

Board Meeting Date: December 10, 2020

COVID-19 Board Report

PURPOSE: Provide an update about District 191's efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively (Maximize resources for optimal student learning).

Tonight, I want to first share how important it is for us to practice self-care as we suffer from pandemic fatigue along with other daily stressors. One way I practice self-care is to be grateful for joy in my life. I am grateful for the gift of the weeks we were able to have students in our schools, dedication and resourcefulness of staff and the unity and strength of our community. Another way I take care of myself is to get out in our wonderful Minnesota environment and walk at least three to four days a week. I share this to encourage you to find healthy and positive ways to deal with the stress of this pandemic. Especially in light of the harsh realities of the impact of coronavirus. Tonight Bernadette Bien, our district lead licensed school nurse and I will share that the current reality of the pandemic is not good. We begin tonight with the latest county and One91 data and then we will share information regarding vaccinations. I'll share information about Targeted Services and Club Nicollet. Imina Oftedahl and Brian Gersich will end tonight's report with an Academic and Activities update.

Health and Safety (MDH):

County Updates: Represents time period November 15-28. Dakota County 141.51 per 10,000 residents and Scott County 152.89 per 10,000. Still puts us in the distance learning model Prek-12.

As of December 5 One91 Data: [COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

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

Communication for families and staff to continue to report confirmed cases of Coronavirus:

Moving between learning models involves many conversations with community experts along with data analysis. Since March we have navigated programming for three learning model shifts. One of the challenges is that COVID did not come with a manual. As COVID continues to unveil itself and with the advances of science, we can all agree that change is inevitable and that health and safety will continue to lay the foundation for all COVID activities for District 191.

Data analysis is critical in determining next steps. The 14 day case rate provides insight to trends and community activity. However, it is not a stand alone data point and it is necessary to monitor what is happening in our buildings.

During hybrid, the health offices traced attendance and illness for students and staff. Guidance was provided in understanding the Decision tree and providing resource information.

During Distance Learning, this process needs to continue. Planning for the return to school, requires the knowledge of who can and can not be in the building which includes students and staff. Building nurses need families and staff to continue to reach out to the health office whenever COVID experiences are affecting their family even when they are not in the buildings. This information is necessary for determining a future learning model shift.

COVID can be confusing and guidelines continue to change. Our Health Offices are a valuable resource for health and safety of staff and families to better understand MDH guidelines, navigate COVID and provide Distance Caring.

Next, I want to share Additional data points that are under consideration for our [Learning Model Key Indicators and Decision making process](#).

Positivity rate in county cases, which is the percentage of all coronavirus tests performed that are actually positive., childcare case data, such as number and if any confirmed cases and/or quarantines and local health infrastructure capacity for consideration to be added to the list of indicators under Health in our *Learning Model Key Indicators and Decision Process*.

Staff and I will continue to monitor data to determine when we may have a safe return to hybrid. On Monday, December 17 the COVID-19 Leadership

Team will meet. In my next update to the board I will share thoughts about any possible change in our learning model- a return to hybrid.

Vaccinations. Governor Walz and Jan Malcolm, Commissioner Department of Health are working on roll-out and have made announcements about Minnesota's this week.

Public Health has the responsibility for vaccinations and there are many logistics to work out.

COVID vaccine is currently in Phase 3 of clinical studies. Today the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) met to seek an Emergency Use Authorization for the Pfizer COVID vaccine. Tomorrow the Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices known as the ACIP will meet and determine best practices for administration of the vaccine and provide recommendations. On December 17th and 18th, similar meetings will occur for the Moderna vaccine.

It is estimated that shipments will arrive next week to hospitals for health care worker administration. Local counties will receive shipments of Moderna for administration of EMS and long term care residents and staff. The timeline to complete Tier 1A is uncertain and needs to be completed before starting Tier 1B which includes schools.

Currently clinical studies and licensing through an Emergency Use Authorization is for adults age 18 and older. Moderna which is one of the vaccine manufacturing agents is planning to begin clinical studies for children 12-17 years of age. It is anticipated that vaccination for children will possibly be available in Fall 2021.

For our community and especially our children, the public health principles continue to be our major prevention strategies to the spread of covid.

- Wash your hands
- Wear a mask.
- Watch your Distance.

Targeted Services

Registration is now open for Partners Achieving Learning Success (PALS)/Burnsville Youth Collaborative (BYC) and is due by December 21st. Registration is completed electronically via our district website.

We provide additional support for those families who require language support. We employ two Somali speaking support staff and one Spanish speaking support staff that work with families to register students electronically by phone, in person, or by Google Meet.

