

Red Wing Public Schools
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School Board Meeting Agenda Item

Topic: COVID-Related Topics
Contact(s):
Presenter(s): Karsten Anderson, Superintendent

Nature of Action Requested

Board Action
Board Information or Report

Background Information

COVID Data

Joni Gorman and Lisa Steggerda update COVID data on a weekly basis after Goodhue County shares its data. Generally, this occurs on Mondays so the report will often be updated shortly before board meetings. The latest version is posted for your review.

Maggie Cichosz explained that “projected” data rates are based on actual data, not estimates based on trends. Cases move on or off county reports and sometimes there are reporting delays, so the word “projected” is used. Numbers on the county reports do not match the CDC website exactly due to reporting delays and the rolling nature of CDC’s data reporting. The Minnesota Department of Health no longer reports two-week case rates, but they do provide data of cases by county.

The COVID Data report now reflects adjustments to include the latest numbers. Even the latest figures may change as data is entered into county, state and federal tracking programs.

Learning Plan for 2021-22

The latest version of the board-approved learning plan is included as an attachment. There are no recommended changes at this time, but the COVID Response Team is closely monitoring the impact of not requiring high school students to quarantine if they live in the same household as someone who tests positive.

COVID Face Coverings

The latest version of Policy 808: Face Coverings is included as an attachment. There are no recommended changes at this time.

Criteria and Timing for Suspending and Reinstating the Face Coverings Policy

Based on a recommendation from the COVID Response Team, the school board approved Criteria and Timing for Suspending and Reinstating the Face Coverings Policy. The latest approved version is attached. There are no recommended changes at this time.

Vaccinations

As per the Minnesota School Board Association's News Clippings on September 13th:

"President Joe Biden's six-part plan to address surging COVID-19 rates include a route to create new teacher vaccination and testing requirements, even in some states where governors have not moved to set their own mandates.

The plan, which Biden announced Thursday, calls on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to create an emergency rule that would require workplaces with more than 100 employees to require vaccination or weekly testing. While Biden's speech framed that rule as applying to private employers, it will also apply to public employees, including K-12 educators, in the 26 states and two territories that have state-level OSHA-approved workplace safety plans, a U.S. Department of Labor spokesperson confirmed...

White House officials said Friday that the agency would release the rule 'in coming weeks.'"

Testing

Red Wing Public Schools now offers COVID-19 testing to staff and students starting 10/25/21. Testing options for symptomatic staff or students:

1. Test on site, using Vault PCR saliva tube test.
2. Take a Vault PCR saliva tube test home, return the test to your school when completed to be mailed.
3. Take home a Vault PCR saliva test kit, mail in the finished test by yourself.
4. Visit Mayo to receive a nasal swab PCR test.
5. Do not test, but staff or students will have to stay home from 10 days, starting on the first day of symptoms, returning to work/school on day 11.

Testing options for staff or students who want to routinely test for COVID-19:

1. Test on site, using Vault PCR saliva tube test.
2. Take a Vault PCR saliva tube test home, return the test to your school when completed to be mailed.
3. Take home a Vault PCR saliva test kit, mail in the finished test by yourself.

Testing tubes, kits and instructions are available in each building nurse's office. The district also needs a release form signed for each person under the age of 18 to be able to perform testing at school.

Recommendation

This information is present for review. There are no recommended changes at this time.