

BACK TO SCHOOL DECISIONS

AUGUST 9, 2021



DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES DURING THE PANDEMIC

- ✖ Safety of our students, staff, and families is our number one priority.
- ✖ We have to stay grounded in high quality teaching and learning
- ✖ Operational Effectiveness, which means we can't do long term financial damage to the District.

The background features various light blue line-art illustrations of school and office supplies. In the top left is a keyboard and a USB drive. In the top right is a pen and a notepad with a drawing. In the middle right is a smartphone. In the bottom left is a coffee cup, a spoon, and a pair of glasses. In the bottom right is a pair of headphones and a small square object.

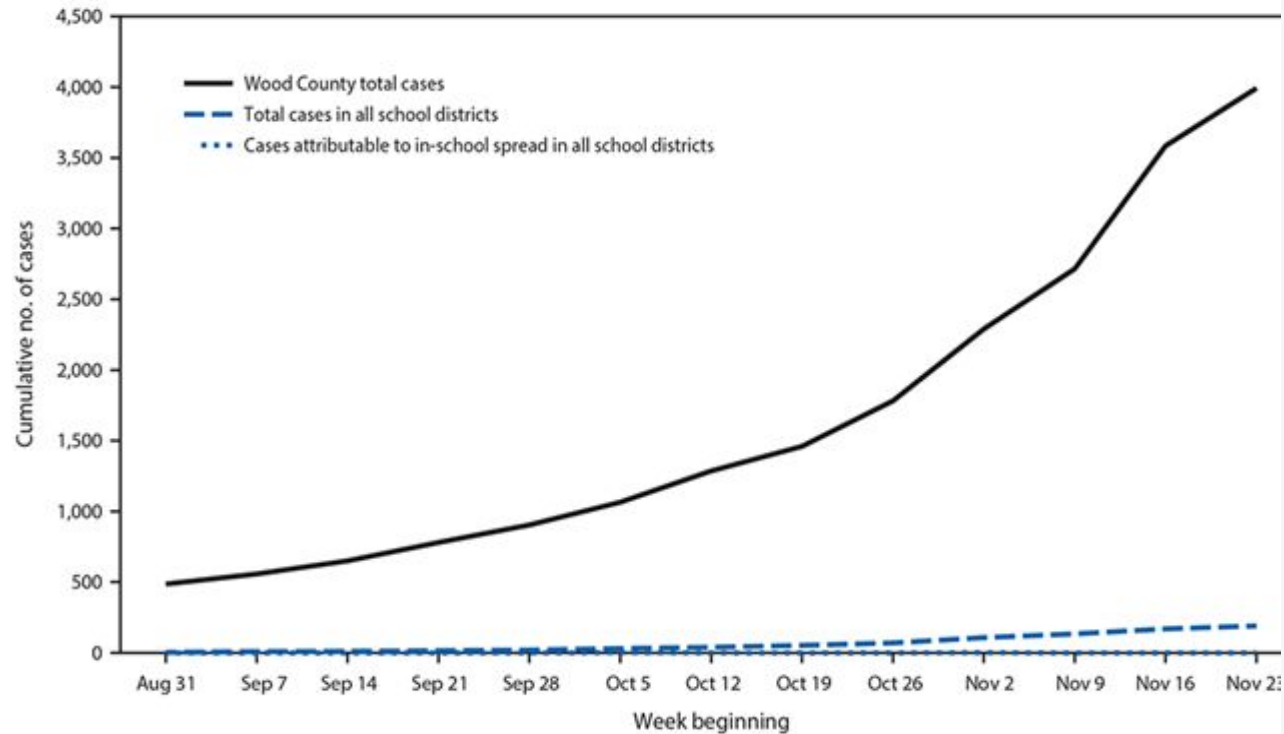
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ADDITIONALLY

When we get kids in school, we want to keep
them in school

LAST YEAR

FIGURE 1. Cumulative number of community and school-associated* COVID-19 cases and in-school transmission,† by week — Wood County, Wisconsin, August 31–November 29, 2020



Abbreviation: COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019.

* Cases occurring in students or school staff members.

† Cases attributed to virus transmission occurring during students' attendance at schools.

