

# Maple Valley Public School Colony

## 2020 North Dakota Smart Restart Plan

“Raider Pride”



“Raider Strong”

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## Letter from the Superintendent

July 22, 2020

Raider Nation:

It is with great excitement that we are planning reopen our school in August, with accommodations. First of all, I want to give a huge shout out to all of you for your understanding and support during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter shutdown. We all know that it was less than ideal, there were many hurdles to overcome and education was not at a level that we are accustomed too or deserved. With all your help and with the great efforts from our teachers and students we did, however, get through it and made the most of a unique learning opportunity.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you and provide too you the North Dakota Smart Restart plan that is being implemented for Maple Valley Public School. The entire District Emergency Response Team (DERT) team has put in many hours to put together a plan that will get us back into school while keeping the safety and well-being of our entire Raider Nation as the top priority. We understand that this is not ideal, not going to be perfect and not going to be popular with everyone. But again, with your support and understanding, we feel that it is the best option to get our students back into the building and deliver a high quality of education. As our mission statement says, “Engaging students in a world class education, preparing them for lifelong success”, we need them here. In order to truly be engaged, we need as much face to face interaction as we can provide.

Please keep in mind that this is a working document. What looks good in August may not be what is best in October. We can, and likely will, make adjustments to this plan. When those adjust are made, the DERT team will use the North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) guidelines. If and when adjustments are made, we will communicate the changes to all of you.

Our goal is to have everyone back in school and to provide them with a top-notch education while keeping everyone safe. If you don't feel comfortable with having your children in school, face to face, or with the guidelines that are set, please communicate that with the administration. There are primary parts to this reopening plan:

1. Is face to face, with accommodations, in the building.
2. 100% distance learning. This would be similar, but with more rigor, to what was provided during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

You, as parents/guardians, have the right to choose whichever route you feel is best for your family.

Please remember that we are all in this together. With all of us working together, we can accomplish our goal of providing a high-quality of education while keeping everyone safe and healthy. If you ever have any comments or concerns, please feel free to call or stop in.

Stay Raider Strong

Pat Windish, Superintendent

Maple Valley Public School District

Who Are We:



Vision Statement:

**Attend, Engage, Succeed**

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Maple Valley School is Engaging students in a world class education, preparing them for lifelong success

## Acknowledgements:

### **Maple Valley Public School District Board of Education:**

**Joey Bata, President**  
**Dustin Theurer, Vice President**  
**Meridee Erickson Stowman, Director**  
**Megan McKay, Director**  
**George Richman, Director**  
**Gil Schnase, Director**  
**Chris Tofsrud, Director**  
**Dan Wendel, Director**  
**Sara Zaun, Director**

### **District Leadership Team**

**Pat Windish, Superintendent also 24/7 COVID Coordinator 701-320-2930**  
**Mike Nygaard, High School Principal**  
**Jay Kocka, Elementary Principal/Activities Director**

### **District Emergency Response Team**

**Pat Windish, Superintendent**  
**Mike Nygaard, High School Principal**  
**Jay Kocka, Elementary Principal/Activities Director**  
**Cathy Janish, Business Manager**  
**Rufat Agayev, SRO**  
**Sonja Jorgenson, Teacher**

**Theresa Will, City County Health**

## Maple Valley Public School District

### 2020–2021 District Strategic Focus:

The following is an articulation of ongoing district commitments for 2020–2021:

#### Focus 1: Student Outcomes - Expectations, Proficiency & Mastery:

Engaging students in a world class education, preparing them for lifelong success

*Re- Opening Priority: 1.R.O.1*

*Social-emotional learning will be provided to all students.*

#### Focus 2: Educational Approach - Equity, Empowerment and Opportunity:

A high quality, personalized education is provided to every student.

*Re-Opening Priority: 2.R.O.1*

*Every student will have access to high quality, engaging, student centered instruction in all delivery models.*

*Re-Opening Priority 2.R.O.2*

*A full virtual option will be available for students in grades K-8.*

#### Focus 3: Parent & Community Engagement:

Parent and community partners are welcomed and fully engaged in supporting and enhancing student learning.

