



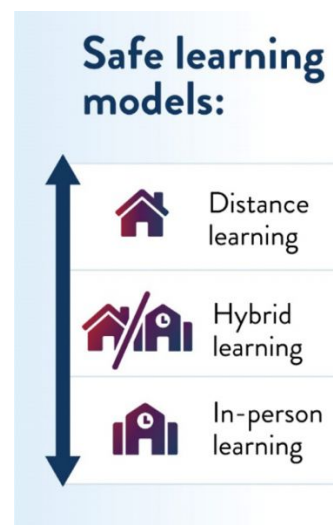
Benton-Stearns Education Center's Safe Learning Plan 2020-21 School Year

Based on the Minnesota Department of Education we have prepared three instructional models for the 2020-21 school year for the programs of the Benton-Stearns Education Center. The 3 plans include an in-person learning plan, a hybrid plan and a distance learning plan.

Learning Option 1:

In person learning for all students

- All students will be physically present in the school building 5 days per week.
- Benton-Stearns will follow guidance from the Mn Department of Health, the Mn Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control when setting up the classroom and school wide learning environments.
- Students will practice social distancing whenever possible. Classrooms will be set up with desks the recommended 6 feet apart.
- Students and staff will wear facial coverings while inside the building (unless medically excused by a doctor). Masks and face shields will be made available. Staff will take necessary safety precautions for cleaning any shared classroom supplies.
- Hand washing, social distancing and sanitization protocols will be taught and followed.
- Students will be taught directional traffic flow for changing classes with social distancing encouraged. Signs that help teach safety expectations will be posted in the hallways, the cafeteria, in the classrooms, at exits and entrances.
- Students will keep necessary materials with them to reduce the need to congregate in the coat storage area.



- Food will be trayed by staff and handed to students to avoid any possible contamination at the milk cooler or silverware area. There will be no “shared food” table. The number of students in the cafeteria will be limited, and students will be expected to socially distance. Some student groups will be eating in the classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- There will be no sharing of technology. Students will be issued a personal device for learning. iPads and laptops will be assigned and remain with the student throughout the day. The devices will remain at the school overnight for charging, etc. Devices can be checked out at night if necessary for homework.
- The class day length remains the same, with classes starting at 8:20 in the morning and dismissal at 2:50 at the end of the day. Classes may be slightly shortened to allow for safe passing between classes.
- Distance learning will be provided for any families that are not comfortable with their students returning to school at this time. Please call the school to request this option.

Learning Option 2:

Hybrid Learning

Kindergarten through Grade 5 will continue to attend in person 5 days per week.

- Benton-Stearns will follow guidance from the Mn Department of Health, the Mn Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control when setting up the classroom and school wide learning environments.
- Students will continue to attend 5 days per week as long as we can safely remain at the 50% person capacity as recommended by the fire department for occupancy rates.
- Students will practice social distancing whenever possible. Classrooms will be set up with desks the recommended 6 feet apart.
- Students and staff will wear facial coverings while inside the building (unless medically excused by a doctor). Masks and face shields will be made available. Staff will take necessary safety precautions for cleaning any shared classroom supplies.
- Hand washing, social distancing and sanitization protocols will be taught and followed.
- Students will be taught directional traffic flow for changing classes with social distancing encouraged. Signs that help teach safety expectations will be posted in the hallways, the cafeteria, in the classrooms, at exits and entrances.
- Students will keep necessary materials with them to reduce the need to congregate in the coat storage area or share supplies.

- Food will be trayed by staff and handed to students to avoid any possible contamination at the milk cooler or silverware area. There will be no “shared food” table. The number of students in the cafeteria will be limited, and students will be expected to socially distance. Some student groups will be eating in the classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- There will be no sharing of technology/devices. Students will be issued a personal device for learning. iPads and laptops will be assigned and remain with the student throughout the day. The devices will remain at the school overnight for charging, etc. Devices can be checked out at night if necessary for homework.
- The class day length remains the same, with classes starting at 8:20 in the morning and dismissal at 2:50 at the end of the day. Classes may be slightly shortened to allow for safe passing between classes.
- Distance learning will be provided for any families that are not comfortable with their students returning to school at this time. Please call the school to request this option.