COVID MITIGATION FACTORS

Vaccination

Masking

Distancing

Stay at home when ill

Isolation and
contact tracing

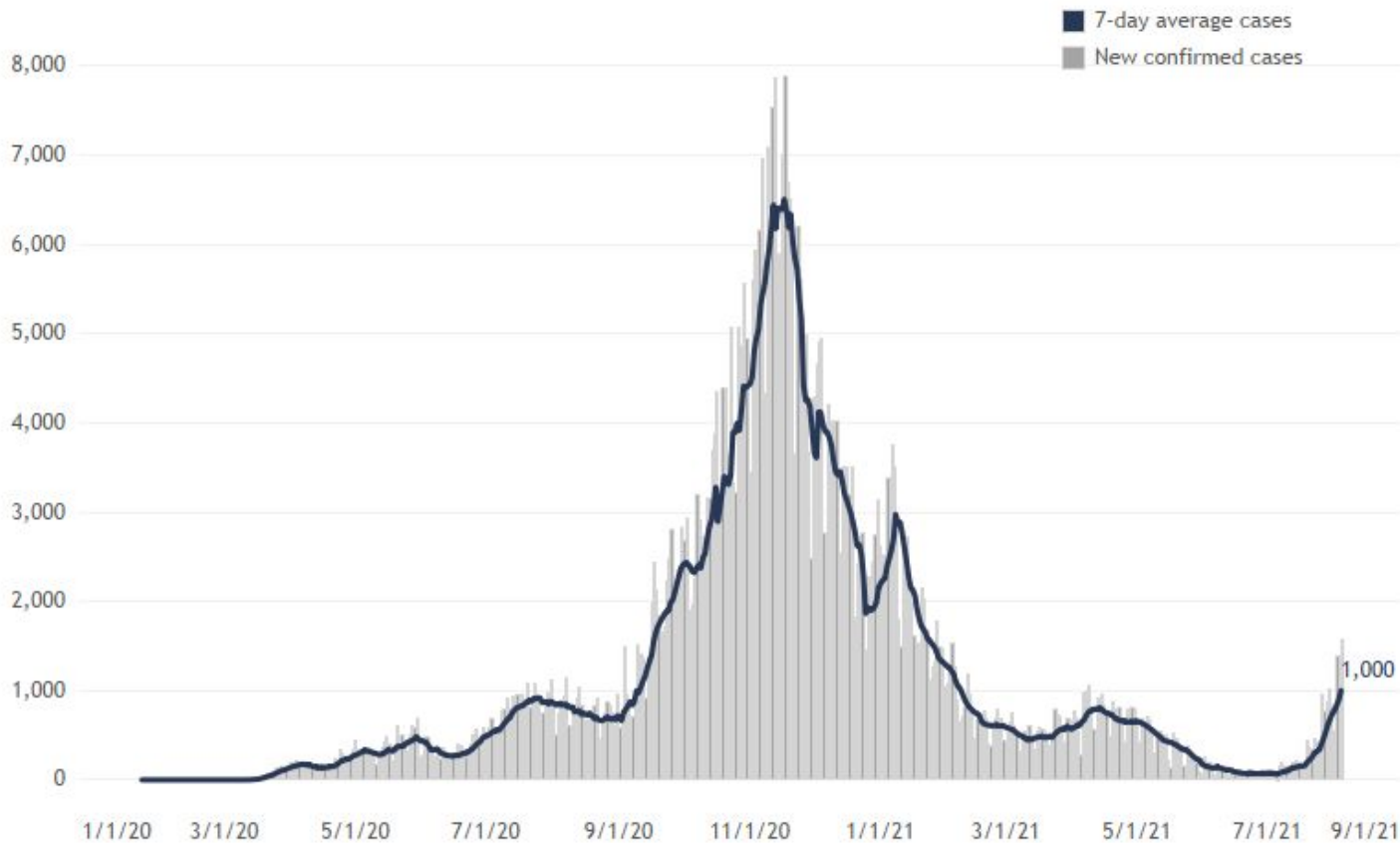
Hand
washing

Surface
cleaning

DELTA HAS ARRIVED

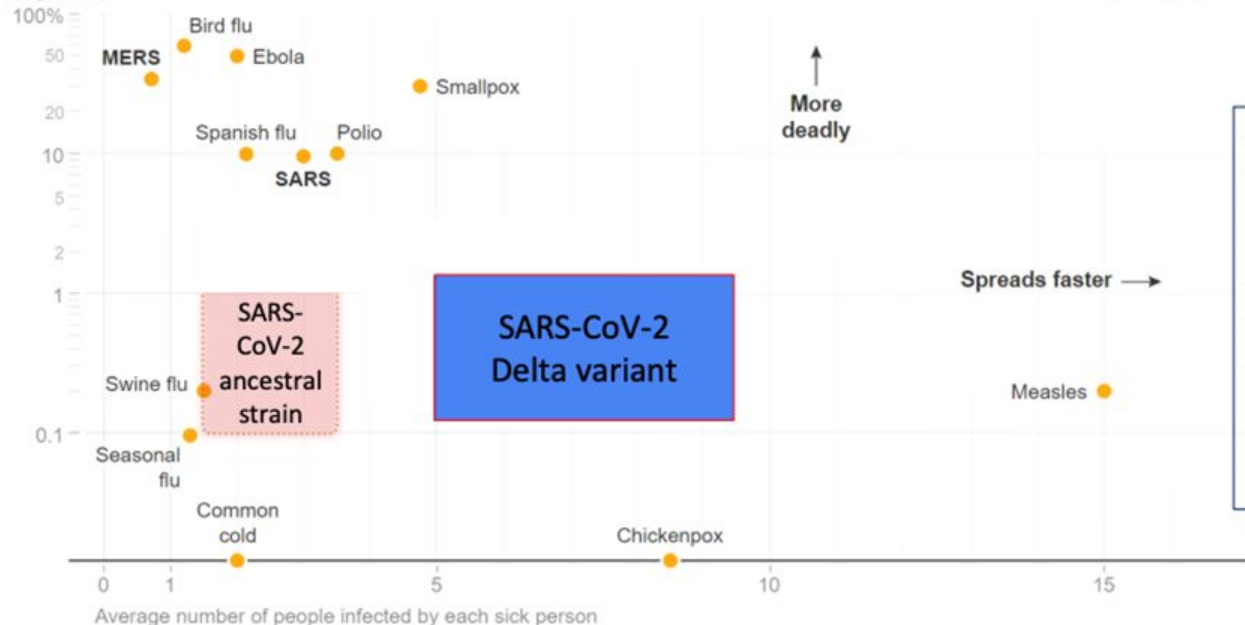
New confirmed COVID-19 cases by date confirmed, and 7-day average

Updated: 8/5/2021



Transmission of Delta variant vs. ancestral strain and other infectious diseases

Fatality rate
(log scale)



The New York Times

Original graph from 2/28/2020.

Delta variant is **more** transmissible than:

- MERS & SARS
- Ebola
- Common cold
- Seasonal flu & 1918 ("Spanish") flu
- Smallpox

Delta variant is **as** transmissible as:

- Chicken Pox

Note: Average case-fatality rates and transmission numbers are shown. Estimates of case-fatality rates can vary, and numbers for the new coronavirus are preliminary estimates.



DELTA VARIANT UPDATE

Delta Video

By Shelby O'Connor, PhD

Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

UW- Madison

Delta Variant Summary

- Delta is different from previous strains
 - Highly contagious
 - Likely more severe
 - Breakthrough infections may be as transmissible as unvaccinated cases
- Vaccines prevent >90% of severe disease with Delta
- Vaccines may be less effective at preventing infection or transmission

DECISIONS TO BE MADE BY THE BOARD

Face Coverings In School Buildings and Outside

Students 4K-6 grade (not eligible for vaccinations at this time)

Students 7-12 grade

Staff

Visitors

Other Decisions

Quarantine length for close contacts

Communication on COVID-19 cases to families

Testing

INFORMATION THAT WILL BE SHARED ABOUT DECISIONS ALREADY MADE

Mitigation Strategies

Symptomatic
Students/Staff

Cohorting (PS, ES, OSC)

Lunches

Busing

Will continue but not
discussing tonight

Cleaning

Hand washing

Cough and Sneeze Etiquette

Arrival/Dismissal

Recess

1.

