



Good afternoon Watertown-Mayer Families

While the first three weeks of our school year have looked much different, I could not be more proud of our students, staff, and families for their continued flexibility, patience, and teamwork in working together to provide a safe return to school. The purpose of this email is to update you on our current Carver County COVID-19 rates and additional Safe Return to School documents:

- [Watertown-Mayer Schools COVID Response Matrix](#)
- [COVID Communications Matrix](#)

On September 17th, the weekly Minnesota Department of Health data shows Carver County at 11.15% COVID-19 cases per 10,000 people over the last two weeks, down from 14.1 last week. While this trend is very positive, we know that county case numbers are just the starting point for determining which learning models are in use. Now that we have completed three weeks of our school year, there are many more factors that come into play when determining a learning model.

Another source of data considered in shifting learning models are cases at individual schools. If there was a unique circumstance (i.e outbreak at a specific school, classroom, not sufficient staffing, etc.) we would consider a shift in learning model which could be done by classroom, grade, school, etc. or potentially even close a school building for a short period of time to allow for time to identify close contacts.

With that said, we want to assure you that the health and safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority when determining learning models. We know changing learning models will have an impact on students, staff, and families.

We will continue serving PreK-4 students in person, and 5-12 students in a hybrid model for now. Please make sure your family has a plan in case a change in learning models must occur. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership as we navigate the start of the school year.

Together in Education,

Darren Schuler

WM Superintendent