Grades 5-12 participate in a blended learning model.

- Benton-Stearns will follow guidance from the Mn Department of Health, the Mn Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control when setting up making decisions about the blended learning model and safety in the classroom and school wide learning environments.
- If there is a **rise in the 14-day county level case rate**, we will initiate the **AA/distance learning/BB schedule** to ensure we are able to maintain 50% classroom capacity and ensure social distance in the classroom.
 - AA/distance learning/BB schedule is as follows:
 - AA students will attend on Monday, and Tuesday in person, and will attend Wednesday, Thursday and Friday virtually in an online classroom/ distance learning format.
 - BB students will attend in person on Thursday and Friday, and will attend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday virtually in an online classroom/distance learning format.
 - During virtual learning days, students will follow the same class schedule as the students attending in person.
- Students will practice social distancing whenever possible. Classrooms will be set up with desks the recommended 6 feet apart.
- Students (when able) and staff will wear facial coverings while inside the building. Masks and face shields will be made available. Staff will take necessary safety precautions for cleaning any shared classroom supplies.
- Hand washing, social distancing and sanitization protocols will be taught and followed.

- Students will be taught directional traffic flow for changing classes with social distancing encouraged. Signs that help teach safety expectations will be posted in the hallways, the cafeteria, in the classrooms, at exits and entrances.
- Students will keep necessary materials with them to reduce the need to congregate in the coat storage area.
- Food will be trayed by staff and handed to students to avoid any possible contamination at the milk cooler or silverware area. There will be no “shared food” table. The number of students in the cafeteria will be limited, and students will be expected to socially distance. Some student groups will be eating in the classrooms to encourage social distancing.
- There will be no sharing of technology/devices. Students will be issued a personal device for learning. iPads and laptops will be assigned and remain with the student throughout the day. The devices will remain at the school overnight for charging, etc. Devices can be checked out at night if necessary for homework.
- The class day length remains the same, with classes starting at 8:20 in the morning and dismissal at 2:50 at the end of the day. Classes may be slightly shortened to allow for safe passing between classes.
- Distance learning will be provided for any families that are not comfortable with their students returning to school at this time. Please call the school to request this option.

Learning Option 3:

Distance Learning

- **All students** will move into a distance learning mode, full time.
- The students will be provided devices to take home for distance learning.
- Scheduled classes will follow the same schedule as in person learning and the hybrid learning. Students are expected to attend classes as scheduled.
- Students will be provided lessons through live interactions with the teachers, pre-recorded videos, learning packets and small group lessons through break out rooms for learning.
- Internet access will be essential for learning. If you need support, please call the school for assistance.
- Distance learning will continue based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control.

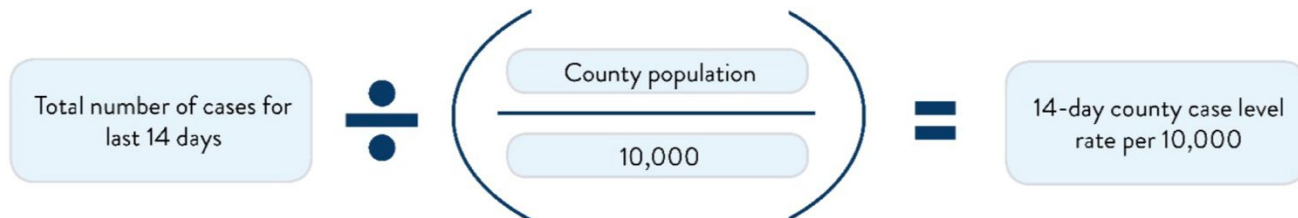
How Schools Decide Which Plan to Follow

The programs of the Benton-Stearns Education Center have an approximately equal number of students in both Benton and Stearns County. When determining which phase of our safe learning plan to follow, we will consult with our Minnesota Department of Health contact person to decide. We also work in concert with our school board members and the superintendents of the member districts of Foley, Holdingford, Kimball, Rocori, Sartell, and Sauk Rapids. We will be taking into consideration: tracing of cases, location of cases, closeness of contact, number of students and staff impacted, and the schools ability to continue safely in our current model.

