



**FIT Academy Charter School Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services**

The purpose of the Safe to Return plan is to describe in its plan under section 2001(i)(1) of the ARP Act for the safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services including how it will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC:

**Updated September 15, 2021**

FIT Academy will monitor county level transmission levels as well as school infection rates in evaluating and modifying our COVID mitigation protocols. In order to allow for masks/face coverings to remain optional, FIT Academy Charter School is implementing these updated practices:

- Regular monitoring of our school community infection rates. If any of the following metrics are reached, the COVID-19 Response Team will meet to determine **which** additional temporary mitigation strategies are needed to reduce school wide transmission.
  - The influenza like illnesses rate reaches 10 building wide at any given time
  - The confirmed case count building-wide reaches 6 at any given time
  - There is more than one confirmed case in one class
- All non-essential visitors will be restricted from the building when the county infection rate is considered substantial or high by county metrics defined as transmission rates above 10 per 10,000. **The rate as of 9/9/21 was 35.4.**
- It is requested and posted that all non-vaccinated visitors to the school wear a face covering.
- It is strongly recommended that all non-vaccinated staff wear face coverings.
- Parents are asked to monitor students daily at home and not send students who are ill to school.
- Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Students/staff need to be asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines prior to their return onsite.
- Families will be notified when there is a confirmed case in their child's class.
- If someone in staff/student's household tests positive for COVID-19 and they are not fully vaccinated, they will need to quarantine per the MDH Decision Tree.
- Bi-weekly COVID testing is available to all staff free of charge.
- All students report directly to their classroom or homeroom upon arrival.
- Students encouraged to wash hands regularly including prior to lunch.
- Lunch table seating is limited to 50% capacity.
- Students/staff will follow one-way traffic pattern. Directional signage is posted throughout the building.
- Social distancing of 3 feet or more whenever possible.
- Regular communication and evaluation of this mitigation plan with the Dakota county health department.

\* Families and staff will be updated with any changes to our Plan for Safe Return to School.

**Updated August 24, 2021**

**Universal and correct wearing of masks**

Masks/face coverings will be optional for staff and students when school begins. Staff who are not vaccinated are strongly encouraged to mask. Please note that this plan is subject to continuous review.

Face coverings are REQUIRED to be worn by all staff and students riding in school buses as part of instructional programming (e.g. to and from school, field trips, educational outings) per the CDC's federal order.

**[Updated 8/30/21]** It is recommended and posted that all non-vaccinated visitors to the school wear a face covering

If there are any *required* changes to masking requirements by the CDC, MDH or MDE, those changes will be implemented by FIT Academy.

**Screening Protocols for Students and Staff**

All students and employees should stay home if they are not feeling well.

Do not come to school/work if you tested positive for COVID-19 or are not feeling well.

Do not come to school/work if anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, unless you are fully vaccinated and not experiencing symptoms.

Staff and students are encouraged to self-monitor symptoms throughout the day. Anyone who begins to experience symptoms should inform their supervisor and/or teacher and should make plans to leave school/work immediately.

Signage will be placed on doors that are designated for students and/or staff, stating anyone who is not feeling well should not enter the building. Staff should follow their work policy for reporting an illness.

If you are reporting a positive COVID-19 case, please contact the Health Office at 952-847-3798.

**Suspected/Confirmed Case of COVID-19 Protocol**

The school will have a designated space for suspected cases of COVID-19.

Symptomatic individuals will be immediately sent home. Symptomatic people will be required to wear a face covering and will be isolated while waiting to go home.

Students and staff should stay home until symptoms have resolved and and/or receive a negative COVID test.

**[Updated 8/30/21]** Students/staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms. Students/staff need to be asymptomatic and fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines prior to their return onsite

Testing is not required to return to school/work. \*See FAQ below for specific return to school/work criteria.

For more information on where to get tested, visit [this site](#).

MDH guidance will be followed for notifying staff, families and the public as needed if a person with COVID-19 was on the school premises while infectious. This will be done while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA and all other state and federal laws.

MDH will be notified of confirmed COVID-19 cases among students and staff (as required by Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4605.7050).

