

11-06-2020,

Good Day EVW,

As you will notice below, the Bi-weekly COVID case rates throughout central Minnesota continue to climb. The county level and zip code data are just some of the data points used in determining a transition in learning models. In addition to county and zip code data, we consider other factors including the ability to provide and follow safety protocol, and most importantly, the direct COVID impact on students and staff in each building.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/stats/wschooll.pdf>

Updates from the Nov. 5 COVID meeting with Public Health and Centracare

- Stearns Co. at 81, Meeker Co. at 36
- Stearns Co. is projected to be in the RED Zone (high transmission rates) through the end of January
- COVID exposure to education staff is causing many area school districts to remain or transition to distance learning
- It is vital to keep our education staff, transportation, and food service departments healthy to keep our doors open and kids in school
- A sudden impact or spike in school building or district transmission rates could result in SHORT- NOTICE to quarantine or transition to distance learning. Be sure to have a Plan "B" ready for childcare, employment, transportation, etc... If a school building or the district transitions to distance learning, we will provide our staff with two planning days to deliver distance learning instruction
- Reflect upon and share the Mental Health resources below:
  - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/mentalhealth/children>
  - <https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/ep/behavioral/anxiety.pdf>

While we continue to monitor the COVID data and do our part to reduce the transmission, we need families to plan for the potential there may be a significant degree of impact in our schools, or a large-scale community outbreak, that requires a transition to distance learning for a minimum of two weeks.

Please, wear a mask and socially distance to keep our schools open and activity opportunities available to our students.

Your partnership is appreciated,

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Mark Messman  
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