From the Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools for determining how to safely return to school.

Consult the MDH learning model selection parameters as indicated by county-level data to determine the base learning model.

In order to determine the base learning model, school districts and charter schools will be advised of the **bi-weekly case rate (over 14 days) by county of residence**. These data are the number of cases by county of residence in Minnesota over 14 days per 10,000 people by date of specimen collection (when a person was tested). While any increase in case incidence represents greater potential risk, schools may consider a bi-weekly case rate of 10 or more cases per 10,000 to be an elevated risk of disease transmission within the local community, especially when the level of cases per week is sustained or increasing over time.



Learning Model Parameters

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by county of residence	Learning Model
0-9	In-person learning for all students
10-19	In-person learning for elementary students; hybrid learning for secondary students
20-29	Hybrid learning for all students
30-49	Hybrid learning for elementary students; distance learning for secondary students
50+	Distance learning for all students

Health and Safety Protocols

Health Checks:

- ❖ Please check your child for symptoms daily in the home.
- ❖ Staff will be trained and will monitor their own symptoms daily at home.
- ❖ Daily temperature scans and screening for symptoms for staff and students entering the building.

Masks/ Face and protective coverings:

- ❖ All students, staff and other people present in the building will be required to wear a face covering.
- ❖ Face coverings will be available on site if needed.
- ❖ Gloves will be worn as recommended from the Mn Department of Health and Center for Disease Control.



Posting of Building Safety Signs

- ❖ Hand washing
- ❖ Social Distancing
- ❖ Mask reminders
- ❖ Symptoms
- ❖ Directional traffic flow

Sanitation Station Locations

- ❖ Classrooms
- ❖ Cafeteria
- ❖ Entrances
- ❖ Increased cleaning/ disinfecting procedures

Classroom/ Building modifications

- ❖ Classroom seating adhering to social distancing mandates (6 feet)
- ❖ Directional traffic flow (keep right, social distance)

- ❖ Alternative locations for breakfast and lunch to reduce contact
- ❖ Limit social interactions in the hall and coat room
- ❖ Water fountains limited to water bottles only
- ❖ Restrict non-essential visitors and outside vendors from the building
- ❖ Meetings held by conference call or virtual meeting platform

Ventilation

- ❖ Increase fresh air flow into classroom
- ❖ Change air filters more frequently

Vulnerable staff or students

- ❖ Limit exposure of person to others.
- ❖ Reduce class size
- ❖ Reduce staff working with student



Food Service

In Person Learning

- Breakfast and lunch will be available daily for students.
- The hot lunch line will be socially distanced, students will be dismissed from class in a staggered dismissal to reduce numbers in line at a time.
- Students eating outside the cafeteria will pick up food and return to the room.
- Social distancing, hand washing, and mask signs will be posted in the cafeteria. Marks will be placed on the floor to encourage distance while standing in line.
- Students will be directed to wash their hands before and after eating.
- Staff will wear face coverings and gloves.

Hybrid Learning

The same protocols as above will be in place for days students are in the building. During the hybrid learning model, students who need, will have an opportunity to take home packaged meals for the days they are distance learning.

Distance Learning

In the distance learning model, students who need, will have an opportunity to pick up packaged meals for the days they are distance learning.

Resources for Parents

Procedures are based on Recommendations from MDE, MDH and the CDC

<https://mn.gov/covid19/>

<https://staysafe.mn.gov/industry-guidance/schools.jsp>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/index.html#youth>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/schools.html>

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