

Board Meeting Date: January 14, 2021

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 will share information related to the primary areas of our work: Health & Safety, Academics- a shift to hybrid or in-person learning model, including Operations.

Health and Safety (MDH):

County Updates: Represents 12/20-1/2/21. Dakota County is 44.88 and Scott County is 42.83 Numbers were corrected from the earlier release which had Dakota at 40.00 and Scott at 38.22. During this afternoon's Scott County Public Health meeting with Lisa Brodsky, Public Health Director she shared the correct number for the county.

We must use the County with the higher case number. For secondary students it still puts us in the distance learning model. As a reminder per Governor Walz's Executive Order and updated Minnesota Safe Learning Plan on 12/16:

- Elementary schools' learning models are not required to be closely tied to county case rates.
- Elementary schools are allowed to change to hybrid or in-person learning models as early as Jan. 18
- If they are moving to a hybrid or in-person model, schools must use a "rolling start," welcoming back a few grades at a time. In other words, as an example, grades PreK-2 could start on Jan. 18, followed by grades 3-5 on Feb. 1.
- Athletics & activities can resume in-person practices as early as Jan. 4.

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

Now Bernie Bean and I will share a brief overview about the additional mitigation strategies for schools. More information will be provided by Stephanie White in the presentation:

PPE- School districts and charter schools are strongly encouraged to require staff operating in-person or hybrid learning to wear face masks and face shields together whenever possible during the school day as an important additional health and safety precaution to prevent against the spread of COVID-19 in our school communities. "Strongly encourage" is a change from the original Executive Order stipulation to require both shields and masks.

I am strongly recommending that I require that school staff that work directly with students to wear both face masks and face shield with exception of bus drivers (driving hazard), staff for which students must see their lips move and food service employees when working in the kitchen preparing meals. The COVID-19 Advisory Committee supports this requirement also.

Bernie will explain the why behind this recommendation.

I want to also share that Districts and charter schools will receive additional masks and shields from the state and school leaders must provide them to staff. The [face covering requirements](#) under Executive Order 20-81 remain in effect.

Dave Lake, Director of Operations has reported that “We have plenty of face shields to provide for both elementary and secondary. We will be sending 200 to each elementary school, 400 to each secondary school and also a supply to Diamondhead Education Center, River Ridge Education Center and our Alternative High School prior to Feb. 1”.

MDE and MDH shared with nurses and superintendents that PPE is available for pick up today and tomorrow. It includes face masks for students and staff. Also, the face shields available are the left over ones from fall which were less quality. The better quality face shields manufactured by Anderson windows will be available February 15.

Vaccine - Dakota County has asked if our district is interested in partnering with them to offer a vaccine clinic for our staff. Phase 1b prioritization recommendations include non-health care frontline essential workers and persons aged 75 years or older.

Non-health care frontline essential workers include those who work in education such as teachers, support staff members and child care workers. Phase 1b vaccination would begin after 1a is complete.

Shifting Learning Models- See presentation

Brian Gersich and staff will share information about our plans to shift to hybrid or in-person learning, Distance Learning Plus, new mitigation strategies, updates for Project Kids, PALS (Partners Achieving Learning Success) and BYC (Burnsville Youth Collaborative); Transportation; Food Service and Athletics and Activities.

To give you some additional context for this work, we did ask parents to let us know if they wanted to change their students' learning model choice for second semester - for

instance, to go from following the district's learning model - Hybrid, Distance or In-Person - to Virtual Academy, which is the 100% online option.

Many parents did request a change and that means shifting class assignments, schedules, transportation and much more, even if the net change wasn't overwhelming.

Across all elementary schools, the net result of change requests was 125 more students choosing the district model of in-person, hybrid or distance learning and moving away from Virtual Academy.

At the middle school level, Virtual Academy saw a net increase of 28 students.

At the high school, Virtual Academy saw a net increase of 34 students.

So at the secondary level, more students are moving to 100% online, while at the elementary level, more students will be attending in person.

As of 1.11.21	VA	Hybrid / In-Person
9-12	40.58%	59.42%
6-8	40.30%	59.70%
K-5	32.36%	67.64%

6-12 VA increased by 1.25-1.5% from 12.7.20

K-5 VA decreased by 3.92% from 12.7.20

