



# Family Communication #54

## February 19, 2021

Greetings from the St. Francis School District,

I apologize for the delay in sharing the Family Communication #54. Yesterday's regional power outage impacted the St. Francis High for the last hour of the school day. The outage occurred as a result of an external event. We hope you continue to be well and your family is enjoying a three-day weekend.

Be well,

Dr. Mark Elworthy

**Return to In-Person Reminders.** Please watch for building-specific reminders. Thank you to all of the staff and building secretaries who contributed to us preparing for students being in the building on February 1. Below are three reminders for families:

- [Help Keep Our Doors Open](#)
- [Home Screening Tool - Complete Every Morning](#)
- [Steps After Reporting an Illness](#)

**Food Service Update.** *Friday, February 19 is a non-school day, so we packed three meals on Thursday and are not serving Friday.* Meals are available for pick-up every day from 10:30-11:30 AM at the St. Francis High School, including the virtual day on Wednesday. Weekend meals will continue to be offered during lunch pickup on Friday.

**Weekend Meal Sign-Up.** We are now offering a weekend meal sign up for in-person students. Weekend meals will be made available for students to take home after their last class on Friday. You must sign-up each week by Monday to take advantage of this program. Instructions on how to sign up were sent with your Building Principal's weekly newsletter. [Link for weekend meal sign up for in-person students.](#)

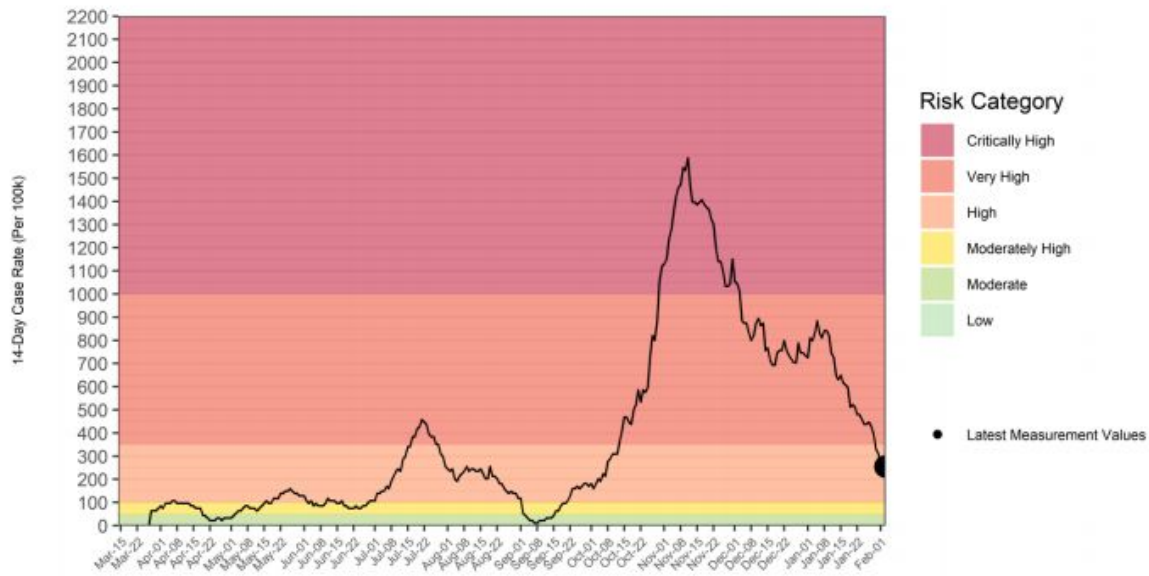
**Health Update for the City of St. Francis** - The rate of infection is trending downward. The downward trend has been a collective effort by everyone by following three important mitigation strategies: wearing a mask, frequent hand washing, and social distancing.

## Dashboard for Health Updates

- [St. Francis SD - COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Dashboard for School District](#)

### Risk Plot for jurisdiction(s): Saint Francis

The latest 14-day value is: 255.84 (see dot at end), on February 2, 2021



#### Recorded Referendum

**Presentation** - If you have not been able to attend our Informational Referendum Meetings, here is a [narrated presentation](#).

