

## District COVID-19 Updates

I have been an educator for 34 years, twenty-eight of those years as an administrator. Never have I experienced as fluid of a situation as COVID-19 has been the past five months. We are truly charting unknown waters and to make matters more difficult there is no map or compass to guide us. As a result, I have been very active in weekly Zoom meetings with several superintendent groups, the Dane County and Rock County Public Health Departments, Wisconsin Department of Public Education (DPI), and the Dane County Emergency Management team. Weekly, the situation fluctuates and decisions seem to adjust to the rapidly changing waters. Needless to say, I certainly am not at a loss for current factual information.

As we prepare for the fall there is still great uncertainty. In the upcoming weeks our administration will begin preliminary planning for the fall reopening of schools. We will take into consideration all the information we know as of now which includes, but is not limited to: student and staff safety, social distancing guidelines, usage of masks guidelines, cleaning procedures, and transportation. As we develop our reopening plans I can assure the community that our recommendations will take into consideration the public health department guidelines, Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletics Association (WIAA) guidelines, DPI guidelines, and parent and staff survey data. In addition, we will closely monitor the plans of area school districts and review plans from districts throughout the state.

As our planning begins, I anticipate we will have choices for parents regarding the reopening of schools which may include full in person instruction, part-time in person blended with part-time virtual, and full virtual instruction. Our administrative team understands that some families may not be ready to send students back to school at the start of the school year. Therefore, we will be mindful in our planning to accommodate the needs of all our families to the best of our ability.

Prior to final decisions being made to the reopening plan, several critical events will occur in which the administration seeks to gather information to consider. Below is a timeline of such events in which responses will assist administration in planning for the fall reopening of our schools.

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| June 23-30 | Parent survey  |
| June 30    | Administrative team meets to establish a July schedule for planning the reopening of schools.  |
| July 6     | Staff survey   |
| July 8     | Administrative Team begins preliminary planning efforts for reopening schools, Staff Virtual Town Hall invited to participate in a Virtual Town Hall meeting at 2:00, Parents/Community invited to participate in a Virtual Town Hall meeting at 6:00. |

July 27 Recommendation to School Board for fall reopening continuum of service delivery options.

Sept. 1 First Day of School for Students

At the July 27 School Board meeting administration will present our plan. Communication of the plan will be provided to staff, families, and the community following the July 27 meeting. Parents and community members will have the opportunity to view the presentation virtually, and it will also be posted to the District website following the meeting.

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority and all plans will be prepared in accordance with guidance from the experts in the medical field. As restrictions are lifted and life begins to return to a more familiar routine, please remember that the pandemic is not associated with a calendar, therefore we must continue to be diligent in following the guidelines set forth by our local and national health experts. Together, we will make it through this pandemic safely.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions. Stay well!

Dr. Pauli