

Board Meeting Date: March 25, 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, staff and I will share information related to Health & Safety, Secondary Learning Model and prom and Graduation.

Health and Safety (MDH):

County Updates: Represents confirmed cases 2/28/21 to 3/13/21. Dakota County is 27.02, an increase from 25.73 and Scott County is 37.52, an increase from 27.34
Bernie Bien, our lead licensed school nurse will now share analysis of County data and 191 data and an update regarding our participation in Minnesota's Vaccine Program and our required mitigation strategies. After Bernie's information Brian Gersich, assistant superintendent will share updates.

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

Secondary Shift and Activities:

Shift to secondary in-person:

- Given the numbers, and trends, while we will still work to be ready for return to in person on April 12, we are likely going to be looking at April 19 or later before we would recommend that shift from our Advisory team.
 - One of the things 191 has been consistent with is the desire to see patterns of data as we shift models, and the patterns explained by Bernie are not favorable when combined with spring break.
 - Early in planning, trends were downward, but the recent leveling and subsequent rise in cases means we should allow time for patterns.
- Our transportation assumptions are also noteworthy in this process. In order to get students to school with the number of busses, routes and drivers, we need to permit more students on the bus, as many as 45. This means 2 students per seat bringing even more students within the consideration of close contact and subject to quarantine if seated near a student who tests positive.
- Our COVID advisory also wants us to be cautious that we are not just bringing back students only to send them back.
 - We need to be careful or we lose the advantage of getting to in person learning. For each 2 weeks back in, it takes just 1 quarantine to get back to same number of in person learning days but with more interruption to routines
 - With our hybrid model, which has been working well, we get a bit more safety and routine
 - While the CDC recently suggested schools could be running within 3 feet of distancing, MDH is still calling it a close contact for anyone within 6 feet.

Prom and Graduation:

I'd also like to give the Board an update on where we are planning for a couple of our major high school events including Prom and Graduation.

The process has taken a long time to figure out the parameters as we have been consistently waiting for guidance from MDE/MDH. Based on the current guidance established for celebrations and venues, here are a few items under consideration.

That said, plans are not yet firm and still in development as they are quite a way out there in the world of COVID and if we have learned anything in the last full year, we need to be flexible and our planning is fluid.

Prom:

- Our team has worked to reserve the Landmark Center for May 1
- Following the guidance for the venue and calculations there is a 325 person max at the facility
- The current version under consideration would suggest hosting prom for seniors only, BHS students only
- The team is also considering creating smaller versions and having 2 prom shifts
 - 5-7 and 9-11 with time in between to reset and clean
 - This could be up to 225 students per shift plus staff (though certainly not all students attend prom)
- To support social distancing, team could create student pods of 6 (pod) for both table settings and dance floor
 - Details are still being flushed out including how they would design dance floors with ideas they could consider like sections and zones, wristbands for sectioning, rotations on the floor, etc.
- Team likely to serve bottled water as refreshments to minimize maskless time
- Would also have other procedures in place like socially distant check-in

Graduation BHS:

- Graduation also follows practices for Capacity numbers and calculations from the state
- Should be able to host graduation in person with kids on the field and that is what the BHS team would prefer to do for our graduates
- Current iteration would limit the number of spectators to about 2-3 per graduate and potentially split into more than one ceremony
- The event would be live streamed for those who are not able to attend in person
 - Streaming is also a back up plan if we have a need to adjust due to COVID meaning somehow spectators not permitted (need to be prepared)
 - If needed, would also consider students only graduation via live stream with no guests, but this is not the preference of the team
- Again, the desire is to do something in person and live stream no matter what

Graduation BAHS:

- Similarly BAHS looking for an in person graduation
- Traditionally done in MRAZ Center and will need to review capacity limits and procedures to see if this is viable or will look at other options