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Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year

A Localized, Data-Driven Approach

Making a Decision: Goals

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1. Prioritize the safety of students and staff
2. Prioritize in-person learning, especially for younger learners and those with most need
3. Recognize differences in potential spread among different ages
4. Support planning, while permitting flexibility for districts
5. Take into account disease prevalence at a local level

How do schools determine their safe learning model?

STEP 1

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) will use data from counties to determine a base learning model for public schools.

STEP 2

Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) will share county data and the consultative process for public schools to engage with education and public health experts to review their county health data and safe learning plans.

STEP 3

Public schools, with their incident command team, will evaluate their ability to implement required and recommended health best practices.

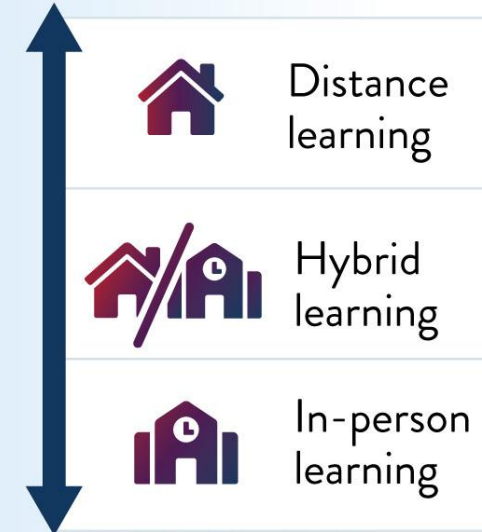
STEP 4

Public schools, in consultation with public health, will determine a learning model to begin the school year and communicate that decision with their school community.*

STEP 5

Public schools and MDH will monitor the community and school-level impact of COVID-19 on a regular basis. Adjustments will be made to the learning model if needed.

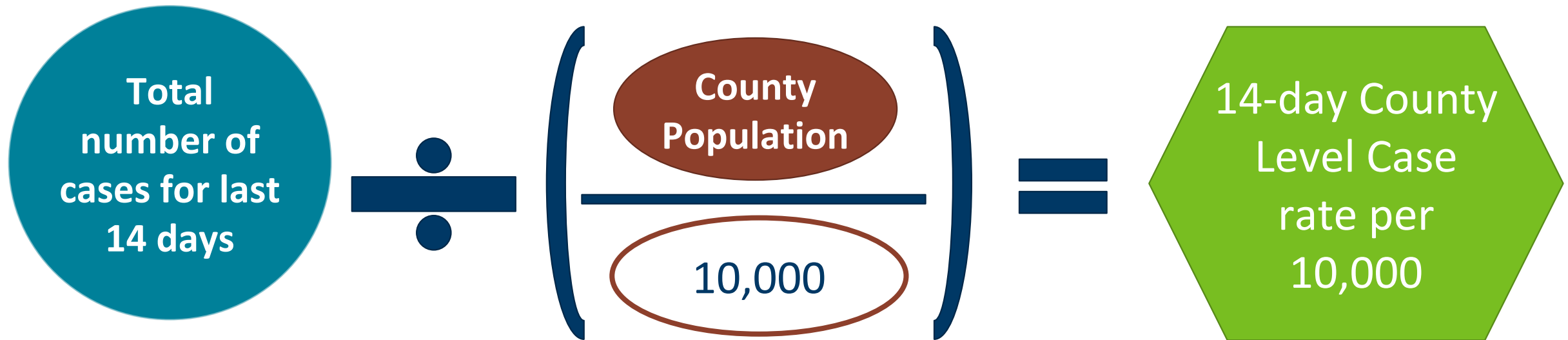
Safe learning models:



* Regardless of learning model, all public schools must offer an equitable distance learning option to all families.

