



Dr. Yolanda Cargile, Superintendent  
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Dear Center School District Community,

Since we announced a transition to Phase 2 of the CENTERed on Learning Re-Entry Plan for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students for a November 30<sup>th</sup> implementation date, we have seen regional COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Our region and our community are trending in the wrong direction.

This week alone, The Kansas City Star reported the region breaking the single day COVID-19 record with more than 1,200 cases reported on Tuesday, November 11, 2020.

(\* Source KC Star: <https://www.kansascity.com/news/coronavirus/article247099942.html>)

We are following the same trend with CSD COVID-19 cases. We have been monitoring data from local public health organizations to publish a weekly dashboard and communicate positive COVID-19 cases. For the last two weeks, CSD numbers have significantly increased. (\* Source CSD COVID-19 Dashboard – <https://www.center.k12.mo.us/covid-19>)

When we released plans to transition, I said, “we will continue to monitor regional COVID-19 tracking metrics as we prepare to transition to Phase 2. If there are significant changes in confirmed positive new cases between now and the Phase 2 implementation dates in November and January or once we have transitioned to any portion of Phase 2, we may need to modify plans. I am asking the Center School District community to be understanding of changes that may seem last minute but are necessary as it relates to the safety and well-being of students and staff.”

With this same spirit of transparency, it is important that I share concerns about moving forward at this time to Phase 2. Watching the numbers continue to rise, it is my belief that we cannot move forward with transition plans for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade on November 30, 2020. **As a result, we will remain in Phase 1 until further notice.** This includes the transition of students at Yellowjacket Early Learning Center, YELC, and Center Alternative School, CAS, to virtual learning. All students will remain engaged in virtual learning until regional COVID-19 numbers begin to trend down.

- Starting Monday, November 16, 2020 CAS will transition to virtual learning.
- YELC will remain in the hybrid learning mode through Tuesday, November 24, 2020.
- Our in-person diverse learning groups, elementary and secondary, will end on Friday, November 20.

Currently, we do not anticipate transitioning to Phase 2 before the beginning of second semester, which begins on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The Center School District strongly desires to have students engaged in face-to-face instruction, so long as it is safe to do so. Staff will continue to prepare for the transition, so we are ready when we see regional numbers decline.

The numbers we will continue to watch from the Mid-America Regional Council - MARC, and Jackson County for regional COVID-19 metrics include:

- Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days
- Trend in new cases per 100,000 persons over the last 14 days
- % of Persons Testing Positive (Positivity rate) for the 2-week period

- % of confirmed cases per 1,000 for students ages 10-19 years old. This number has continued to increase over time.
  - Sept. 1 - 10.3 %
  - Oct. 1 – 14.9 %
  - Nov. 1 – 20.5 %
  - Nov. 10 – 23.6 %

(\*Source MARC: <https://marc2.org/covidhub/>)

(\*Source Jackson County: [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34a6ef5efe664974a3c1866aa77fbb6d/page/page\\_10/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34a6ef5efe664974a3c1866aa77fbb6d/page/page_10/))

(\*Source Cumulative Age Range Data [https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34a6ef5efe664974a3c1866aa77fbb6d/page/page\\_1/](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/34a6ef5efe664974a3c1866aa77fbb6d/page/page_1/))

We cannot ignore what pushed us to begin exploring a transition to Phase 2 in the first place. Our focus will remain on helping students achieve. I am asking for your help. We cannot do this alone; our students need us.

Parents/ Guardians, please check in with your students to find out if they are turning in work and understanding learning expectations. Also check in with staff if you or your children have questions. Students, please log on and reach out if you need additional support. We need to know how we can further assist your learning and growth. As a district, we will continue to connect with families weekly to ensure any questions are answered, provide support /resources, and make other needed connections so that your student(s) can be successful.

The Center School District is also modifying winter sports guidelines that includes, not allowing any spectators at indoor athletic events and reducing the number of non-conference games to limit potential exposure. We will be working to livestream games when possible. More specific athletic communication will be distributed soon.

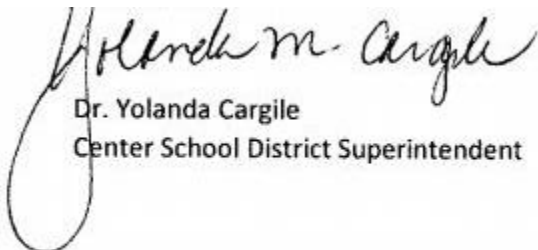
It is critical for all community members to personally adhere to mitigation strategies to help stop the spread of COVID-19. These include:

- Wearing a mask
- Social distancing
- Washing your hands
- Staying home when you are sick
- Clean and Sanitize your work area

Leading up to holidays, if you are attending large gatherings that could lead to exposure, please consider quarantining and certainly monitor for symptoms. For CSD staff, as a reminder we also ask to the greatest extent possible, business and school meetings/interactions should be conducted via phone or Microsoft Teams.

It takes a village to raise children, and during a pandemic, this sentiment rings even more true. It is my hope, I can count on our community to help our children grow and thrive during these challenging times. We need your partnership to allow our students the chance to accomplish the wonderful achievements we know they can achieve.

A pleasure to serve,



Dr. Yolanda Cargile  
Center School District Superintendent