

Email on January 18, 2022

Hello GMR staff,

Today Governor Walz will announce Minnesota is piloting a community COVID-19 vaccine program, partnering with local public health and school districts, to place nine pilot sites across the state. These pilot sites will serve prekindergarten through grade 12 educators, school staff, and child care providers beginning at some of the pilot sites on January 21, 2021.

*This is very good news. However, I want to be very upfront about what this means for Greenbush-Middle River. **The amount of vaccinations Minnesota has received from the federal government is not enough to vaccinate all of Minnesota's educators, school staff, and child care workers.** I know this is frustrating but we will have to do our best to be patient as our state simply doesn't have enough vaccine right now to reach everyone right away.*

The vaccinations that will begin this week are a part of a pilot site program. As Minnesota receives more vaccine supply from the federal government, more people can be vaccinated, and the steps we're taking now will put us in the position to move faster when we get the doses we need.

Our district has received an allotment of 5 vaccines. We know, and Governor Walz knows, that this is not an acceptable rate for educators to be receiving the vaccine. The Governor is doing everything he can to get more vaccine to Minnesota.

Due to the minimal supply Minnesota has received, we have had to prioritize which educators and staff receive these first doses. We followed [guidance from the state](#) to make these prioritizations for this first round of vaccine doses.

*Appointments for educators and staff in our school will begin on **Thursday, January 21** for some of the sites. Evening and weekend appointment times have been prioritized for education and child care workers.*

The Minnesota National guard will be present at the vaccination sites. They have successfully operated testing sites around the state and have now be tapped to do this work. Do not be surprised to see them!]

If you receive a slot for a [Ffizer] vaccination, you will receive an email from me with further instructions on how to schedule your appointment scheduled for an evening or weekend in Thief River Falls.

Governor Walz has assured us that once Minnesota receives more vaccine from the federal government, the doses for educators and school staff will increase. The state is working across Minnesota to setup infrastructure that will accommodate mass vaccination so we will be ready when there is an uptick in supply.

The vaccinations that will begin at sites this week are pilot site programs and we will be new to this as well. Let's all be kind and patient with one another as we take this significant step forward in curbing the pandemic.

Thank you for everything you do and please continue to follow safe protocols to avoid the spread of the Covid virus.

Larry Guggisberg

Superintendent