

Good Afternoon Watertown-Mayer Families,

Today our district had a consultation meeting with our Covid-19 Regional Support Team, which consists of representatives from the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Education, and Carver County Health officials. During this meeting we discussed trends and projections in state, county, and local data and began to plan for a possible change in learning models.

As previously shared, there are several data points to consider as it relates to our learning models. Every day we review county, local area and district statistics. As we learned today, Carver County data, as well as cases from the cities of Watertown and Mayer are increasing exponentially.

Until a week ago our district case rate remained relatively low. Unfortunately over the last week, the number of students and staff in quarantine and/or with positive test results has increased. This, in turn, has had a significant impact on our ability to staff our elementary school. Severe shortages in substitute teachers and paraprofessionals are making it difficult to maintain effective student programming and daily operations. Unfortunately, these staffing issues are statewide and not unique to our district.

Our administrative team, school board members, and members of our Safe Return to School committee, are currently reviewing the potential for a shift in our learning models. We hope to release updated learning model plans early next week, with potential changes going into effect no earlier than the week of November 23rd.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we take the necessary steps to protect the health and safety of students, staff, and the community.

Sincerely,

Darren Schuler  
Superintendent