

Highlights from MN Safe Learning Plan 2020-2021

On July 30th Gov. Tim Walz and Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, along with the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), announced *Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year*.

While the majority of the news conference addressed K-12 education, **guidance was given** to child care centers and pre-k programs, as it has been provided to schools like ours since the beginning of this Peacetime Emergency. **Important highlights for Valley Preschool Families to know from today's plan:**

- The **MDH will provide clear direction and recommendation** to schools in the event a student becomes ill. Schools are not expected to make shut-down determinations, etc. on their own. Instead, school leadership will work with the MDH in the form of a **consultative process**; a process which will **continue to evolve** over time.
- We are being asked to teach in ways that reflect what our community needs and attend to the learning needs of our students. If our community is not experiencing high numbers of infection, it makes sense to continue providing much-needed educational services.
- The model presented is an **evidence-based** plan. The goals to drive this plan include:
 - o **Prioritize the safety of students and staff;**
 - o **Prioritize in-person learning** as this is most beneficial to students of all ages
- Schools will continue to utilize **localized decision making** and be asked to use a **flexible approach**. Plans will evolve.
- Using **science-based evidence**, research suggests the ability to transmit the virus in children under the age of 10 is **significantly lower** than that of adults and even individuals 15-30.

As we have said since Day 1, the **safety of our students; their families; and our staff is our top priority**. We have learned *a lot* since March 15th, 2020. We will work with the MDH and continue to receive guidance from local, state and national health officials to determine best steps as the situation changes and unfolds. We **thank you**, our families, **for your continued support of our efforts**.

Together, we will navigate through this and come out stronger in the end...



An environment of discovery
for young children