



Pewaukee School District

COVID-19 Update September 14, 2020

Weekly Update Data: Each week of school during the pandemic, the Pewaukee School District will publish a status update of active cases and those in quarantine due to exposure or presentation of COVID-19 like symptoms. This information is provided in an effort to be transparent with the level of virus activity within the school district. Please note that information relative to any individual's health is very sensitive and private so we are taking steps to secure the anonymity of individuals. Student numbers will be published at a school level and the district as a whole. In any school in which the number is <5 we will post an * to avoid the likelihood of exposing the identity of an individual. We will provide a summary number for the district as a whole. For staff, because they are fewer in number, we will only post that information for the district as a whole.

Data related to the spread of the virus in our region can be reviewed using the **Waukesha County COVID-19 Dashboard** at <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/COVID19>

Phase Status: *Current level = Phase 1 (hybrid / 50% attendance)*
Possible Change to Phase 2 - full attendance M,T, Th, Fri for K-5 students starting 9/21/2020. Middle and High School students remain in Phase 1. (See explanation below)

We have successfully moved to week three of the school year and we couldn't be happier with the great work of students and staff with our safety protocols. Most importantly, we have had sustained and positive trends in our data that have led our team to **tentatively** decide to move elementary students (**PLE & Horizon**) to **Phase 2 starting Monday, September 21st**. The rationale for the change includes a sustained low level of quarantine and infection within our school system and a sustained trend of lower disease burden rates and community spread in our Pewaukee School District census tracts and in Waukesha County. **We will continue to monitor these metrics and send a follow up message to parents on Friday, September 18th to confirm the move to Phase 2 for next Monday**. If the data moves in a negative direction we may decide to remain in Phase 1 at these schools.

This change may raise some questions in your mind so we have provided several anticipated FAQ's below:

Why would you move elementary schools to Phase 2 and not the middle or high school?

Children the age of our younger students have approximately 1/3 the number of infections of children in the middle school and high school age groups so the risk of virus spread is much lower with these students. This means we need to be even more cautious about returning older



students to full attendance which creates an environment in which it is much more challenging to implement social distancing. This means we want to continue to see stable, low levels of virus transmission among school aged children before determining it prudent to return older students to fuller attendance levels. It is our goal to move the middle and high school to Phase 2 in the weeks ahead if the data supports that decision.

It has been reported in the media that infections have increased in Wisconsin so why this change now? Although infections have increased in the state, those increases are primarily in the post high school, 18-24 year old age group. Furthermore, while Wisconsin has experienced an increase in infections, the local and county wide data has shown a stable decline. Again, we will continue to monitor our data and are prepared to change course if we need to.

How will you mitigate the spread of the virus with more kids making it harder to implement social distancing? It is true that more students makes it more difficult to socially distance. That said, there are many strategies we have implemented to mitigate the spread of the virus, including: cohorting groups of students to reduce interactions and exposure, requiring face coverings for all students and staff, implementing ongoing hygiene protocols like regular hand washing and use of hand sanitizer, daily symptoms checks of staff, daily symptom monitoring by parents of students, enhanced health room procedures, enhanced cleaning/sanitation protocols, modified schedules to reduce students interaction (e.g. more lunch periods and locations, more recesses periods and locations, reduction of transitions to encore classrooms, etc.), enhanced bus sanitation and social distancing procedures, double run of elementary school bus routes to reduce exposure and increase distancing, installation of hospital grade plasma HVAC system to eliminate virus in the air, etc..

Why are Wednesdays maintained as virtual days for all students? Virtual learning days on Wednesdays provide several benefits in our efforts to mitigate the virus and support student learning. Most importantly, the Wednesdays provide another day without exposure among students and between students and staff. One day without student attendance reduces weekly exposure by 20%. These days also provide good opportunities for deep cleaning and sanitation without students present. If we are successful in Phase 2, and virus transmission remains low we will consider moving to Phase 3 which eliminates the virtual learning day on Wednesdays.

More information related to our decision making process can be reviewed on our district website at <https://www.pewaukeeschools.org/Page/1994>.

Active Cases: This term refers to individuals with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis who are not considered recovered. This would apply to any individual who has not completed the required 10-day isolation period which must also include 24-hours symptom free.

Quarantine: This term refers to individuals who are placed in quarantine due to a known



exposure to an individual confirmed to have COVID-19 or due to the presentation of symptoms consistent with the virus.

September 14, 2020		
School	Student Active Cases (Confirmed COVID-19 / Non-recovered)	Students Quarantined (Symptomatic of or Exposed to COVID-19 / 10-14-day Quarantine)
PLE	*	*
Horizon	*	*
Asa Clark MS	*	*
PHS	*	*
Total	0	5
District (Staff data x district level only to protect privacy of individuals)	Staff Active Cases (Confirmed COVID-19 / Non-recovered)	Staff Quarantined (Symptomatic of or Exposed to COVID-19 / 14-day Quarantine)
PSD	0	4
* Indicates less than 5 cases to protect the privacy of individuals infected or in quarantine		