




Good afternoon, Wausau School District Families:

As we move forward in the 2021-22 school year, we want to take this opportunity to share an update with you about some changes to the District's COVID-19 mitigation strategies following Monday night's Board of Education meeting.

The Board approved two matrices, one for elementary schools and one for secondary schools, that are guidelines for analyzing case data. They are real tools that allow administrators, school staff, and nurses to collaborate around data and context to find the best actions to keep kids in school, in-person safely, and provide them with the highest quality education at the same time.

While you'll notice differences between the elementary and secondary school matrices, the goal is the same: keeping your students safe while offering them the highest quality educational experiences at the same time.


So, let's start with the elementary level matrix, which does include EEA Charter School:

Elementary School Level & EEA Charter School		
		Actions for Affected Elementary or EEA Classroom
Total number of unrelated positive cases in an individual classroom	1	Masks required in the classroom with a positive case for 10 days from last contact with the student. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modifications made for lunch period • Self check for symptoms • Stay home when ill
	2	All level 1 actions in the classroom plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All students stay in their seats during instruction • Review all field trips and large school events • Review the need for non-essential visitors and volunteers

	3	All Level 2 actions in the classroom plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilize time for outdoor learning when appropriate
	4	Remote learning for 7 days for the classroom with a positive case
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary data will be reviewed daily. If a classroom has identified positive case(s), the mitigation measures will be implemented the next day. The District and/or school will notify staff and families of those changes via email and/or phone calls. 		

The elementary matrix is only applied at the classroom level. The biggest change is that staff and students, in any given classroom with a positive case, will be required to wear masks, for at least 10 days. If there are 4 or more unrelated cases in any given classroom, principals, nursing staff, and other administration members will review the cases to determine whether the class will move to remote learning. Any changes will be communicated to you.

Now, let's take a look at the secondary matrix:

High School and Middle School Levels		
		Actions for Affected Secondary School
Average Daily Student and Staff Positive Cases Over 7 Days	< 1.67%	Level 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks optional Self check for symptoms Stay home when ill
	1.68 - 3.33%	Level 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Masks recommended Building review of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-essential visitors and volunteers large school-day events Continue co-curricular and community events OUTSIDE of school hours Continue self checking for symptoms and staying home when ill

	3.34 - 4.99%	Level 3 All Level 2 actions plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3' of distance to the best of our ability. • Increase the time in outdoor learning. • District review of large gatherings/events
	>5% +	Level 4 All Level 3 actions plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks required within the school for 7 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data will be analyzed each Thursday • Level number will be shared with students and families each Friday • Level actions will be implemented each Monday 		

Because of the way our secondary schools operate, this matrix considers all cases within the entire school, not a particular classroom. If an individual school reaches a positivity rate of 5% or more, masks will be required in the entire building. Principals will collaborate with school staff and the district team to plan how to best implement other actions at each level and school. Again, any changes will be communicated to you.

To reflect the above matrices, the District has made some changes to the COVID-19 Dashboard.

Since August, the Wausau School District has been working closely with the Department of Health Services to bring COVID-19 testing to each of our District buildings. We hope to begin testing by the second week of October. We will keep you updated and let you know the exact launch date once we have it.

Parents and guardians, please know we appreciate your continued flexibility as we navigate this pandemic amid a new school year. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's school.

Thank you,
Wausau School District Administration