*Re-Opening Priority 3.R.O.1*

*The District will have regular and open communication with stakeholders regarding plans to address education of all students during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

*Re-Opening Priority 3.R.O.2*

*The District will involve stakeholders in COVID-19 response decision through the inclusion of parent/community representatives on the COVID-19 Response Team.*

#### Focus 4: A Culture of Professional Excellence:

The District will recruit and retain caring, highly qualified staff with diverse experiences and backgrounds.

Professional development will be evidence based, continual and strategically aligned.

*Re-Opening Priority 4.R.O.1*

*The District will provide training to all district staff regarding the District Re-Opening Plan, best practices in cleaning, distance learning, social emotional learning (trauma informed) and additional training regarding COVID-19 as necessary.*

#### Focus 5: Operational Resources:

The District will provide the fiscal resources and infrastructure necessary to ensure an outstanding 21st Century education for every student.

*Re-Opening Priority 4.R.O.1*

*The District will provide the fiscal resources and personnel to effectively execute the District Re-Opening Plan.*

## Background:

On Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Governor Doug Burgum ordered all North Dakota Public Schools closed for in-person learning as part of the statewide plan to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce the transmission of the coronavirus. Schools were directed to develop and implement a “Distance Learning Plan” that was to be submitted and approved by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction and the Office of the Governor. This closure was later extended through the 2019-2020 school year.

At the beginning of June 2020, the school district implemented the ND DPI Smart Restart Summer Education Programs with Drivers Education, 7-12 Activities, and the Extended School Year Special Education classes.

We are currently in Phase 2 of the ND Smart Restart Plan

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Covid-19/NDK12restartguide.pdf>

(Also found on the Maple Valley School website: <https://www.maple-valley.k12.nd.us/>)

## Educational Planning for Re-Opening:

In preparation for the return of students in the fall of 2020, the District Administrative Team began to explore options for educating all district students within the following assumptions:

1. Any re-opening plan must include health and safety guidance provided by national, state, and local health authorities.
2. The dual concepts of local control and flexible decision making will be central to any re-opening plan.
3. Any re-opening plan will allow the district to shift along the continuum if health and safety guidelines change.

The team determined the priority must be to serve students with as much face-to-face time with teachers and peers in school as possible, consistent with health and safety needs. The district will open with two specific models available to families:

1. Traditional - face-to-face school
  - a. The District will be prepared to shift to continuous remote learning should there be a need for a short- or -long-term school facility closure.
  - b. If a child needs to be quarantined because of COVID, they may return to traditional face-to-face instruction as soon as they are cleared by a doctor.
2. Full Distance Learning
  - a. A fully aligned and accredited distance learning program will be available K-8
  - b. The instructional new plan for the 2020-2021 school year, will be available to any student who may be required to be absent from school for an extended period of time.
  - c. If a family chooses to have their child(ren) educated using the full distance learning modality, it will be for the entire semester.

<https://www.maplevalley.k12.nd.us/cms/lib/ND01911324/Centricity/Domain/93/Maple%20Valley%20Public%20Schools%20Response%20Plan%20final.pdf>

## Health and Safety of Students and Staff:

The health and safety of our students and staff are the top priority when reopening schools for in-person learning this fall.

Practices and procedures within this plan will be modified as circumstances dictate.

## General Background

Current evidence suggests that COVID-19 spreads between people through direct, indirect (through contaminated objects or surfaces), or close contact with infected people via mouth and nose secretions. These include saliva, respiratory secretions or secretion droplets. These are released from the mouth or nose when an infected person coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings, for example. People who are in close contact (within 3 feet) with an infected person can catch COVID-19 when those infectious droplets get into their mouth, nose or eyes. Among the most effective measures include; masks/face coverings, physical distancing, hand washing, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

## District Practices and Procedures:

### COVID-19 Response Team:

The District Emergency Response Team identified in the District Emergency Operations Manual will serve as the core of the COVID-19 Response Team. The current membership includes School Board Representatives, the District Administrative Team (Superintendent, Business Manager, ES and HS Principals), SRO, teachers with identified roles and will be bolstered with the addition of local health officials,

The DERT will evaluate and review processes and procedures related to the re-opening and any COVID-19 specific responses of the Maple Valley Public School District Colony.



