

**Red Wing Public Schools**  
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive  
Red Wing, MN 55066



---

Phone 651.385.4500

www.rwps.org

### **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**

A board member asked for information about requirements for spectators at athletic events for schools in the Big 9. As of September 8<sup>th</sup>, Paul Hartmann provided

- Albert Lea, Faribault (if 21 and older), Rochester require spectators to wear face coverings
- Austin, Mankato, Northfield, Owatonna, and Winona recommend the wearing of face coverings

## **Criteria and Timing for Suspending and Reinstating the Face Coverings Policy**

The COVID Response Team generated a proposal on timing and criteria for suspending and reinstating face coverings. Based on discussion after board members reviewed the proposal on September 7<sup>th</sup>, options are presented for consideration.

## **Vaccinations and Testing**

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

"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.'"

## Recommendation

I move to approve the Criteria and Timing for Suspending and Reinstating the Face Covering Policy as presented with Option A.