

August 12, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We have faced many challenges this past year and a half with COVID, but in the face of those challenges our students were able to also experience success in so many different ways. As we begin the next school year in a few weeks, I am taking this opportunity to give you a status update on how we will approach the COVID-19 pandemic at this time.

Students and staff did a great job last school year following mitigation and prevention protocols all year and as we start this year we will continue to follow many of the previous protocols, but there have been some changes. Our fall opening plans were approved at the July 2021 Board meeting and include the following:

- **Masking:** Masking will be optional but recommended for those who have not or are not able to have one of the COVID-19 vaccines. Due to federal rules, masking is required on school busses and we will work with our bus service on that item. Keep in mind the District does not own its busses and has no ability to contravene that requirement.
- **Symptoms/Exposure:** Students, teachers and staff who are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms need to stay home regardless of vaccination status. It is recommended that anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms be tested.
 - As a reminder the following are the symptoms of COVID-19
 - If you are experiencing any one of the following symptoms you should quarantine and seek further medical advice: cough, shortness of breath/trouble breathing, new loss of smell or taste
 - If you are experiencing any two of the following symptoms you should quarantine and seek further medical advices: sore throat, unusual fatigue, nausea or vomiting, muscle or body aches, fever greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, runny nose or nasal congestion, headache, diarrhea (please note children with a fever, nausea or diarrhea should not attend school even with those single symptoms as these are symptoms of other illnesses)
- **Quarantines:** The guidelines from the Wood County Health Department regarding quarantines have some changes from last year. The base quarantine continues to be 10 or 14 days depending on whether you are diagnosed or symptomatic with COVID-19 or simply a close contact. Options do remain for shorter quarantine periods of 7 or 10 days in some cases. There are also differences between vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals with regard to quarantines. Please refer to the Wood County Health Department or the Wisconsin State Department of Health Services for details about quarantines. We are continuing to review this guidance with our school health staff as there are nuances for many difference scenarios.
- **Vaccination Status:** Our school health staff does not have direct access to the COVID-19 vaccination status of our students or staff. Our health staff may ask individuals for that information at some point prior to or during the school year. Please note this it is not required for individuals to share that information with the school district, however if you do, it will assist our health staff in their tasks associated with working with the Wood County Health Department to determine quarantine periods if a person is exposed to COVID-19.
- **Testing:** The District is working with the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Health Services and our local Wood County Health Department on an at school COVID testing option for students or staff with symptoms. Again there is no requirement that individuals test

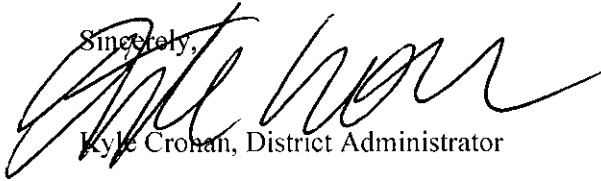
through the school or at all. Individuals can make their own decisions in this regard, but we are working on making an option available if possible.

- Other mitigation items:
 - Continue to bring a water bottle from home and use the bottle fillers during the day, the fountains will remain off at this time.
 - We will continue to ask students and staff to socially distance when possible...we are looking for students and staff to maintain at least three feet or greater of physical distancing throughout the day
 - We will maintain hand sanitizing stations and encourage hand washing throughout the day.
 - We will continue to encourage students and staff to be outside when possible.
 - We will continue to keep high school, middle school and elementary school in separate cohorts with as little mixing between the groups as possible.

As we begin the school year, we are looking forward to seeing our students and working with them to thrive in their education. While we are not out of the woods quite yet, we will continue to review our procedures and as we did last year we will continue to provide you with updates. I again ask for your continued patience and flexibility as we proceed through this year.

Thank you for continuing to help us keep school open!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Crohan', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Kyle Crohan, District Administrator