## Health Screenings

The list of symptoms of COVID-19 infection has grown since the start of the pandemic and the manifestations of COVID-19 infection in children, although similar, is often not the same as that for adults. School policies regarding temperature screening and temperature checks must balance the practicality of performing these screening procedures students and staff with the information known about how children manifest COVID-19 infection, the risk of transmission in schools, and the possible lost instructional time to conduct the screenings. Temperature checks as a general screening tool upon entry at school will not be used. This reflects the current position of the American Academy of Pediatrics: *“The epidemiology of disease in children along with evidence of the utility of temperature screenings in health systems may further justify this approach. Procedures using texting apps, phone systems, or online reporting rely on parent report and may be most practical.... and likely to identify the most ill children who should not be in school.”* The primary screening mechanism for students and staff will be a self-screening for COVID-19 symptoms before a student or staff member goes to school. The District will educate staff, students, and families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and when they/their children should stay home and when they can return to school.

**Maple Valley will not have a perfect attendance award this school year. Please keep your student home when they are ill.**

## Exclusion/Inclusion

Schools should coordinate decision-making around a student’s care with the family and the family’s healthcare provider if there are specific health concerns, chronic disease, or complex social or emotional dynamics in the home.

<https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/travel>

### Exclusion:

Students and staff will be excluded from in-person school activities, if they:

- Show symptoms of COVID-19, such as a cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell
- Have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- Students and staff with fever greater than 100.4°F and no specific diagnosis should remain at home until they have had no fever for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications (e.g., Advil, Tylenol).
- Have a significant new rash, particularly when other symptoms are present
- Have large amounts of nasal discharge in the absence of allergy diagnosis

Students and staff will be excluded from school until they are no longer considered contagious per local health official guidance.

## In School Quarantine

If above signs and symptoms begin while at school, the student (or staff member) must be sent home as soon as possible.

Ill student will be separated from well students. Staff contact will be limited as much as reasonably possible, while ensuring the safety and supervision of the ill student(s) until they leave.

Materials, toys and furniture touched by the student who is sent home should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

### Inclusion

Healthy students and staff with the following symptoms/conditions are not excluded from in person school activities:

Allergy symptoms (with no fever) that cause coughing and clear runny nose may stay if they have medically diagnosed allergies and follow medical treatment plans.

Well-controlled asthma

### Cases of COVID-19 in School

If COVID-19 is confirmed in a student or staff member:

- Close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting; wait 24 hours or as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfecting to allow droplets to settle.
- Open outside doors and windows and use ventilating fans to increase air circulation in the area.
- Clean and disinfect all areas such as offices, bathrooms, common areas and shared electronic equipment used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.
- Participate in contact tracing as requested by local health officials.
- Communicate with staff and parents with general information about the situation. It is critical to maintain confidentiality.
- Decisions about full school closure will be made based on guidance from local health officials.
- Anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 should self-isolate according to guidelines set forth by the North Dakota Department of Health.
- If a staff person or student has been identified as a close contact to someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, they should self-quarantine: stay home. Please refer to the North Dakota Department of Health for information and guidance related to isolation, quarantine, and self-observation.
- The ND DOH will be in contact with the positive and anyone who is determined to be a close contact.

### Cloth Face Coverings

According to the Center for Disease Control, “face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.” Maple Valley Public School District Colony will be implementing the practice of students and staff wearing face coverings when anyone is unable to maintain a physical distance of **at least 3 feet for more than 10 minutes**. Students and staff members will be required to wear face coverings while riding the school bus, transitioning between classes,

using the bathroom, and attending classes outside of their designated class/grouping. If students and staff are able to maintain a physical distance of at least three feet in the classroom, face coverings may be removed.

Although ideal, the district recognizes universal face covering use is not always possible. For certain populations, the use of cloth face coverings by teachers may impede the education process. These include students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students receiving speech/language services, young students in early education programs, and English-language learners. The district will employ alternatives to cloth masks (eg, face coverings with clear panels in the front) to facilitate their use among these populations.

Students and families will be instructed how to properly wear (cover nose and mouth) a cloth face covering, to maintain hand hygiene when removing for meals and physical activity, and for replacing and maintaining (washing regularly) a cloth face covering.

