



September 29, 2020

Good morning,

I know there are a lot of questions that continue to surface about the monitoring of community health and its impact on SFSD staff and students. Please know we will regularly communicate updates to families after the notification of the School Board and SFSD staff if there are changes in the learning environment. We provided an update to the School Board last night which is why you are receiving this communication.

Given the recent news about increases in positive cases this weekend, we spent most of Monday inquiring about positive cases in St. Francis and surrounding communities. We learned that there were seven positives in St. Francis today (9/28/20). This will result in an upward trend of positive cases and significant increase of the burden of disease for two consecutive weeks. So, the St. Francis School District will remain in virtual instruction until November 2 as our current numbers do not meet the criteria for hybrid per our decision-making tool from the Health Department.

Here are the two reports that I receive every Friday in addition to meeting local Health Department officials and the SM/SF Guidelines for School Decision-making.

- a. [Last Week's Burden of Disease](#)
- b. [Situational Briefing](#)
- c. [SM SF Guidelines for School Decision-Making](#)

For perspective, I also look at neighboring community rates: Cudahy, South Milwaukee, City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County. Other indicators include percent positivity, case trends, and care. The hospitalization rates are the most concerning, as ICU and hospital capacity are at high levels of use. I am still concerned about the lack of testing available, as well as, the time it takes to get the results. When in-person instruction is occurring, we will use staff and student absent rates, as well as, substitute fill-rates.

As previously stated, we will be making decisions based on scientific data and trends locally and in the region. We know that virtual instruction is not for all students and continue to offer other engagement opportunities for students that are meaningful and educational.

Please contact me directly at (414) 747-3910 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mark Elworthy
Interim Superintendent