

SDMA COVID-19 Report

September 14, 2020 Update

COVID-19- What do we know?

- This pandemic continues to be an evolving situation: [CDC website](#).
 - 215 confirmed cases in Dunn County with 177 of the cases have been released from quarantine at the time of this report (9/10/20).
 - According to [tracking by DHS](#), the current COVID-19 activity level for Dunn County is: High, the burden level is High, and the trend is Horizontal.
 - [Badger Bounce Back Plan](#)
 - Only two of six indicators hit on Wisconsin's [gating criteria](#).
- Guidance for Gatherings in Dunn County remains at: 25 people allowed for indoor gatherings, 50 for outdoor gatherings- may be more than one separate gathering per facility.
 - Still important to monitor symptoms.
 - Still important to wash hands.
 - Still important to maintain social distancing (6') as much as possible.
 - Still important to wear a face covering and/or utilize other mitigation techniques when social distancing cannot be fully achieved.
- On July 30, Governor Tony Evers issued [an order](#) requiring face coverings in public until September 28. The SDMA has been complying with the Governor's order.
 - If the order expires on September 28, the SDMA will continue to operate under the directives of the order unless further action is taken by the school board.
- In the absence of guidance from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the regional health directors have been collaborating to develop guidelines for informing the decision-making process related to the possibility of school closures due to COVID-19.

Current Programming in the SDMA:

- **Physical Distancing in Classrooms**
 - At least 6' of spacing is available in 100% of K-8 classrooms and 66% of 9-12 classes.

- Due to the increased distancing at MMS, the [2020-2021 SDMA Instructional Plan](#) has been updated to include grades 7-8 in the grouping that would be able to continue with everyday in-person instruction with full enrollment if the district is forced to utilize the Blended Learning Model for stricter physical distancing requirements.
- **Staffing**
 - The district has added several temporary positions to staff the SDMA Reopening Plan. All positions have been filled with the exception of two full-time substitute teaching positions.
 - 23 teachers (8 class size reduction, 8 elem virtual, 7 full-time substitutes)
 - School Nurse
 - Student Health Assistant
 - 2 supervisory aides
 - 7 custodians
 - Increased hours for several part time paraeducators and supervisory aides
- **Student and Staff Attendance**
 - The first two weeks of the school year have gone well. There have not been any reported cases of COVID-19 in our schools at the time of this report.
 - Some students and staff members have been excluded from school due to symptom monitoring or close contact tracing outside of the school district.
 - The strict exclusionary guidance has been difficult and frustrating for some families. Some school districts are not following the guidance that suggests all household members be excluded if a person has certain symptoms, but schools in the SDMA are still following the guidance recommended by DHS and approved by the Board. Excluding individuals with COVID-19 is the most effective mitigation measure currently available.
 - The teachers added to the 2020-2021 staffing plan have been instrumental in keeping classes operating as smoothly as possible when staff members are out.
 - Temporary changes to the Employee Handbook are recommended to provide hourly employees earlier access to accrued paid leave.
- [Free Meals for Kids](#)- the program was extended through December 31 (contingent on funding)

- **Technology**
 - Student chromebooks are being distributed as soon as possible after they are received.
 - Students in the full time virtual school were the top priority and were distributed prior to September 1.
 - Over 1,000 student chromebooks were received on September 10 and are expected to be distributed to MHS students beginning on September 14.
- **Virtual School**
 - Approximately 600 students were enrolled in the full-time virtual school option and all students have been enrolled in the WVS courses.
 - Students in the elementary virtual program began the year with specialized instruction from SDMA virtual school teachers while more teachers were hired and WVS systems were being set up.
 - The district has received a number of requests to allow students back into the in-person instructional model, so a drop window has been developed and communicated to families.
 - Approximately 25 students have requested to return to in-person instruction at the time of this report.
 - The planned replacement of the district's internet filter is complete, but there have been some difficulties with managing the new settings. The technology team has been working to modify settings and expand access to needed websites and online tools.
- **Transportation**
 - Menomonie Transportation has done a great job evaluating routes and making a few adjustments to maximize physical distancing on the buses. Based on the route roster data, the district approved one additional bus route to increase distancing on a number of adjacent routes.
 - [Menomonie Transportation Summary Report 9-4-20](#)
 - [Menomonie Transportation Summary Report Update 9-10-20](#)
 - [Bus Route Report- September 9, 2020](#)
 - [Bus Route Report- September 2, 2020](#)
- **Fall Activities**
 - All fall activities are now underway and [updated schedules](#) are posted on the school district website. A number of practices and events have already occurred without incident.
 - The district has been working with UW Stout on a safety plan for allowing the varsity football team to play at Williams Stadium.
 - The district has been working with the Dunn County Health Department on a safety plan for allowing parent spectators at home events.