarantine for 24 days or more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If the person is told by their doctor or other health care provider that their symptoms are from something else (alternate diagnosis), and not from COVID-19, they can then go back to school or the program 24 hours after their symptoms have improved or as directed by their doctor or other health care provider. Siblings and other people they live with now no longer need to stay home or to stay away from other activities and can return to school. ● If the person tests negative for COVID-19, they can go back to school 24 hours after their symptoms have improved. Siblings and other people they live with now do not need to stay home or to stay away from other activities and can return to school. ● If the person tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay at home away from others (isolation), including those who live in the house if possible, for at least 10 days, starting from the time their symptoms started and until their symptoms have improved and they have no fever for 24 hours without using fever-reducing medications. Siblings and all others who live with them must stay home and stay away from all activities for at least 14 days (quarantine), starting with the day they last had contact with the person who has COVID-19 symptoms.
Testing	<p>Regular and reiterative testing is encouraged for all staff and required weekly by staff if they are not vaccinated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Convenient, at-home testing is available to all Minnesotans at no cost. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vault Health ○ https://learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/

Exposure	
Close Contact	<p>A close contact means being less than 6 feet from someone for 15 minutes or more throughout a 24-hour period.</p> <p>If a person has close contact with someone who has been told by a doctor, clinic, or hospital that they have COVID-19, NCS will follow the appropriate guidance below:</p> <p>If fully vaccinated (it has been two weeks since the last dose of vaccine):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Test three to five days after exposure to someone with COVID-19. ● Wear a mask in public, indoor settings for 14 days following exposure or until the test result is negative. <p>If not fully vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tested immediately. ● If the test is negative, test again three to five days after the last time you were close to the person with COVID-19. ● Stay home and away from others. ● If at high risk of severe illness, seek medicine to prevent disease. Refer to COVID-19 Medications: Monoclonal antibodies for more information.
Fully Vaccinated More... Breakthrough	<p>Staff who have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19 + at least 2 weeks after the final dose of vaccine (enough time for the body to develop immunity), have good protection against severe disease. Early data shows that vaccines not only prevent adults from getting ill from COVID-19, they also help from spreading it to others. However, if staff are infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant they can spread the virus to others. Some people who are fully vaccinated will get sick if they are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. These are called “vaccine breakthrough cases.” Therefore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Do not visit with people who have COVID-19. If someone in your household gets sick, do your best to keep them away from others in the house. If you are fully vaccinated, you can care for the person who is sick but maintain 6 feet distance. ● Do not visit people who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in quarantine.

	<p>If fully vaccinated and exposed, no need to quarantine if BOTH of the following are true:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COVID-19 exposure was at least 14 days after the vaccination series was fully completed. • No current symptoms of COVID-19.
Isolation	<p>If a student becomes symptomatic while in attendance, NCS will isolate them in a designated space and send them home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symptomatic children who are waiting to be picked up will remain under the visual supervision of a staff member. • Physical distancing will be implemented to the extent possible if there is more than one ill person sharing a space.
Quarantine	NCS will follow the MDH General Guidance

Tracing and Reporting	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close contacts generally include those within 6 feet for 15 minutes, but should consider duration, activity risk, and other factors to determine who meets the definition. • Exception: in an indoor setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3-6 feet if masked.
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The COVID-19 Coordinator reports positive cases to MDH via Redcap. • NCS Leadership provides notification to those who were exposed as well as guidance based on the requirements.

Cleaning and Disinfection	
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All staff and students are encouraged to wash hands often and in accordance with CDC guidance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Cleaning once a day ensures removal of potential virus that may be on surfaces.● Disinfecting (using disinfectants on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency COVID-19 list) removes any remaining germs on surfaces, which further reduces any risk of spreading infection.● A daily schedule includes routine environmental cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces in classrooms and common spaces.● Routine environmental cleaning is scheduled when students and teachers are not occupying the space.
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