FACE COVERINGS



REQUIRING FACE COVERING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS (ALL STUDENTS/STAFF)

Pros

Highly effective at slowing the spread of all respiratory infections

Will keep more students/staff in classrooms over the course of the year.

Optimizes in person learning

Allows for modified quarantines

Cons

The face covering is not comfortable, especially in warmer weather.

Majority of caregivers want to make this choice, not have the District make it for them.

Can't see student/staff members face

Public Health Recommendation

CDC/ American Association of Pediatrics/Pediatric Infectious Disease Society/UW Health/DHS/DPI:

All should wear face coverings in school regardless of vaccination status indoors.

*recommendations have changed with arrival of Delta



RECOMMENDED BUT NOT REQUIRING (OR OPTIONAL) FACE COVERING IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS (ALL STUDENTS/STAFF)

Pros

Gives families/staff choice whether student or staff member wears a face covering or not.

Able to see students faces in classrooms.

Impact of COVID on younger students less severe than adults

Cons

Increased respiratory illness = more time out of school

Difficult if not impossible for staff to monitor/enforce for those parents that want their child to wear a face covering

Modified quarantines per DHS are not an option without mandatory face covering

FAMILY CHOICE VS BOARD CHOICE

1. Very complicated, not as simple as every family gets to choose for themselves.
2. If families allowed to choose, they not only choose for their child but are choosing a path for every student that child comes in contact with
 - a. Higher risk of quarantine and learning loss
 - b. No modified quarantine option if everyone is not masked

MASKING REQUIRED

16

School 1: Masks required for all teachers, students, and staff in schools



A student comes in to school with a headache. He goes to class, where everyone is seated close together. He comes into close contact with other students throughout the day.



During lunch, he eats six feet apart from other students while eating unmasked.



That night, he develops a fever and a cough. His parents/guardians send him to school the next day, where he is sent home in the morning for COVID symptoms. His test comes back positive.

Outcome: Even though he came into close contact with other students throughout the day, **no other students or staff need to miss school because they were all masked or vaccinated.** This school has decreased the burden of quarantine on other students and families. This school has also freed up time for the nursing staff because they don't have to provide COVID tests to the identified close contacts.

MASKING OPTIONAL



A student comes in to school with a headache. He goes to class, where everyone is seated close together. He comes into close contact with other students throughout the day.



During lunch, he eats in close proximity to other students.













That night, he develops a fever and a cough. His parents/guardians send him to school the next day, where he is sent home in the morning for COVID symptoms. His test comes back positive.

Outcome: Because he was not wearing a mask, all students who came in close contact with him will need to quarantine for a minimum of 7 days. They will all need a negative test on day 6 to be released from quarantine. Since many of the other children in the classroom likely have siblings in other classrooms, there is fear and uncertainty among parents about whether they should send their other children to school.

FACE COVERING CHART

Wear a cloth face covering or mask to reduce the spread of COVID-19

You may have the virus *even if you don't have symptoms*.
Protect yourself and others by wearing a cloth face covering or mask.

	person with COVID-19	person without COVID-19	chance of spreading COVID-19
Family Choice	 neither person wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		very high
Family Choice	 only healthy person wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		high
Family Choice	 only person with COVID-19 wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		medium
All Masked	 both wearing face covering + less than 6 feet apart		low
All Masked	 both wearing face covering + at least 6 feet apart		very low

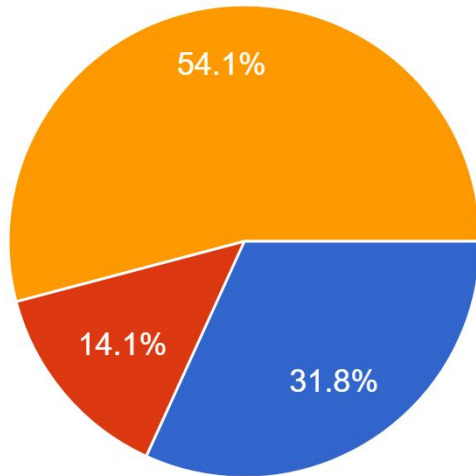


SUMMER SCHOOL

Face coverings were recommended but not required in summer school.

