



## Pewaukee School District

### COVID-19 Update November 23, 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 [Coronavirus](#)

**Phase Status:** *Current level = Phase 2; Grades 4K-8 (Full attendance MT,TH,F & All Virtual Wed) Phase 1; Grades 9-12 (hybrid / 50% attendance) ;*

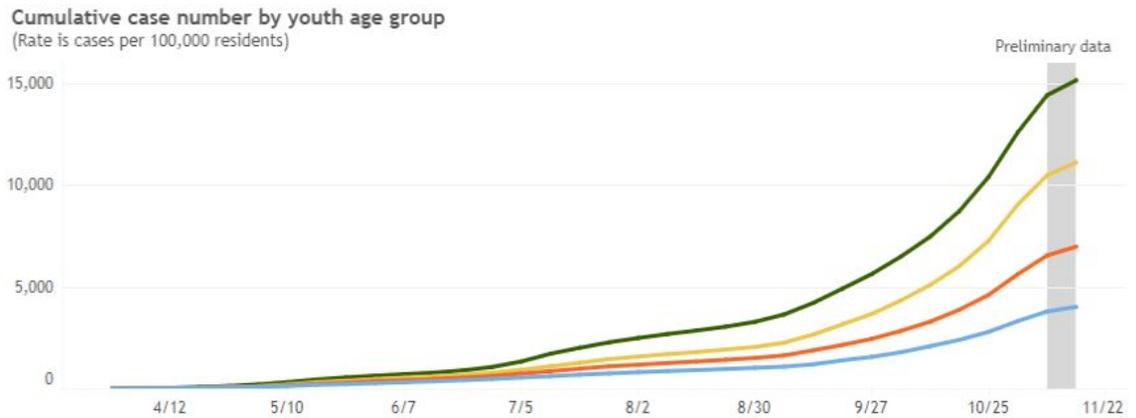
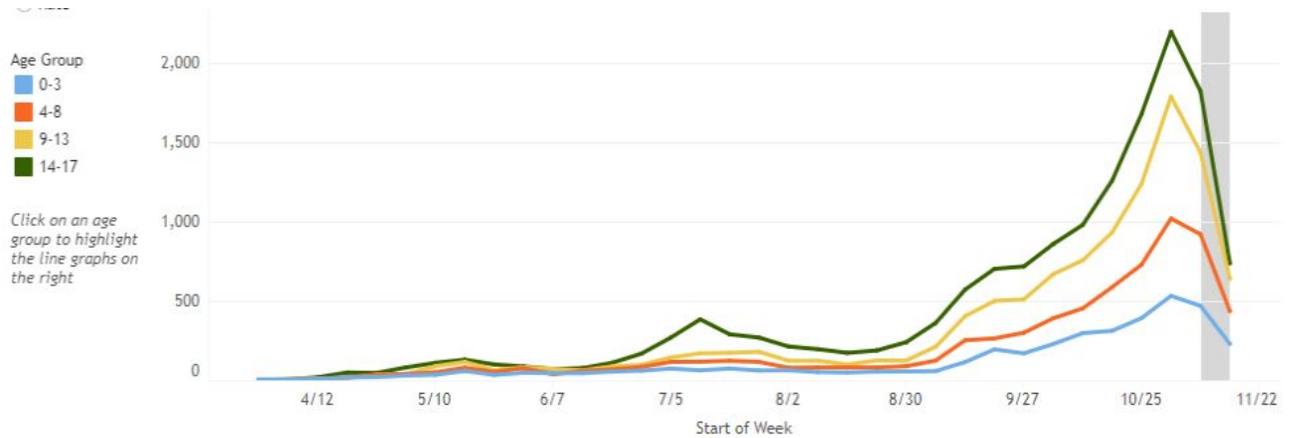
**\*Move of Asa Clark to Phase 1 (hybrid / 50% attendance) 11/30 - 12/11**

For the first time since early October, we have experienced some reduction in our numbers of student and staff quarantine and infection. Also, in the past few days, it has been encouraging to see the numbers at the state and county show several consecutive days of some decline in infections, although they remain at very high levels. Let's hope this is the start of a true downward trend.

Throughout this year we have learned from experience how to respond and adjust to the changing nature of this pandemic. One thing we found was following the Halloween holiday we had a noticeable increase in infection and quarantine numbers. This was most pronounced at Asa Clark and PHS. To put it in perspective, **the week prior to Halloween Asa averaged 17 students in quarantine, two weeks after Halloween they averaged 57 students in quarantine.** This also coincided with our move from Phase 1 to Phase 2 at the Middle School on October 20th. This post-Halloween experience was common among districts in our region and many have chosen to return from the Thanksgiving holiday in a fully virtual setting as a proactive measure. We have decided that a prudent step is to **return the middle school back into the Phase 1 Hybrid with 50% attendance, two-days per week following the Thanksgiving holiday (11/30) to allow for greater social distancing measures. This will improve safety, greatly reduce potential quarantine of students, and reduce the potential of another shift to full virtual (Phase Zero) if we experience a post-holiday spike in the virus.** We intend to implement this **for two weeks** to provide ample time to monitor for any increases in infection and to see if the rates in our region continue to decline as they have over the past few days. **We are targeting December 14th as a potential return to Phase 2 at Asa Clark** (four days full attendance, Wednesday Virtual) if conditions look manageable. The **high school will remain in Phase 1** until we experience a stable decline in the high rate of infection in our region. The **elementary schools will remain in Phase 2** due to the lower rates of infection (see graph below) as compared to older students and the fact that it is more practical to isolate and manage smaller numbers of students by classroom or house if we have viral spread and



staffing shortages than is possible at the middle and high school.



Included with this message is a **letter from the Waukesha County Executive and the County Health Officer** urging families to be cautious with the upcoming holiday to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Throughout this school year, 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. Likewise, as a school district we encourage our families to take steps to limit exposure so we can stay safe to stay open.

These measures include:

- limiting social circles / interaction
- wearing face coverings
- social distancing
- frequent handwashing
- monitor for symptoms and **do not send 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**. Recently we shared another 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.**

Dealing with this situation is challenging for our families and staff. It can be exhausting and we all want to move back to more normal ways of life. It has been very encouraging to hear the positive news regarding vaccine development and production which provides optimism that the future is bright. As Dr. Anthony Fauci [recently stated](#), now is the time to “...double down on public health measures” as we work through the next several months to mitigate this disease as vaccinations are deployed. So thank you to our families and staff for your ongoing efforts as we work through this together. Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

**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 16, 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	*	37
Horizon	*	26
Asa Clark MS	*	17
PHS	*	42
<b>Total</b>	9	122
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	5	17



\* 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 20, 2020)

## Weekly Summary

