



Pewaukee School District

COVID-19 Update November 10, 2020

Weekly Update Data: This information is provided in an effort to be transparent with the level of COVID-19 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 2; Grades 4K-5 (Full attendance MT,TH,F & All Virtual Wed) Phase 1; Grades 9-12 (hybrid / 50% attendance), Phase Zero; Grades 6-8 (Full Virtual *Starting 11/12 through 11/20, return to Phase Two on 11/23)*

This week marked the first instance in which we decided to move larger groups into **temporary virtual learning (Phase Zero)** environments due to the growing spread of the virus among students and staff. This included the move of **several elementary classroom sections** (1 at PLE & 2 at Horizon) **and all of Asa Clark Middle School to Phase Zero**. The decision at Asa Clark was primarily a result of COVID-19 driven staffing shortages, although student incidents of infection and quarantine continue to rise. The pandemic has created a substantial substitute teacher shortage that is impacting school operations everywhere. In the elementary schools, we determined we were able to isolate the challenges to specific classroom sections as opposed to impacting the full school.

It is important to be candid about the current circumstances. While it remains our objective to keep students attending in-person, the state, county, and our community are experiencing sustained rapid growth of virus transmission. Things have changed dramatically since the year began and in particular over recent weeks. Over the past three months:

- **Waukesha County** Daily New Infections: 9/9 = **45**; 10/9 = **116**; 11/9 = **520**
- **Wisconsin** 7-Day Average Daily New Infections: 9/10 = **1,547**; 10/10 = **2,394**; 11/10 = **5,825**

In addition, locally the **Pewaukee Census Tract 14-day Case Rate** has risen from **139 to 185 to 248 cases over the past three weeks**. You will see in the table and graphs below that incidents among students and staff are likewise on the rise.

My purpose in sharing those numbers is to help illustrate the growing challenge that the Pewaukee School District and all school systems in our region are facing. We are now experiencing a trend in which we have more students and staff going out than coming back into our system due to exposure and infection. This trend, if it continues, will negatively impact our ability to consistently remain open for in-person instruction. We believe our students and staff have done an admirable job working together to



mitigate the spread of the virus at school and remain hopeful that these rates will decline. That said, it is important that families have a plan and are prepared for the potential of student quarantines or school closures.

Throughout this school year, we have worked to balance **three priorities** including: the health and safety of students and staff, the social and emotional wellness of students and staff, and student learning. To date, the incidents of infection that have led to isolation and quarantine for our staff and students have come primarily from exposure outside of school from family members or at social gatherings. Anything that parents and students can do to limit your potential exposure outside of school will be important in our ability to maintain in-person learning at school.

These measures include:

- limiting social circles / interaction
- wearing face coverings
- social distancing
- frequent handwashing
- monitor for symptoms and ***not sending symptomatic students to school***
- getting adequate rest, good nutrition, and exercise

It is also important for **families to communicate with our school staff to support contact tracing efforts**. Included in this message is a letter from the Waukesha County Executive and Health Officer regarding the need to **support and comply with contact tracing and quarantine if we are to limit the spread and Stay Safe to Stay Open**.

Data Table Terms

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.

Probable COVID-19: This term refers to individuals who are symptomatic and have a known exposure to someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Probable COVID-19 cases are included in the active cases data in the table below.

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.

November 10, 2020		
School	Student Active Cases (Confirmed COVID-19 / Non-recovered & Probable COVID-19)	Students Quarantined (Symptomatic of, or Exposed to, COVID-19 / 10-14-day Quarantine)
PLE	5	45



Horizon	7	24
Asa Clark MS	*	54
PHS	7	69
Total	22	192
District (Staff data x district level only to protect privacy of individuals)	Staff Active Cases (Confirmed COVID-19 / Non-recovered & Probable COVID-19)	Staff Quarantined (Symptomatic of or Exposed to COVID-19 / 14-day Quarantine)
PSD	8	26
* Indicates less than 5 cases to protect the privacy of individuals infected or in quarantine		

(Note: The **table above** represents most current day's data, whereas the **graph below** shows weekly trends from each Friday to provide a historical comparison. So the data between the two will often differ.)

(As of November 6, 2020)

Weekly Summary

