



School District of Onalaska

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September 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Board of Education approved the [revised plan for reopening schools](#) at last night's meeting with the following exception: The decision was made "to allow current in-person programming, including co-curriculars, to continue until a decision about returning students to school on October 6 is made." Current in-person programming includes high school fall activities and specialized programming for certain students with special needs. The decision related to whether or not we return to in-person learning October 6 will be made using the guidelines outlined below.

Changes to the previously approved plan were required as a result of the retirement of the County Compass and its related guidance document. The [Harvard Model](#) is now being utilized when making district-wide decisions on when it is safe for students to be back at school.

The primary indicator related to public safety and the operation of schools is measured by the La Crosse County daily cases per 100,000 people on a seven day rolling average. The new County Collaborative Matrix is also based on this model. The District will also monitor the positive test ratio per 100,000 people on a seven day rolling average as a secondary indicator of overall risk.

When the County Risk Level exceeds 25 new cases per day per 100,000 people on a seven day rolling average (approximately 30 actual cases per day in La Crosse County), it is determined that the congregating of students at school is detrimental to the overall health and safety of the community. The District will transition to virtual learning when the County Risk Level is at Red and trend data clearly indicates that the county will remain in Red for at least a week or longer. The District will give families a minimum of one week prior to the transition to all virtual learning. In person programming will resume when the new case level drops below the 25 new case per 100,000 per day threshold and trend data indicates that the county will be below that threshold for a minimum of one week or longer.

COVID Risk Level	Case Incidence		Learning Mode Priorities
Red	>25	Daily new cases per 100,000	Virtual Learning Only
Orange	10<25	Daily new cases per 100,000	Priority 1 PreK-5 In-Person Priority 2 6-8 In-Person Priority 3 9-12 Blended
Yellow	1<10	Daily new cases per 100,000	Priority 1 PreK-5 In-Person Priority 2 6-8 In-Person Priority 3 9-12 Blended
Green	<1	Daily new cases per 100,000	K-12 In-Person

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Intermittent School/District Closure During In-Person Programming

It will be very important that the District monitor positive cases, close contacts and the overall absentee rate due to illness as it makes decisions related to the intermittent closures of classes, cohorts, and schools. The District will utilize guidance from the WI Department of Health Services and will work with the County Health Department when making decisions on temporary stoppages of in-person programming. Virtual/remote learning will continue for all students affected by any intermittent classroom/school/district closure.

Classrooms/Cohorts/Schools may temporarily halt in-person instruction when:

- Individual classrooms or the entire school needs to be cleaned and disinfected without alternative spaces being available
- Contact tracing cannot be completed before the start of the next school day.
- Staffing shortages do not allow for safe operations
- When 20% of students are absent in a class/school due to COVID-19, other illness and/or close contact quarantines.

Communication Protocols

The District will use existing systems for communications related to positive cases, contact tracing and intermittent school closures with staff and families.

Confirmed Cases

Positive cases of COVID-19 are reported to the La Crosse County Health Department. The protocol requires the county to contact the school district when they have a report of a positive case that affects our student and staff population. Notifications to families and staff will be sent out by the District based on contact tracing protocol and in a manner that maintains confidentiality.

Dashboard

The District will establish and maintain a COVID-19 dashboard to be made available to the public through the district website. The dashboard will be updated weekly and include the current level of community risk as reported by the County Health Department, new, active, and cumulative cases by school and average daily attendance by school.

The earliest possible date that in-person programming would start is October 6th. We will be monitoring the current case rates in the county and making a determination by September 25th. Much work has gone into preparing our learning spaces to safely bring students back if it is determined that it is safe to do so. We look forward to that day.

Thank you,



Todd L. Antony
Superintendent

TA/kf

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