Face Covering Question (in school buildings)

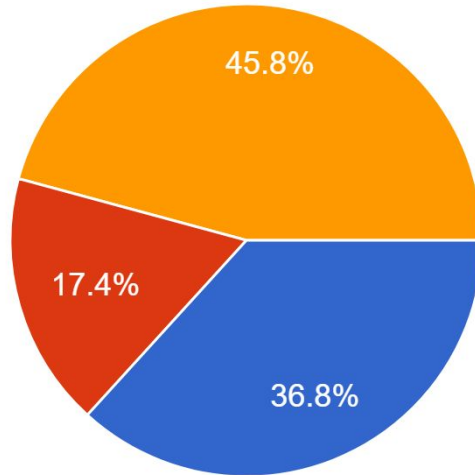
462 responses



- The District should require face coverings for students in grades 4K-2 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings recommended, but not required in grades 4K-2 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings optional in grades 4K-2 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Face Covering Question (in school buildings)

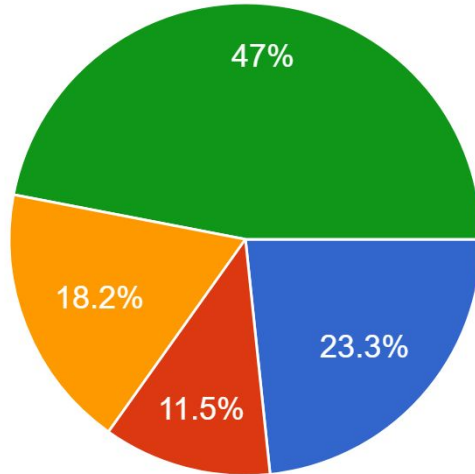
321 responses



- The District should require face coverings for students in grades 3-5 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings recommended, but not required in grades 3-5 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings optional in grades 3-5 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Face Covering Question (in school buildings)

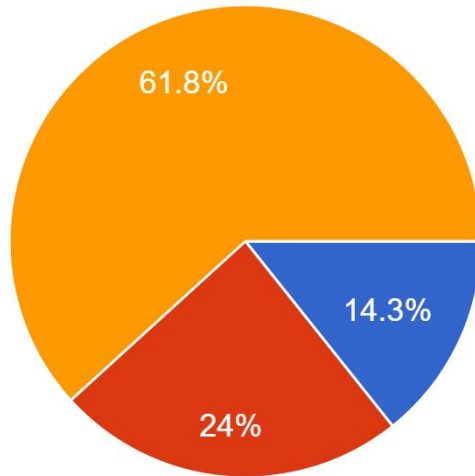
330 responses



- The District should require face coverings for students in grades 6-8 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year
- The District should require face coverings for students in 6th grade (many not eligible for vaccine) and make them optional for students in 7th and 8th grade during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year
- The District should make face coverings recommended, but not required in grades 6-8 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year
- The District should make face coverings optional in grades 6-8 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year

Face Covering Question (in school buildings)

434 responses



- The District should require face coverings for students in grades 9-12 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings recommended, but not required in grades 9-12 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.
- The District should make face coverings optional in grades 9-12 during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

OPTIONS

1. Require facecoverings for students
2. Recommend but not require facecoverings
3. Make facecoverings optional

OPTIONS CONTINUED (STUDENTS)

Optional for students 7-12

Students in grades 7-12 all have had the option to be vaccinated, so caregivers choice if student is or is not vaccinated

Required 4K-6

Students at these grade levels have not been eligible for vaccine so all are unvaccinated (has been no caregiver choice at these grade levels)*

*If Board goes this route, will need to decide when, or if, to change this for 6th graders as they become eligible for vaccines.

