



Return to School Plan

**A guide to the challenges of COVID-19 and the
2022-2023 school year**

All information is subject to change

Message from Superintendent Trueebenbach

Greetings Big Lake!

As a district, we are dedicated to ensuring that our communication and our thinking is strategic, methodical and transparent in all we do. This Return to School Plan is meant to accomplish that and share our current strategy to returning students to school in the fall of 2022. Know that this is not the final version of this plan. We will continue to update our plans with guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health.

As we navigate our return, we continue to keep sight of our district's strategic plan and its priorities and goals. Even though we've experienced an unusual year, our community's vision and priorities for their children's education is of the utmost importance. While making each critical decision we consider how to:

- Ensure the health and safety of our students, staff, and families by adhering to public health recommendations
- Focus on continuing to raise student achievement and meeting the individual needs of students
- Comply with local, state and federal laws and regulations
- Maintain a fiscally responsible budget



While working through our plans, our end goal is to resume building meaningful connections with our students and provide exceptional learning opportunities for them. While this is our end goal, as we have learned from the past two years, our delivery to achieve this goal needs to be flexible and fluid.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this plan, please reach out to us by emailing communications@biglakeschools.org.

Thank you for your continued support of Big Lake Schools!

Tim Trueebenbach

Regulatory Agencies

Our Return to School Plan is based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and any orders issued by the Governor's Office. As a district, we will always follow what is required by these regulatory agencies and adjust any health, safety, or educational procedures to accommodate these requirements.

Face Coverings

It is recommended that staff, students, and visitors wear a face covering while attending school, participating in activities, and district transportation vehicles.

Types of allowable face coverings include:

- Paper or disposable mask
- Cloth mask
- Scarf
- Bandana
- Religious face covering

*Note: Face covering recommendations or requirements are based on guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health. Any changes to current guidance will be communicated accordingly.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides additional resources about recommendations on face coverings: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/facecover.html>

STAY SAFE MN

mn.gov/covid19

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Vaccinations

All students and staff will be welcome to participate in school activities and events, regardless if they have been vaccinated for COVID-19 or not. Big Lake Schools will not require any staff or student to be vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to participating in school functions. Our district will continue to partner with Sherburne County Public Health and the Minnesota Department of Health to offer vaccination clinics after hours, in our school facilities.

COVID-19 Testing

COVID-19 tests are not required by Big Lake Schools to participate in school activities and events. However, we strongly encourage every student, staff, and community member to test frequently.

Testing kits can be ordered through the Minnesota Department of Health or district students may receive a kit by contacting your building's health office.

Contact Tracing & Quarantine

Staying home when you are sick is one of our best ways to fight COVID-19. Keeping sick children and children who are exposed to COVID-19 away from others helps stop the spread of the virus to other children, staff, and surrounding community. Parents and guardians can use the link below to access the COVID-19 Isolation Guide for People in Schools, Youth, and Child Care Programs.

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

This tool applies to children, students, or staff members who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 fall into two groups:

- More common symptoms are one or more of these: fever of 100.4 F or higher, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, and new loss of taste or smell.
- Less common symptoms are two or more of these: sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea,

Big Lake Schools will not conduct contact tracing, however, we will work closely with public health entities on cases that require additional needs.

Daily Symptom Check

To help curb the spread of COVID-19 and keep our school community healthy, we ask that all staff and students complete a daily symptom check before coming to school. We ask that parents assist students with this screening.



Is your child experiencing?

- Chills or fever of 100.4 degrees or higher?
- A new or worsening cough?
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing?
- Fatigue?
- Unexplained muscle aches or soreness?
- A new loss of taste or smell?
- A sore throat?
- Nausea or vomiting?
- Diarrhea?
- In the past 14 days have you or your child come in contact with someone who has a positive case of COVID-19?

If YES to any of the questions above seek guidance from your medical provider.

Contact your child's school to inform them of you/your child's symptoms.

More information regarding COVID-19 can be found on the Minnesota Department of Health's website: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/>

Sanitation Procedures

The safety of our employees and students is our top priority. Upon reopening, our schools have been cleaned and disinfected. In addition to the deep cleaning of facilities, the district is committed to protecting students and staff in order to reduce the risk of the spread of COVID-19.

SCHOOL HOURS

- All staff will receive instruction regarding the proper use and techniques of disinfecting surfaces.
- Teachers and Educational Support Staff will assist with the implementation of disinfecting high touch classroom surfaces between classes and during breaks during the school day.
- Custodial staff will provide each classroom with EPA registered disinfectant that is effective in killing emerging viruses such as COVID-19.
- Classrooms will receive 1 quart spray bottles that are properly labeled along with towels and PPE as needed for staff to safely assist with disinfection of their assigned educational space and/or equipment.
- Maintenance staff will perform scheduled disinfection of restroom facilities throughout the school day.
- Maintenance staff will perform periodic surface sanitation of high touch surfaces throughout the school day.

AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

Maintenance staff will perform nightly deep cleaning of classrooms that include the following tasks:

- Disinfection of door handles, countertops, desktops or work surfaces and common touch areas on doors and walls.
- Disinfection of handwashing stations and restrooms.
- Stocking of sanitation supplies - soap, towels, hand sanitizer and refilling of classroom disinfectant spray bottles and towels.
- Vacuuming/sweeping/mopping of floor surfaces
- Trash removal and disposal.



Food Service

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) did not extend free meals for the 2022-2023 school year. Meals will no longer be free of charge to all students. Student meal prices are \$ 1.75 for breakfast with kindergarten breakfasts being free due to funding from the state of Minnesota. Lunch meal prices are \$3.05 for elementary students and \$3.15 for middle and high school students. Families are encouraged to ensure their My School Bucks account is up to date and has funds available for school meals prior to the start of the school year.

Families are also encouraged to apply for free and reduced meal benefits. Qualifying for free and reduced meal benefits can allow a family to receive discounts on other fee based items. A family can reapply as many times as they want for free and reduced benefits throughout the school year as financial situations may change. Parents or guardians may download applications from the District's website or complete the application online through Infinite Campus Parent Portal by clicking on applications and forms.

Special Education Services

Special education services will continue to be provided as Big Lake Schools implements any learning scenarios. For short term (one week or less) unplanned school closures, including Elearning days for inclement weather, the district will ensure your child has contact from any special education teachers and service providers they would have seen if in person. For extended unplanned school closures, your child's case manager will reach out during the first week of the absence to work with you in creating a unique plan that allows your child continued access to their Free and Appropriate Public Education. Parents' first connection for questions related to special education will be their child's case manager.

Weather Related Learning Plan

In the event that Big Lake Schools were to close due to inclement weather, students will engage in e-learning. Students and staff are expected to bring their school issued devices and chargers home daily. Teachers will post assignments within 90 minutes of the start of the scheduled school day and will be available to students for most of the day with the exception of lunch and their professional learning community meetings.

Transportation

Vision Transportation is excited to partner with Big Lake Schools again this year to assist with your student's transportation needs. Please review the transportation guidelines found on the Big Lake Schools webpage under the Parent & Students section, titled "Getting to/from School". We would appreciate your help in sharing this information with your student, along with asking them to please stay seated while the bus is in motion along with sitting in their assigned seats. We will be using the BusWhere app again this school year to assist with tracking your student on their assigned bus route. If you have any questions or need assistance getting access to this app, please contact our office at: officestaff@visionmidwest.com or call: 763-263-7900, option 1 for assistance.

