

Dear New York Mills Families:

Governor Walz rolled out his Fall Learning Strategy today for Minnesota schools. Within that strategy, flexibility has been provided for schools as to how they begin the 2020-21 school year. School communities, within counties that have low amounts of positive COVID-19 testing rates, over the past 14 days (Less than 9 cases per 10,000 residents), will be able to start the school year in-person, as long as they meet all necessary health and safety precautions and have a school board approved plan. Currently, rates in Otter Tail County are below the established threshold, which will allow New York Mills Public School to open this fall with in-person instruction.

Keep in mind that COVID-19 is very fluid in nature. Our approach to dealing with this condition must be thoughtful and incredibly responsive. If COVID-19 rates surge past the threshold, New York Mills Public School will respond by shifting to a hybrid model of learning. It also needs to be mentioned that families who do not feel comfortable with the in-person learning environment can choose distance learning for their children during the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in distance learning, please call the district office.

NYMPS has a COVID-19 Re-Opening Planning Committee that is working on a plan to safely reopen our school for in-person learning that meets all the required health and safety measures. The committee is also working on the contingency plans for hybrid learning and distance learning, in the event that we need to shift our instruction to that learning model, based upon COVID -19 rates in the county and the learning model parameters.

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

More information will be shared as the planning committee completes its work and the school board acts on the plan. New York Mills Public School appreciates the support of our families and community. We extend a thank-you to everyone for your patience as we continue planning for the upcoming school year.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Blaine Novak
Superintendent
New York Mills Public School