



Family Communication #42

November 17, 2020

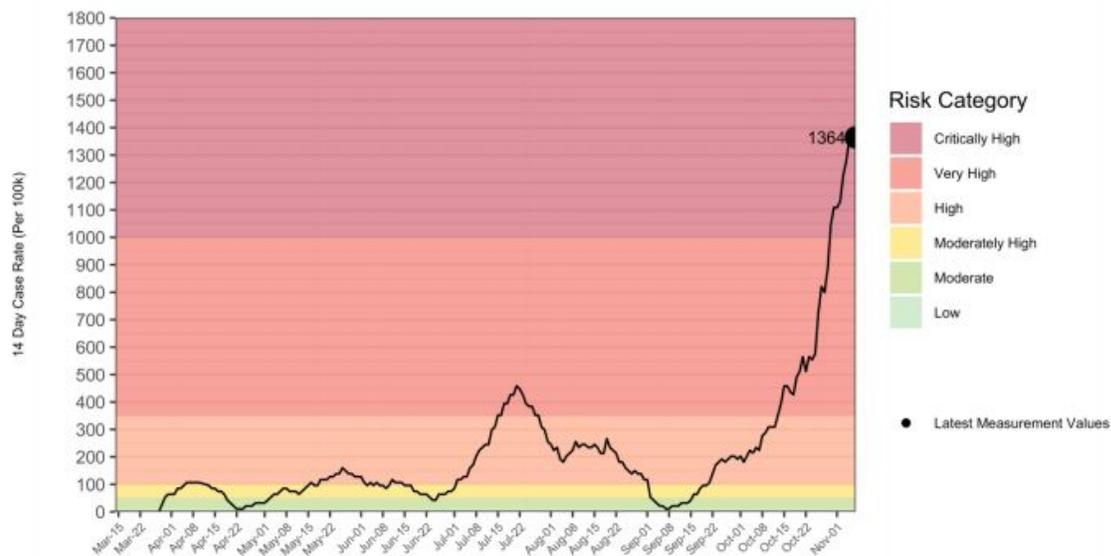
Dear St. Francis Families,

Greetings from the St. Francis School District. The purpose of this communication is to provide an update on how learning will occur in the St. Francis School District for the next couple of months. In an effort to be predictable to families and due to the District's lack of capacity to supervise students due to staff absences, students will not be permitted to be in the building during the instructional day starting on Monday, November 23. The health and safety of our students and staff are our number one priority.

Our staff has done an excellent job teaching virtually, and we thank you for your support of their passionate work. As parents/guardians, you have shouldered additional responsibilities during the pandemic to ensure that your child is learning. As you know the coronavirus has spread significantly throughout the community and Southeastern Wisconsin in recent weeks. Two weeks ago, the South Milwaukee / St. Francis Health Department moved its recommendations for reopening back to [Phase B](#). At the St. Francis School District, we have taken a proactive approach in managing the virus while providing as many in-person learning opportunities for students as possible.

Risk Plot for jurisdiction(s): Saint Francis

The latest 14-day value is: 1364.46 (see dot at end), on November 6, 2020



The health of our staff and students has been better than the community numbers, but we have reached a tipping point. Here are [the current numbers on our COVID-19 Dashboard](#) for the St. Francis School District as of last week. We had additional illness, positive cases and quarantines reported on Monday (11/16/20): 23% of Deer Creek Staff were not at work, 15% of SFHS staff were not at work, and 5% of Willow Glen staff were not at work. An average day of staff absences is 5-7%. Additional staff went home on Monday.

To date, we have not had any documented transmission of COVID-19 at any school activities.

Yesterday, the Administrative Leadership Team reviewed the community and school data at its weekly meeting. Our District protocols continue to provide a safe educational environment. Like the community, our numbers have increased over the past couple of weeks, but have been manageable. As of yesterday, staff absences reached a level where we are unable to support in-person student learning (up to 3 students/classroom) in the near future.

To reiterate again, students will not be permitted to be in the building during the instructional day starting on Monday, November 23. The target day for students returning (up to 3 per classroom) to the buildings during the instructional day is January 19, 2021. The January 19 date was selected because it is the first instructional day after a 14-day virus cycle following New Years. Until a vaccine is fully implemented or the burden of disease significantly subsides (for two weeks at or below 350), it is anticipated that instruction will remain in a virtual platform.

Other District-sponsored activities and/or partnerships will occur during this time due to the small number of students involved, individual screening, and the ability to individually address any positive cases. This includes Athletics, Student Activities, Recreation Department Activities, and the YMCA Daycare which will continue to occur as long as they have had a safety plan approved. Our internal data continues to support running all of these activities and capacity to supervise these activities is not a concern. We are able to address each program independently if a positive case occurs. All of these activities promote positive student interactions.

We will continue to monitor the health of our students, staff and community. This year continues to be very fluid. For staff, we will continue to find ways to support you through clear expectations and professional development activities that improve our instructional practices.

Lastly, we ask you to consider how your family activities can reduce the spread of coronavirus. The three best ways to minimize contracting Covid-19 are:

- Wearing a mask
- Frequent hand washing
- Social distancing of 6 feet

Please contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Elworthy
Interim Superintendent