Additional information regarding face coverings include:

- **Face coverings (including masks) will be provided by the student/family**
- Clear facial shields will be allowable as long as they meet local public health guidelines
- Students, staff, and families will be taught how to properly wear face coverings
- Face coverings should be washed daily by families
- Maple Valley School Colony will have face coverings available for purchase and extra disposable face masks for student unable to provide their own.

### Physical Distancing

Physical distancing, sometimes referred to as social distancing, is the act of keeping people separated with the goal of limiting spread the COVID-19 virus. It is fundamental to lowering the risk of spread, as the primary mode of transmission is through respiratory droplets by persons in close proximity. The District recognizes there is a conflict between optimal academic and social/emotional learning in schools and strict adherence to current physical distancing guidelines. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that schools "space seating/desks at least 6 feet apart when feasible." Six feet between students is not practical in district classrooms without limiting the number of students. Evidence suggests that spacing as close as 3 feet may approach the benefits of 6 feet of space, particularly if students are wearing face coverings and are asymptomatic. Given what is known about transmission dynamics, the Maple Valley Public School District Colony will practice and promote physical distancing with a minimum of three feet required between students and staff when together for more than 10 minutes (six feet will be required for more than 15 minutes). If students and staff are unable to maintain physical distancing requirements, face coverings/masks should be worn. Recognizing, that these practices will vary due to age, developmental/physical abilities, and the space available within in our schools.

The following guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics will be followed:

#### Adults

For all of the identified settings, physical distancing by and among adults is strongly recommended, and meetings and curriculum planning should take place virtually if possible. In addition, other strategies to increase adult-adult physical distance in time and space should be implemented, such as staggered drop-offs and pickups, and drop-offs and

pickups outside when weather allows. **Visitors should be discouraged from entering the school building.** Physical barriers, such as plexiglass, should be considered in reception areas and employee workspaces where the environment does not accommodate physical distancing, and congregating in shared spaces, such as staff lounge areas, should be discouraged.

### Maple Valley Colony School

The relative impact of physical distancing among children is likely small based on current evidence.

#### *Higher-priority strategies:*

- Children should wear face coverings when harms (eg, increasing hand-mouth/nose contact) do not outweigh benefits (potential COVID-19 risk reduction).
- Desks should be placed 3 to 6 feet apart when feasible (if this reduces the amount of time children are present in school, harm may outweigh potential benefits).
- Cohort classes to minimize crossover among children and adults within the school.
- Utilize outdoor spaces when possible.
- Particular avoidance of close physical proximity in cases of increased exhalation (singing, exercise); these activities are likely safest outdoors and spread out.
- Consideration of limiting high-risk activities (singing, exercise) and utilizing outdoors when possible
- Cancel field trips, assemblies, and large group gatherings
- Limiting nonessential visitors
- Reduce the number of students in the hallways at passing

#### *Lower-priority strategies:*

- The risk reduction of reducing class sizes in elementary school-aged children may be outweighed by the challenge of doing so.
- Similarly, reducing classmate interactions/play in elementary school-aged children may not provide enough COVID-19 risk reduction to justify potential harms.

### Special Education

Every child and adolescent with a disability is entitled to a free and appropriate education and is entitled to special education services based on their individualized education program (IEP). Students receiving special education services may be more negatively affected by distance-learning and may be disproportionately impacted by interruptions in regular education. It may not be feasible, depending on the needs of the individual child and adolescent, to adhere both to distancing guidelines and the criteria outlined in a specific IEP. Attempts to meet physical distancing guidelines should meet the needs of the individual child and may require creative solutions, often on a case-by-case basis.

## Physical Distancing in Specific Enclosed Spaces

### School Bus

- Encourage alternative modes of transportation for students who have other options.
- Assigned seating; if possible, assign seats by cohort (same students sit together each day).
- Tape marks showing students where to sit.
- When a 6-foot distance cannot be maintained between students, face coverings WILL be required.
- Drivers should be a minimum of 6 feet from students; driver must wear face covering;
- Minimize number of people on the bus at one time within reason.
- Adults who do not need to be on the bus should not be on the bus.
- Have windows open if weather allows.