14-day county level case rate

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Selecting a learning model for school opening

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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 Requirements & Best Practices

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Required for In-Person and Hybrid Learning

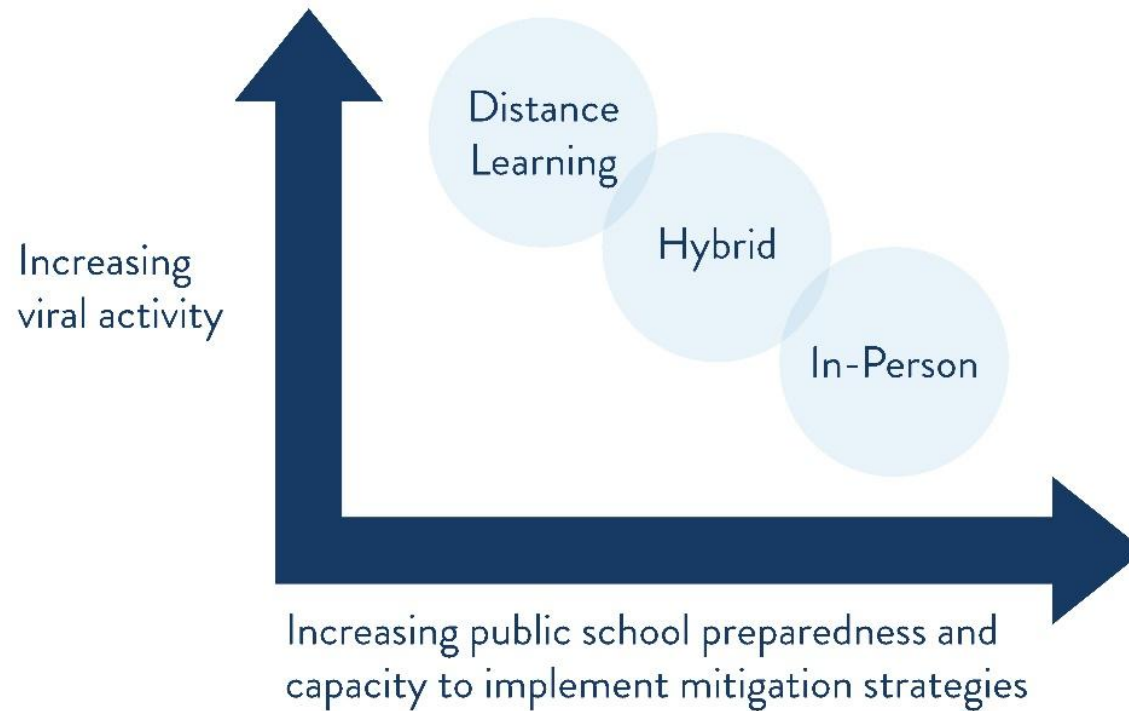
- ☐ Masking Policy
- ☐ PPE for direct support student services
- ☐ Build routines of hygiene education & practices
- ☐ Daily cleaning and frequent cleaning of high touch surfaces throughout the day
- ☐ Building level COVID-19 program coordinator, with optional student counterpart
- ☐ Limiting nonessential visitors/volunteers/external groups
- ☐ Discontinue large gatherings/activities that do not allow for social distancing
- ☐ Monitoring and excluding for illness

Required for Hybrid Learning

- ☐ Social distancing of 6 feet at all times in school buildings
- ☐ School facilities at 50% capacity
- ☐ Transportation at 50% capacity
- ☐ Sufficient staffing levels to meet the requirements of the model

Ongoing evaluation framework

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Assessing cases in a school after opening

- How many cases are there? Are they close together in time or spread out over several weeks?
- Are new cases traceable to the school community or are they likely the result of a different exposure?
- Where are cases occurring, and do they have any common themes?
- How many close contacts does each case have?
- Are students, parents, and staff forthcoming about close contacts?
- Is there other significant transmission in the surrounding community that will likely impact families and staff?
- Are you able to maintain your current learning model based on staffing?

Supports for Schools

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- Regional Support Teams comprised of MDH and MDE staff to support school districts and charter schools the whole school year.
- A \$430 million investment in our schools.
- Face coverings for every student, educator, and staff member.
- Comprehensive COVID testing care plan for educators and staff.

Regional Support Teams

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- Created in partnership with MDE, MDH, Minnesota's regional service cooperatives and local public health.
- Regional support teams are structured in a way that allows efficient communication from the school and district level to the state level in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19 in a school building.
- The regional support teams are made up of rapid response staff, health consultants and testing event planners.

Funding Supports

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- A \$430 million investment in our schools
- GEER and ESSER funding schools have already received.
- Requesting additional funding from Coronavirus Relief Funds
 - Operational costs associated with the learning model chosen – regardless of in-person, hybrid or distance learning (ex: cleaning supplies, screening supplies, and mental health supports).
 - Boost student, family, educator support, prioritizing equity (ex: digital training, technology devices, tutors, translation services, professional development).

