Jennings Community School
Learning Scenarios Guide
Fall 2020

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Updated: 9/1/2020
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
- 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:*

- The number of positive COVID-19 cases per 10,000 residents in each county
- The number of students attending JCS from each county
- 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
Guide 2020-2021

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

**COVID-19 Decision Tree for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs**

Follow the appropriate path if a child, student, or staff person is experiencing the following symptoms consistent with COVID-19:
- More common: fever greater than or equal to 100.4°F, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

**Student and staff isolation if symptoms arise at school:**

Our school building 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 JCS 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
Face Coverings At School

Requirements for face coverings:
JCS will follow current MDE and MDH guidelines on the requirements for face coverings. Face coverings are meant to protect other people in case the wearer does not know they are infected with COVID-19, and along with other measures like good hand hygiene and social distancing work together to slow the spread.

JCS students, staff and other people entering the JCS school building are required to wear a face covering, as outlined in Executive Order 20-81 available at (Executive Order 20-81) and dated July 25th, 2020. This mask requirement applies in K-12 school buildings or district offices or riding on school transportation. To provide a consistent, safe environment for students and staff, this requirement applies equally to kindergarteners, even those aged 5 or under. Students and staff also have increased flexibility to wear face “shields” (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face, see below).

Who should not wear a face covering:
Face coverings should not be placed on anyone under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, anyone who is incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the face covering without assistance, or anyone who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.

- Exceptions to mask use will be determined on an individual basis, based on medical, developmental, or behavioral health needs. Documentation will be required.

Outdoor settings and when can a face covering be removed:
JCS will follow current MDE and MDH guidelines on when students, staff and other people in the building may temporarily remove their face covering or face shield.
Allowable face coverings and who will provide them:
Students and staff of JCS can wear their own face covering of their choosing, which can include a paper or disposable mask, cloth mask, neck gaiter, scarf, bandanna, or a religious face covering. A face covering must cover the mouth and nose completely, should not be overly tight or restrictive, and should feel comfortable to wear. Any masks that incorporate a valve that is designed to facilitate easy exhaling, mesh masks, or masks with openings, holes, visible gaps in the design or material, or vents are not sufficient face coverings because they allow droplets to be released from the mask.

The State of Minnesota will provide every K-12 student and school staff member with one cloth face covering. Every school will also receive three disposable face masks per student and face shields for teachers.

Face “shields” (a clear plastic barrier that covers the face):
A face shield is a clear plastic barrier that covers the face, and allows visibility of facial expressions and lip movements for speech perception and may be used as an alternative to a face covering in the following situations:

- Among students in K through grade 8, when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.
- By teachers (all grades), when wearing a face covering may impede the educational process.
- For staff, students, or visitors who cannot tolerate a face covering due to a developmental, medical, or behavioral health condition.
- For staff providing direct support student services, when a face covering impedes the service being provided.
- For optimal protection, the face shield should extend below the chin anteriorly, to the ears laterally, and there should be no exposed gap between the forehead and the shield’s headpiece.

Interventions for implementing face covering requirements:
In case of a student who is unable to comply with face covering requirements, interventions such as gentle reminders, trying a different style of face covering, etc will be tried. If the student is still unable to comply, a parent will be notified and distance learning options will be presented.

- Exceptions to mask use will be determined on an individual basis, based on medical, developmental, or behavioral health needs. Documentation will be required.
Transportation

Health and safety in school vehicles:
In general, JCS will be following current MDE and MDH rules and recommendations while transporting students in district owned or operated vehicles. Some of the guidelines include, but are not limited to:

- Vans will be disinfected following each ride with special attention to high touch areas.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available for drivers and students.
- Safety signage may be added to promote physical distancing based on MDE/MDH van 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 may 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 in school vehicles:

- The state requires face coverings for school vehicle 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.

En Route procedures:

- Students may have assigned seating on van routes to assist with physical 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:
JCS will follow current MDE and MDH guidelines to determine the number of students per bus.

Metro Transit:
Metro Transit is non-district transportation and operates under a different set of guidelines than school 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 frequently by contracted cleaning staff

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

Safe Breakfast and Lunch Options:
Changes have been made to our daily lunch program to help minimize contacts and possible spread of COVID-19.

- 5-day breakfast and lunch food bundles will be provided for pickup or delivery. Food is to be consumed off-site.

Shortened day for in-person learning:
Students participating in the hybrid learning model will be on-site 1 day per week from 10am-1pm. The rest of the week school work will be completed online.
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 coverings outdoors as long as physical 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. **Will JCS be providing transportation to and from school this year?**
   - Yes. As in past years, we will be providing tokens for rides on Metro Transit.

4. **What will your building cleaning practices look like?**
   - Our buildings will be professionally cleaned 5 times 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.

5. **How will student’s IEP services be delivered?**
   - If necessary, your student’s SPED team will be contacting you to determine the best way to meet the needs of your student. Please reach out to the SPED teacher, director or your student’s advisor with any questions or concerns.

6. **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.

7. **How will school conferences be held this year?**
   - Some online options, although we do have some flexibility to bring families into school if masking and distancing policies are followed.
Contact Information

School website: www.jenningsclc.org
School phone: (651) 649-5403

Covid Coordinator: Krissy Wright / krissy@jenningsclc.org / (507) 351-0422

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