

COTTER COVID FAQS



As of August 10, 2020

WILL YOU ANSWER ALL THE QUESTIONS THAT WERE NOT ANSWERED IN THE WEBINAR?

On Tuesday, August 4, Mrs. Mary Eileen Fitch and Sister Judy held a Zoom webinar attended by more than 100 Cotter community members. We answered a number of questions online, but over 90 questions were submitted. In this communication, we will attempt to group the major topics of the questions together so you can easily go to those questions that are of importance to you personally. Thanks to all who zoomed in and participated.

GRADES 9-12 ONLINE -WHY? HOW?

The decision to have grades 9-12 do primarily online learning is the most controversial decision for many people. The decision to do so was based on the community transmission rate established by the Governor and the fact that high school students have a variety of classes and move between six to seven classes each day makes it nearly impossible to keep them in small cohort groups safely. Younger students stay in small cohorts all day, and cross-contamination can be minimized. Many high school classes have 25 students or more, and do not fit in our current classrooms with six feet separation.



This is also not an issue of poor timing due to the current construction or the acquisition of the 5th/6th grades - but rather the inability of our buildings to safely space over 250 high school students without hiring twice the staff. The use of other buildings would present the same dilemma for high school students of multiple classes per day and cross-contamination. This is why we designed a blended learning plan with the majority of classes online and teacher driven, with in-person small group and other activities on Wednesdays and in the afternoons. Our intention is to try to make the best of both modes of learning in a safe and manageable model. Research shows that, of all age groups, high schools are the most able to be successful online. **Schedules will be out on Wed., Aug. 12.**

Each step in our decision making is based on the community transmission rate. So, each decision YOU make affects how soon we can be back in person.

What will Wednesdays look like for **Grades 9-12**?

High school students will be on-campus in small group experiences, some required and some opt-in, at least weekly. We are still developing what these offerings will be with the faculty, but science labs, AP classes, small group tutoring, as well as other social and spiritual activities will occur on Wednesdays and in the afternoons. Though many of these opportunities will be voluntary, we urge you to encourage your high school student to participate. We plan to have a schedule for these opportunities available prior to the first day of school. Students who do not feel safe coming on campus can opt out.

What sports activities will be available for High School?

As announced by the MSHSL, tennis, cross-country, soccer, and swimming are allowed to compete in limited fashion in the Fall. Football and volleyball season is moved to March. Cotter will allow teams to practice and conduct weight exercises as long as they are held outdoors. All approved safety protocols must be observed.



Non-competitive sporting activities that students can opt into will be offered as a part of Wednesdays and in the afternoons.



What opportunities will there be for band and choir?

Unfortunately, because of the nature of musical activities and the spread of aerosol elements, all music activities will be extremely limited. In addition to the online band and choir classes, efforts will be made to offer individual lessons and music theory and appreciation.



GRADES 5th-8th INFO

What will the day to day schedule be for 5th through 8th grade?

GRADES 5 through 8:

- Classes will begin on September 8 at 8:00am; students may not arrive before 7:30am. Students will enter through an assigned door each day for screening.
- After screening, students will go immediately to their classroom where they will remain in their grade cohort with their teacher for the day.
- Students will eat cold lunch in their classroom and only leave for outdoor activities and bathroom use.
- There will not be before or after school supervision for any grade.
- There will be an on-line option for students who do not want to return in-person. The details of this program will be announced before school begins
- Supply lists are online at: <https://www.cotterschools.org/academics>

GRADES 7 and 8:

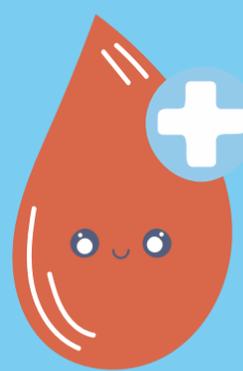
- Students in grades 7 and 8 will attend in-person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.
- Wednesdays will be on-line and teacher directed, so high school students can be on campus.

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SAFETY PROTOCOLS FOR ALL

What safety screening will occur each day?

1. Every person - student and staff - will be screened upon entering the building. All will be required to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer at the door, have their temperature taken, and answer basic wellness questions by a staff member.
2. If anyone's temperature is above 100.4 degrees, they will be immediately isolated in a safe room and sent home. These same symptoms should be checked at home prior to coming to school to avoid sending a sick student to school.
3. If a student gets sick during the day, exhibiting two or more symptoms, such as a cough and a fever, they will be isolated and parents notified to pick them up immediately. If symptoms are new or unexplained, refer to the Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms to determine appropriate time to return to school and if a test is recommended.
4. The COVID-19 coordinator will work with the Cotter Leadership Team, the Minnesota Department of Health, and Winona County to determine who, if anyone, needs to be notified and which students, if any, need to be quarantined.



How will you control crowding and transmission?

1. All persons will be screened and masked upon entry. No visitors will be allowed.
2. Students will arrive in grade cohorts to the same assigned door each day, and be kept in those cohorts throughout the day and encouraged to wash their hands regularly.
3. Students and staff will be instructed to practice hand hygiene, to remain masked, and maintain six feet of social distancing at all times.
4. All students and staff will be asked to commit to faithful observance of the Cotter Covid Code of Conduct, especially to honest reporting of any sickness.

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

STAY SAFEMN

Decision Tree for People with COVID-19 Symptoms in Youth, Student, and Child Care Programs

For people (e.g., children, care providers, or staff) who have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, send home or deny entry and reference the exclusion criteria in this document to determine when they may return.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: new onset cough or shortness of breath by themselves OR at least 2 of the following: fever (100.4°F or higher), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, fatigue, congestion, loss of sense of smell or taste, or gastrointestinal symptoms of diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea.

If a person has a new symptom (for example, new loss of smell only) with no other diagnosis to explain it, they should stay home and talk to their health care provider about testing for COVID-19, even if it is the only symptom they are experiencing.

For people who received a laboratory test for COVID-19

What to do if you're waiting for COVID-19 test results (PDF)
(www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/waiting.pdf)

Positive test result: Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

Negative test result but symptoms with no other diagnosis: Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.

For people with a COVID-19 diagnosis without a lab test OR people with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 without a medical evaluation (e.g., monitoring symptoms at home)

Stay home at least 10 days since symptoms first appeared AND until no fever for at least 24 hours without medication AND improvement of other symptoms.

Siblings and household members also stay home for 14 days.



For people with other diagnoses (e.g., norovirus, strep throat) that explain the symptoms, or when a health care provider says symptoms are connected to a pre-existing condition

Stay home until symptoms have improved. Follow specific return guidance from the health care provider or follow the [Infectious Diseases in Childcare Settings and Schools Manual](http://www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual) (www.hennepin.us/daycaremanual).

If symptoms related to a pre-existing condition change or worsen, talk to a health care provider to determine next steps.

Siblings and household members do not need to stay home.

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