



Pewaukee School District

COVID-19 Update

December 8, 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](#). If you review this data, you may have noticed a **discrepancy** between the County Dashboard that shows on the map of school districts "active cases" of school aged children living in the boundaries of the district and what we are showing as cases. The County informed school districts that they had been leaving cases as active for 30-days but will now be using a 10-day standard in accordance with the new quarantine protocols so those numbers should be more consistent with what we are finding internally moving forward. Keep in mind that there are school aged children living within our borders who do not attend our schools so the numbers will often be different.

Phase Status: *Current level = Phase 2; Grades 4K-5 (Full attendance MT,TH,F & All Virtual Wed)*
Phase 1; Grades 6-12 (hybrid / 50% attendance)

This week we are experiencing an **uptick in students and staff cases and quarantine** as shown in the table below. The most concerning is the **substantial rise in student positive cases** over the past week (from 6 to 22). On the positive side, we are seeing a trend over the past several weeks of lower numbers of infection in the state, county, and our census tracts. So things have improved in the region and we are hopeful this will continue. That said, even with the decline, the rates are still historically very high. For example the number of cases over 14-days in our census tract has dropped from 588 to 392 since November 30th. However, 392 cases is still ten times higher than we experienced in late September when there were 39 cases. So improving but still at a high rate of transmission. With these data in mind, and the caution we continue to receive from public health, the **Pewaukee School District will remain in the current phases of attendance into the holiday break which starts December 23rd** (unless circumstances warrant further restrictions). Our hope is that the decline continues so we can be in a better position to consider increasing in-person attendance at Asa Clark and PHS in early 2021.

New Quarantine Protocols

The CDC, DHS and Waukesha County Health Departments have approved **shortened quarantine procedures that the district will implement immediately**. These guidelines change quarantine for individuals identified as close contacts with none exposure to infected individuals. The **quarantine has been reduced from 14 to 10 days (without a negative test), or 7 days with a documented negative test that must be administered on day 6 or day 7 following exposure**. The negative test may include



any test documented by a qualified provider and may include the use of the rapid antigen test (results from home kits will not be accepted). Anyone currently in quarantine under the old requirements will have the end date of the quarantine adjusted to reflect the new guidelines. Nursing Staff will be contacting families of students currently in quarantine by phone or email in the next 48 hours - Tuesday, 12/8 and Wednesday, 12/9 to communicate adjusted timelines. For individuals who are confirmed positive the 10-day isolation period remains the same. This is welcome news that will reduce lost time at school for both students and staff. You can access the updated PSD C19 Quarantine [Decision Making Tree](#) for more details.

Should I get tested if I am a close contact?

Yes! Getting tested supports school efforts to reduce the spread so we can stay safe to stay open. Furthermore, anyone with a confirmed positive [PCR test](#) is considered immune and is **not subject to quarantine for 90-days from the date of the test**. Please note that at this time, positive results from the rapid test don't provide that 90-day release from quarantine.

[“Kids, school, and COVID-19: What we know - and what we don’t”](#) (Boyle, P. AAMC. November 5, 2020)

Recently there have been statements made by high ranking public health officials (Fauci, Redfield) about the importance of having kids in school and acknowledging that to date, schools have not been shown to be the superspreader environments once feared. What has been learned is that when schools have implemented strong virus mitigation practices, we have been able to have students in-person and maintain low levels of virus transmission. Both of these officials and the [organizations](#) they represent advocate for schools to open with strong mitigation, including mask wearing, social distancing, strong hygiene and sanitation practices. Further, they address the issue of community spread or disease burden as issues that need to be better managed because infection tends to spread to the schools from the community, as opposed from schools to the community. When disease burden is high in the community, as it is in our region presently, they suggest “...the school could consider alternative learning models (e.g., mix of in-person and virtual learning, also known as hybrid learning, or virtual-only).” ([CDC](#), 2020). This is exactly the approach we have taken in the Pewaukee School District, in particular with older students who pose a higher risk of transmission to their peers and our staff than younger students.

We highly value having students in-person for their learning and social and emotional wellness to the greatest extent we can do so safely. We are very encouraged by what we have learned 10-months into this new disease, that schools have not been a source of high levels of virus spread when practicing strong mitigation. This [article](#) from the *American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC)* provides a nice analysis of what we have learned about school operations during this pandemic and **directly reflects the feedback we use to guide our decision making**.

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.

New - we have added a reference to the previous week counts to give a comparison to see if things are going up, down, or staying about the same over the past week. The line graph below shows similar information from Friday to Friday counts over an extended period of time.

December 8, 2020		
School	Student Active Cases (Confirmed COVID-19 / Non-recovered & Probable COVID-19) NEW (Last week / +/- Change)	Students Quarantined (Symptomatic of, or Exposed to, COVID-19 / 10-14-day Quarantine) NEW (Last week / +/- Change)
PLE	6	19
Horizon	*	40
Asa Clark MS	*	22
PHS	10	43
Total	22 (6 / +16)	124 (84 / +41)
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 (3 / +2)	11 (6 / +5)
* 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.



(As of December 4, 2020)

Weekly Summary