All registration information is sent out in English, Spanish, and Somali. We utilize the district website, School Messenger, district emails, and personal calls home to families of students that have previously registered for our programs that we see have not registered yet.

We anticipate that we will have approximately 120 total BYC students register given that our programming is online. The number for K-5 students is likely to grow substantially as registration continues. Staff anticipates the number of PALS students to be somewhere around 300 students when registration is complete.

This school year's offerings reflect the first time we are offering PALS for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students. We know those students need the additional instructional support and staff have specifically recruited teachers for those grade levels.

The program will have SPED (Special Education) support for students identified for specialized support and EL (English Learning) teachers hired will support English Language learners.

Students qualify for the program by meeting one or more of the following criteria:

- Reading, Writing, or Math (student requires additional instruction to meet grade level expectations)
- Student speaks English as a second language and / or has limited English proficiency
- Social / Emotional Supports (student has experienced homelessness and / or has mental / physical health needs)
- Student missed a significant number of days of school during the regular school year

- Student is, or has a sibling who is, being treated for a life-threatening illness

The statutory language is broad enough that we can quite literally qualify almost all students at this time due to the current pandemic.

CLUB NICOLLET

Hours 7:00 - 5:30 pm- Monday - Friday and non-school days

Currently we have 5 students registered in the program which is coordinated by Will Ullrich. They are all attending their distance learning everyday. There are 3 one hour block periods of class, one of which is a "flex period" for students to work on homework, electives or engage with the staff if they are caught up. Then after lunch they have one more hour block with 30 minutes for teacher office hours or gym time with the staff.

Staff have received positive comments from parents who are very glad this program is available to them. Staff has reached out to the teachers of all the students registered for the program to keep the coordinator posted on any missing assignments or guided practice these students might need to do.

Will Ulrich, program coordinator shared an example with Tom Umhoefer. Will worked with one student for an hour and a half, writing out math problems he was putting into a calculator. It took time, but he said he could definitely tell that by the end of it he had more confidence in the subject matter. Will shares students and parents are seemingly very happy with the program. He believes we are making a difference in these kids' lives by giving them the attention and care they need.

We anticipate more students getting registered as news of our sliding fee scale for free and reduced lunch gets circulated.

Academics - Full Distance learning (*Imina Oftedah*)

Distance Learning Schedules

- Elementary principals have developed a common base schedule for all sites which includes synchronous time, block for lunch/teacher prep/asynchronous art/music/phy ed, and grade level What I Need Time (WIN).
- Middle school and high school will keep their basic block schedule

Wednesday Instruction - with the move to full distance learning and in accordance with the Governor's latest executive order, student and teacher expectations for Wednesday's have been adjusted

- Elementary will hold an extended morning session focused on social engagement and community building. Schools are developing special events that provide students with opportunities to interact with one another and gather online in larger groups or cross grade level groups. The remainder of the day will be asynchronous for students while teachers meet as teams to examine data and plan WIN intervention groups. Teachers will also be provided with professional development along with the extended preparation time required in the executive order
- Middle schools have students engage synchronously with their elective teachers on Wednesdays. Core teachers work with SISA in their collaborative teams on standards level curriculum work. SISA is replacing days that would have been scheduled for curriculum work with substitutes in the classrooms, with shorter sessions more often on Wednesdays. Teachers are provided with the extended preparation time required in the executive order.
- High school is providing the additional prep time daily for teachers and are using time on Wednesdays for professional development and curriculum development work while meeting with students on an abbreviated schedule.

Assessment - with January comes the winter benchmarking showing student progress. Teachers are being trained to assess remotely. Preparations for state assessments have started. All state tests must be completed in person, and there is a hope that we will return to hybrid prior to the spring testing.

Activities (Brian):

The Athletics & Activities COVID Response Team has continued to meet as is the process described to the Board during the November 12, 2020 regular meeting. Since that time, all youth sports and activities were paused by Governor Walz, effectively setting the dials at “0”. The team will continue to maintain the process and will meet on Thursdays to review COVID-19 data for our counties and districts and will be prepared to update our dials once this returns to a local determination.

MSHSL league made news more recently stating they are ready to resume activities when the Governor permits it, and the league released versions of schedules for activities with varied start date options. We want our students engaged in activities as soon as it is safe to do so, but ISD 191 will continue to set the dials based on health and safety data. Our BHS administrative team has remained in close contact with our conference partners to collaborate and share information as well.

As a final note, since the report to the Board on November 12, the COVID Response Team has expanded to include ISD 191 community education representatives who created a parallel dial system to be utilized for community education programming and facilities rentals.