September 12, 2020

Dear Students and Parents,

I want to provide an update as we continue to maneuver through the start of the 2020-21 school year guided by the SDNR Tiger Launch Plan 2020-21 (8-13-20). We have had zero (0) positive COVID-19 student cases in the SDNR since July 6, 2020. We have had one staff member test positive but this was prior to any students in the building thus no communication was sent out. This past week we did have another staff member test positive in the District but that individual had limited contact with any students and that building was notified as planned. We have had to quarantine a small number of students and staff out of precaution due to these individuals being a contact of a positive COVID-19 case outside of school. The following includes both new information and reminders:

**SDNR decision matrix and data points to move from one learning model to another if needed**
- 14 Day County Level Case Rate
- Student and Staff Absences due to COVID-19 (SCCPH Required Quarantine)
- Student and Staff COVID-19 Positive Test
- Student and Staff Absences due to COVID-19 (Self Quarantine)
- Substitute Staffing Availability
- Community of New Richmond COVID-19 Testing Data
- DHS School Re-opening Guidance

**District COVID-19 Information**
- SDNR COVID-19 School Based Exclusion (9-10-20) (New)
- SDNR Daily Symptom Check
- SDNR Returning to School COVID-19 Parent Information Sheet (8-30-20)

**SDNR Mask and Face Covering Overview**
- SDNR Mask and Face Coverings for Sale
- SDNR Mask/Face Covering Requirements (9-10-20)
  - Please note the following change: Masks with exhalation valves or vents are NOT allowed

**Important Mask and Face Covering Update:**
- The governor’s “Emergency Order #1,” which establishes state-wide rules and various exceptions regarding the wearing of face coverings in indoor locations and in certain other “enclosed spaces,” is due to expire on September 28, 2020.
- As approved on July 20, 2020 by the SDNR Board of Education, the following Mask and Face Covering Policy will then go into effect if this emergency order does expire. All students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask and use in the following situations:
  o In close contact with others which is less than six feet
  o While a single individual is giving an educational, artistic, cultural, musical, or theatrical presentation for an audience, the single speaker may remove the face covering when actively speaking.
  o While the face covering is removed, the speaker must remain at least 6 feet away from all other individuals at all times.
  o Masks will be worn before entering and also while riding the bus
  o Face shields cannot replace a mask
  o Students, staff, and visitors will wear masks when in the service lines at mealtime. Masks can then be taken off when at the designated eating space
  o If warranted, we could possibly lesson the use of masks if/when COVID-19 risks decline. We will continue educate all on the benefits associated with wearing of masks
If a positive COVID-19 case is identified in the District, the following communication will occur:

- **Elementary School**
  - A letter will go out to the entire building and identify the grade of the positive case
  - If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
  - A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

- **Middle School**
  - A letter will go out to the entire building and identify what grade level and what house is affected with the positive case
  - If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
  - A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

- **High School**
  - A letter will go out to the building and identify what grade level of the positive case
  - If 2 or more cases happen within 14 days only the grade will be notified
  - A second letter will be sent to the entire building after 14 days if new cases arise at any grade

Nicole Wocelka, who has 25+ years in the health sector, has been hired as our District COVID-19 contact tracer

- Ms. Wocelka will work directly with DHS and SCCPH as we work through the tracing process for both students and staff. I wanted all parents to know this name in case you are in contact with her.

- **Return to School:** This is based on many factors but it may seem disparate between students based on the following:
  - Last contact date between our student and a positive COVID-19 person
  - If positive case is in the household and how that is being managed
  - The start date of symptoms if any
  - It's not as simple as counting 10 or 14 days from the day we become aware of the issue

- Testing timing differences: We have learned last week that the availability of testing and how soon the results are available is also subjective.
  - Front line workers and their immediate households are usually able to be tested regardless of circumstances and those tests tend to come back quickly and sometimes as soon as 24 hours
  - People with confirmed close contacts, known positive cases, who do not have symptoms are often NOT given the option of being tested
  - People without close contact with a known positive case but do have symptoms are usually tested. However, the results are typically not back in 24 hours. We should expect them back anywhere from 3 to 10 days depending on test location/test type/lab used
  - There is still a nationwide and statewide testing shortage
  - Public school staff are not always considered front line workers at all testing locations due to the shortages mentioned above. Therefore staff may not be offered testing for themselves or family members on an emergent basis
  - You may have one student who gets cleared to come to school the day after we are notified of their situation and another with the identical situation, at least outwardly, that stays home awaiting test results

**SDNR 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines**

- [NRMS 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines (9-11-20)]
- [NRHS 2020 Fall Sports Spectator Guidelines (9-11-20)]

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Patrick B. Olson
District Administrator