**Modifying facilities to allow for physical distancing (e.g., use of cohorts/pods)**

Students/staff will be encouraged to physically distance when possible in the classroom settings.

Students/staff will be strongly encouraged to follow the 'one-way' flow of student movement in the hallways.

In the cafeteria, table capacities will be limited to 50% of available seating.

When feasible, students will socially distance in the classroom setting.

Proposed – Subject to Board Approval

### **Handwashing and respiratory etiquette**

Students and staff are encouraged to wash their hands prior to eating, after use of the restroom and after coughing/sneezing. Hand sanitizer will be available in each classroom, the cafeteria and in the general use areas of the school. Students and staff are encouraged to cover their cough and to cough/sneeze into their elbow. Proper handwashing hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be shared with students and staff. Posters/signage with these reminders will be placed at the appropriate locations.

### **Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation**

High frequency touch areas will be cleaned/sanitized throughout the day and as needed.

Daily school cleaning measures will remain in place.

Ventilation systems were upgraded in 2020. These systems will continue to be monitored and maintained according to the service provider's recommendations.

### **Vaccine Opportunities**

In working with local public health, local vaccine opportunities may be available. COVID-19 vaccines are recommended for eligible individuals by MDH and CDC. The COVID-19 vaccine is not a requirement to attend school. Families may also check local clinic opportunities or refer to the [Minnesota Vaccine Finder](#) website.

### **Coordination with State and local health officials**

FIT Academy will continue to work with state and local officials in the areas of testing events as well as notification of and contact tracing in the event of a positive COVID-19 case.

FIT Academy will hold staff testing events every two weeks on the assigned day for staff. Staff participation is optional.

### **Ensuring continuity of services**

FIT Academy will implement contingency learning plans for all students if required by state and/or local health officials. These plans may involve limited time onsite at school and/or virtual learning. These learning plans will address students' academic needs as well as respond to students' and staff social, emotional, mental health, and other needs as they may arise and /or as the school is notified of specific needs.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Symptoms possibly related to COVID-19:** fever greater than or equal to 100.4, new onset and/or worsening cough, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, chills, muscle pain, excessive fatigue, new onset of severe headache, new onset of nasal congestion or runny nose.

### **Q: What should I do if I am feeling ill?**

**A:** Students and staff should stay home until symptoms have resolved and/or receive a negative COVID test. Testing is not required to return to school/work/childcare. However, the following must be followed, if applicable:

- Fever-free for at least 24 hours, without using fever reducing medication
- No vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours prior to returning
- If you or your child is diagnosed with strep, please keep them home until they have been on an antibiotic for 12 hours and fever-free for at least 24 hours.

### **Q: What should I do if I receive a positive test result for COVID-19?**

**A:** If you test positive for COVID-19:

- Stay home for at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND fever free for at least 24 hours AND improvement of other symptoms (without fever reducing medications).
- If you are not experiencing symptoms, stay home for 10 days from the test collection date.
- Contact our Health Office at 952-247-3798 for further guidance.

- If your student tests positive, please notify the Health Office.

**Q: What should I do if someone in my household is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19?**

**A:** If you are not experiencing symptoms, you may continue to attend school/work/childcare.

**Q: What should I do if someone in my household tests positive for COVID-19?**

**A:** If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 and you are fully vaccinated, you will not need to quarantine if documentation is provided to the District noting the dates your vaccinations were received and you do not have any symptoms related to COVID-19.

If someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 and you are not fully vaccinated, you will need to quarantine per the MDH Decision Tree.

**Q: What should I do if I was exposed to someone who has COVID-19 that does NOT live in my household?**

**A:** You may continue to come to school/daycare, unless you develop symptoms.

**Q: What will happen if there is a positive case of COVID-19 in my school or classroom?**

**A:** Families will be notified if an individual tests positive and was involved in your program during their infectious period. The letter will provide further direction regarding next steps including quarantine as appropriate. As a reminder, if symptoms develop, you need to stay home and follow the process for staying home when ill.

**Q: Where can I receive a COVID test?**

**A:** Students and staff may refer to [this site](#) for guidance on where to find a COVID test.