### Hallways

- Consider creating one-way hallways to reduce close contact.
- Place physical guides, such as tape, on floors or sidewalks to create one-way routes.
- Where feasible, keep students in the classroom and rotate teachers instead.
- Stagger class periods by cohorts for movement between classrooms if students must move between classrooms to limit the number of students in the hallway when changing classrooms.
- Assign lockers by cohort or eliminate lockers altogether.

### Playgrounds

Enforcing physical distancing in an outside playground is difficult and may not be the most effective method of risk mitigation. Emphasis will be placed on cohorting students and limiting the size of groups participating in playground time. Outdoor transmission of virus is known to be much lower than indoor transmission.

## Hand Hygiene:

Maple Valley Public School District Colony will put procedures and resources in place to ensure the proper hand hygiene for all students and staff.

Hand washing with soap and water or hand sanitizer will be used at the following times:

- Arrival to school
- Before eating, handling food, or feeding students
- After using the toilet or helping a child use the bathroom
- Before and after handling facial coverings
- After playing outdoors
- Before and after cleaning
- Prior to switching rooms or locations
- Before dismissal

Maple Valley Public School District Colony will provide training and visual reminders to students and staff on the proper procedures for hand washing in the schools.

### Cleaning and Disinfecting:

Maple Valley Public School District Colony staff will engage in frequent cleaning based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control through each day to reduce the spread of the virus within our schools.

District staff will receive training in proper procedures to effectively clean district building.

A cleaning schedule of high-touch surfaces will be created and followed within the school for routine cleaning and disinfecting of the high-touch areas at a minimum of three times per day (beginning, middle, and end). These areas include, but are not limited too;

- Door handles, stair rails, drinking fountains, light switches, desks, tables, chairs, carts, trays, playground equipment, and educational supplies.

All cleaning products will be EPA approved and follow the recommendations from local public health and the CDC.

The additional considerations for cleaning and disinfecting will include:

- Use of disinfectants when students are NOT present
- Proper concentration of disinfectants
- Keeping all chemicals out of reach of children
- Use of alcohol wipes to clean keyboards, electronics, and classroom supplies
- Use of nonirritating disinfectants to avoid triggering breathing issues of students and staff

# Educating Students in Any and All Environments

## Plan A- In-Person Learning Without Restrictions

Students would return to school and all restrictions lifted

## Plan B- In Person Learning with Restrictions

Students return to school following the new safety requirements and the reopening modifications to accommodate health and safety requirements

Examples of Restrictions:

- No field trips. Large group gatherings, assemblies, ect
- Utilizing alternative school spaces to accommodate physical distancing guidelines
- Reducing the mixing of student groups (i.e. students restricted to grade level groups)

## Plan C- Hybrid Learning

Students would alternate between in-person and remote learning to accommodate additional physical distancing. The plan is also designed for the students excluded from school due to illness, quarantine, or other COVID related reasons.

Examples of Hybrid Learning:

- A/B grouping that isolates groups of students who attend school in-person on either different weeks or different days of the week
- Prioritize high-need students for full time in-person learning
- Prioritize students without technology access

## Plan D- Remote Learning

Student learning will be delivered using on-line and paper resources away from the school campus. This plan will also be available at the beginning of the school year for students that have special health and educational needs.

## Conclusion:

In conclusion, it is the goal of the Maple Valley School to provide the highest quality of education in the safest means possible. We understand that not everyone will agree or like these guidelines, but please keep in mind that these are set by the health departments for the safety of our entire Raider Nation. Change is not always easy and takes time. With your continued support, we will get through this “new” normal.

## References:

Governor’s Executive Orders

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/policyguidelines/executive-orders/executive-orders-education>

ND Smart Restart from NDDPI

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/sites/www/files/documents/Covid-19/NDK12restartguide.pdf>

NDDPI

<https://www.nd.gov/dpi/parentscommunity/nddpi-updates-and-guidance-covid-19>

**American Academy of Pediatrics**

<https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/covid-19-planning-considerations-return-to-in-person-education-in-schools/>

CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

NDDOH

<https://www.health.nd.gov/>

City-County Health (Barnes County)

<http://www.citycountyhealth.org/home.html>