



Minnetonka Public Schools
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Dear Colleagues,

We are nearly a month into the school year, and I want to share with you how impressed I am with all you have done and are doing to provide an outstanding start for our students and families.

I know the past several months have been difficult, with our sudden move to e-learning last spring, our summer of planning for fall and now our launch into hybrid and e-learning for the beginning of the 2020-21 school year. You have tackled challenges head on, supported each other and supported your students and families. I am so proud of each of you. Thank you for making this work.

Some of you have shared with the administration that you'd like more information regarding COVID-positive cases in our District. You will be pleased to learn we will be making some adjustments to the information we will provide you and our families about COVID-positive cases in the District.

We have developed a [dashboard](#) that shows overall how many students and how many staff that we know of who have an active, positive case of COVID in our schools districtwide, how many have recovered and how many are in quarantine or isolation for possible COVID exposure. We will update this information each Wednesday on the District website.

As you may know, the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Education announced last Friday the state would be sharing the names of individual schools that have five positive COVID cases or more within a two-week period. That information is posted on the state's website. There

were only seven schools that appeared on the state's list last week, and none were from our District.

Additionally, the Minnesota Department of Health has adjusted its guidelines on notifications regarding COVID-positive cases. School districts are now allowed to alert families and staff when there is a COVID-positive case in a class or learning pod. However, please note that these alerts will NOT provide identifying information about the individual with COVID, per health privacy laws.

When you get such a notification, it will be a reminder to watch for symptoms. You will NOT be told to quarantine, unless it has been determined by the District and the Minnesota Department of Health that you were in close contact with the person who tested positive. As in the past, we will continue to identify those who were deemed as 'close contacts' to the person who tested positive, and those individuals will be contacted directly by the school nurse or Minnesota Department of Health and told to quarantine for 14 days. 'Close contact' is defined as a person who was within six feet of a person who tested positive, for 15 minutes or longer, within two days of the positive-person showing symptoms.

We will be sending out a message to families to let them know about the notification changes and the dashboard, as well.

Thank you again for all you are doing to make our schools a wonderful environment for our students and families. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Dennis

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