#### Referendum Presentations

- There will be two referendum questions on the April 6 Ballot. Learn more by

attending one of the District Engagement Sessions (starting at 7:30 PM) on March 8 and March 22. These presentations will be virtual. More information is available on the [District website](#).

- [Flyer](#)
- [Join via Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 833 0141 1221 / Passcode: vB0QCA

## **Letter from Chris Finch, School Board President about the Referendum Questions**

To the Citizens of St Francis,

The purpose of my communication is to update you on the two referendum questions that the St. Francis School Board approved on January 4, 2021.

Questions #1 is a four (4) year operational referendum for \$800,000 each year ending in 2025. The operational referendum dollars will address our annual operating budget deficit because state aid has not kept up with the rate of inflation.

Question #2 is a capital referendum for \$30.6 Million. As we have recently embarked upon a series of informational referendum meetings, I wanted to take a few minutes to summarize the main needs and solutions the referendum addresses. It is important that every community member has a clear understanding of what these investments cover. The referendum addresses both short-term and long-term needs that were identified over a year-long planning process.

The first District capital referendum need is to improve the safety, security, and accessibility of our school buildings. Solutions to these needs include site improvements to resolve water infiltration/drainage, improved traffic flow and circulation, improved ADA accessibility, enhanced security and backup power. These upgrades will allow our buildings and facilities to operate in a safe and secure manner.

The second District capital referendum need is to ensure our educational spaces meet the needs of our students both today and in the years ahead. While this is an investment in the long-term, changes made will improve learning for our students today, as well. Solutions within the referendum include renovation of classrooms to better support students' learning needs, creation of small group instruction and student collaboration spaces, relocation of classrooms to better share grade-level/department resources, upgrades in technology to create interactive learning environments and updates/expansion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) classrooms and labs. Expanding STEM educational opportunities will broaden student interest and it is an investment in our students' future careers. As our world is ever changing, careers in the STEM field will be in higher demand along with the analytical skills used within STEM programming.

The District also has infrastructure and facility maintenance projects to be completed which are too large to be funded from our annual operating budget. Items needing to be addressed include repair/replacement of heating, plumbing and electrical infrastructure, deferred maintenance such as building envelope and roofing repairs, and replacement of flooring, ceiling, casework and doors. These solutions will extend the life of our buildings and preserve our investments.

The last need is to update athletic facilities, recreation building and multi-purpose room/gym spaces. Solutions include updating the multi-purpose room/gym areas, athletic upgrades like track resurfacing and ADA compliance, upgrades to the High School theater, and renovated outdoor learning space.

The cost of the referendums has been kept to a minimum as a result of the School Board and Administration's leadership and sound management of the budget. As a result of their stewardship, the referendums (if approved) will cost \$38/\$100,000 valued property. The cost of

the proposed referendums has been lowered since debt from a previous referendum is being retired.

Transparency of the process that brought us to these solutions, demonstrated through public information sessions, surveys and on the District website, is of utmost importance to the School Board of the St Francis School District. I encourage you to visit the website where all the information around the referendum is available: history, details of the process, needs and solutions, all communication pieces mailed to community members, FAQs and more.  
[www.stfrancissschools.org/referendum](http://www.stfrancissschools.org/referendum)

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement.

Chris Finch  
School Board President  
St Francis School District

**YMCA Childcare** - Before and After School Care is provided at Deer Creek Intermediate School and Willow Glen Primary School by the YMCA of Metro Milwaukee and All-Day Care on Wednesdays at Deer Creek Intermediate Recreation Center. *For Program Information: Contact Director Mary Lewandowski 414-375-1912 (or) [mlewandowski@ymcamke.org](mailto:mlewandowski@ymcamke.org)*

**District Showcase on In-Person Learning and Celebrations in February** - In St. Francis, we have a lot to be proud about. Join us to learn more about the School District by attending one or more of the District Showcases.

- **[Join via Zoom](#): Meeting ID: 860 2070 3597 / Passcode: YK84Bu**
- Dates/Program
  - Wednesday, February 24 - Deer Creek Intermediate School
  - Wednesday, March 3 - St. Francis High School