Face Coverings for Every Student, Educator, and School Staff



- All students, staff, and others present in school buildings and districts offices or riding on school transportation vehicles are required to wear face coverings.
- Cross agency effort to procure the following supplies to all Minnesota school districts and charter schools:
 - Every K-12 student will receive one cloth face mask
 - Every educator and school staff will receive one cloth face mask
 - Every school will receive three disposable face masks per student
 - Every school will receive face shields for every licensed teacher and 50% of non-licensed staff

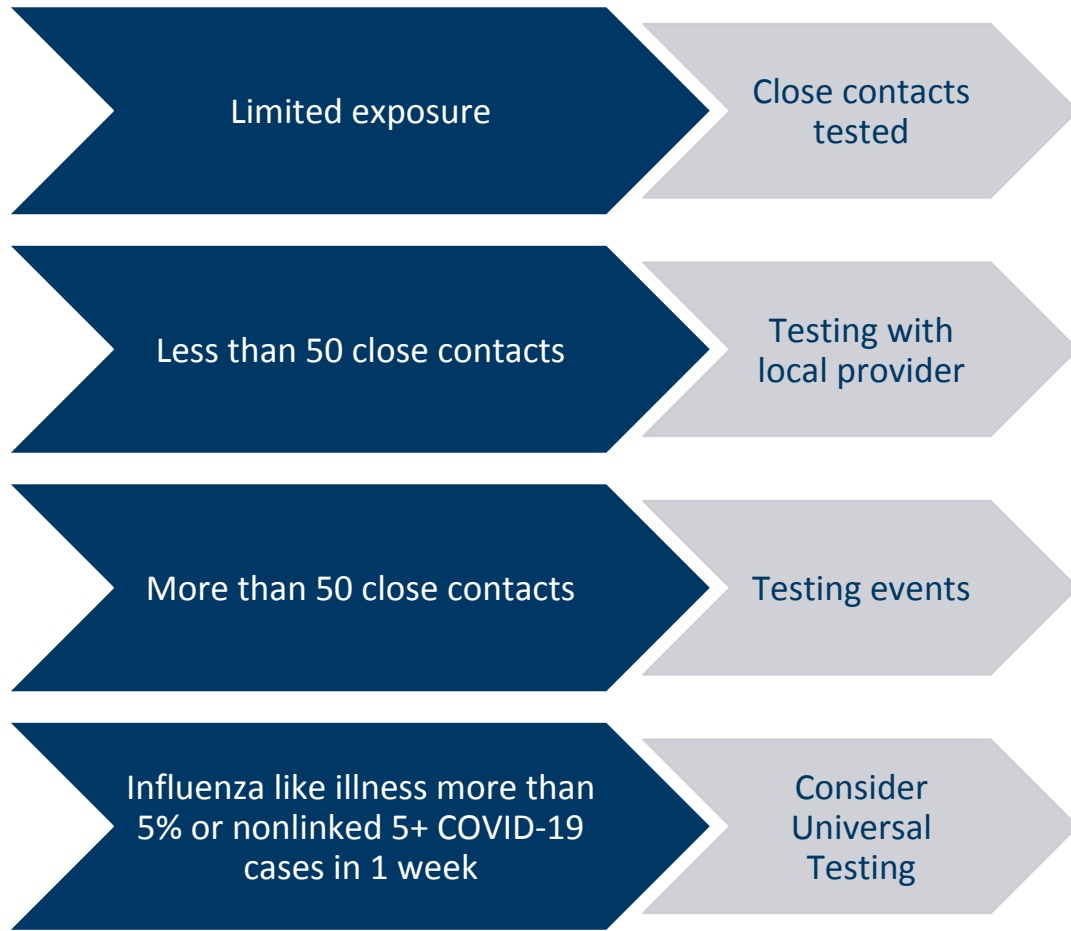
Testing Educators and School Staff

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- Home test available for every educator and school staff this fall at no cost
- MDH guidance prioritizing testing for educators and school staff by health providers exposed to COVID-19.
- Coordination and support for events due to any school exposure, including state implementation of larger events

Testing Strategies & State Supports

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- Local provider testing when possible to ensure continuity of care for students and staff, with state assistance and coordination as needed
- State supplements local resources with staffing, lab capacity, logistics, resulting and other assistance
- Educators and students prioritized in state testing events in communities with increased COVID-19 circulation