Optional based on vaccine eligibility

Students are required to wear a face covering until one month or two after they are eligible to receive the vaccine

VACCINE ELIGIBLE 6TH GRADERS

12 or older by
8/1/2021

4%

12 or older by
11/1/2021

10%

12 or older by
2/1/2022

30%

ANOTHER OPTION / FOLLOWING CDC TRANSMISSION GUIDANCE

27

COVID Risk Level	Red	Orange	Yellow	Blue
CDC Level of Community Transmission	High	Substantial	Moderate	Low
Metrics Considered				
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in last 7 days	≥ 100	50-99.99	10-49.99	0-9.99
Percentage of tests that are positive during the past 7 days (NAATs)	$\geq 10.0\%$	8-9.99%	5-7.99%	0-4.99%
SDL Masking Policy (Indoors)				
4K-5	Mandatory	Mandatory	Mandatory	Optional
6-8	Mandatory	Mandatory	Optional	Optional
9-12	Mandatory	Optional	Optional	Optional
SDL Masking Outdoors	Optional	Optional	Optional	Optional

CDC Covid Tracker: Level of Community Transmission <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

COVID-19: Activity Level by Region and County (updated) <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/local.htm>

Guidelines for the Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin (Wisconsin Department of Health Services)

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02757.pdf>

CDC Covid-19 Homepage <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

FACE COVERING OPTIONS FOR STAFF, VISITORS

Vaccinated

- ✗ Optional
- ✗ Recommended but not Required
- ✗ Required
- ✗ Optional, but required when within 6 feet of a student/other adult

Unvaccinated

- ✗ Optional
- ✗ Recommended but not required
- ✗ Required
- ✗ Optional, but required when within 6 feet of a student/other adult

DO FACE COVERINGS WORK (BOE PUBLIC INPUT QUESTION)?

District reached out to Lodi Clinic, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, and UW Hospital in late July and were sent these (and other) resources:

- ✖ [Mask Mythbusters: 5 Common Misconceptions about Kids & Cloth Face Coverings](#)
- ✖ [Face Masks for Children During COVID-19](#)
- ✖ [Face Masks – American Academy of Pediatrics](#)

DO FACE COVERINGS WORK (BOE PUBLIC INPUT QUESTION)?

Unanimous response from UW Department of Pediatrics, Sauk Prairie Healthcare Sports Medicine, & Lodi Clinic

Research clearly shows that universal masking works in slowing the spread of COVID-19

2.

CLOSE CONTACTS



CLOSE CONTACT DEFINITION

An individual is considered a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person if any of following is true: were within 6 feet of a positive person for more than 15 minutes total in a day, had physical contact with the person (more than incidental) handshakes, wrestling, repeated physical contact, had direct contact with the respiratory secretions of the person (i.e., from coughing, sneezing, contact with dirty tissue, shared drinking glass, food, or other personal items), lives with or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with the person.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

CLOSE CONTACT EXCEPTION

Exception: *In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of the infected individual if:*

- ✘ *Both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks; and*
- ✘ *Other K-12 strategies were in place in the K-12 school setting*
- ✘ *Note: Exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the classroom*

QUARANTINE OPTIONS FOR CLOSE CONTACT

*in all options, symptom monitoring should be completed for a full 14 days

Summer School

Families of close contacts will be notified, but quarantine will not be required if close contact was masked or are vaccinated. Close contacts who are unmasked or not vaccinated will follow 2020-21 model. If contact happened outside, not considered close contact.

DHS/CDC Option

Families will be notified, but quarantine will not be required if close contact was masked or are vaccinated. Close contacts who are unmasked or not vaccinated will be quarantined for 10 days, but can shorten their quarantine to 7 days (return to school on day 8) if they get a negative PCR test or laboratory based ID NOW test (NAAT- Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) on day 6 or later of the quarantine but will have to mask through day 14.

