

Dear District Families and Staff,

I would like to update you on our latest information in regards to our learning model and the recent spike in positive case rates in our county and an increase in our WM schools. [Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County \(PDF\)](#)

As of November 10th, our school data shows 8 total student cases and 4 total staff cases. This data translates to a very low percentage of students and staff district-wide who have the virus. Due to our proactive measures in mitigating the virus, we have not had spread amongst students and staff. The [WM Dashboard](#) does not, however, reflect the number of staff and students in quarantine because they were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 or are in isolation due to illness. The reason these numbers are not shared is because the number can fluctuate rapidly based on test results and the number of students returning to school after isolation and/or quarantine is complete.

We are predicting Carver County case rates will continue to rise over the next few weeks. As we have stated previously, the Carver County data is just one point of reference when looking at potential change in learning models. We review the following:

- Watertown and Mayer community case data
- School specific data
- Data trends in our PreK-12 schools
- Staffing shortages due to staff being quarantined or home with their own quarantined children
- Cohorts of students in quarantine
- Further direction by the Minnesota Department of Health

We have inquired to have a meeting with our Regional Support Team from the MN Department of Education and the MN Department of Health, along with county health officials, to review our data and for further guidance in regards to a possible shift in learning models in the near future. We will provide another update after those meetings.

Today we are asking that you review [your family plan](#) to accommodate a learning model shift in the event that public health officials recommend a change to learning models. We know a change in learning models impacts families and we want to make sure that we are communicating the latest information. Please stay tuned for updates and thank you for your on-going support and patience during these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Darren Schuler

Superintendent