No Quarantine

The District notifies close contacts, but students are not required to quarantine or be tested to continue in school regardless of face covering or quarantine status unless symptomatic

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM MEDICAL/PUBLIC HEALTH

*in all options, symptom monitoring should be completed for a full 14 days

Close Contact

Continue to follow close contact guidance from CDC and DHS

Quarantine

Follow the option that allows for 7 day quarantine (with test after day 6), but mask required through day 14

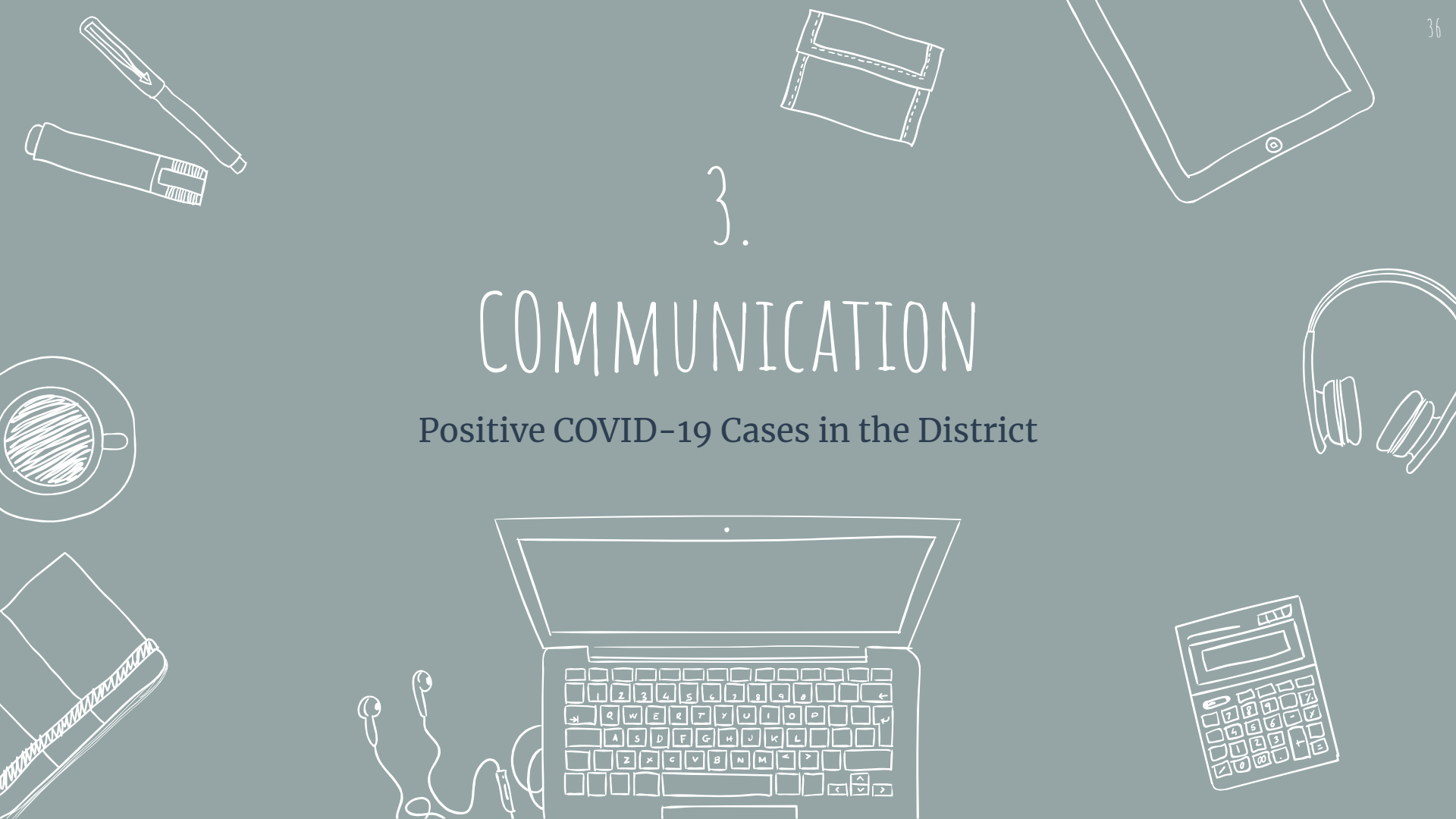
Modified Quarantine

When both parties are masked and/or vaccinated at time of close contact. Test 3-5 days after exposure and should wear a mask for 14 days but do not need to quarantine.

3.

COMMUNICATION

Positive COVID-19 Cases in the District



COMMUNICATION ON POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

- ✘ 2020-2021: The entire District was notified every time there is a case (families and staff)
- ✘ 2021 Summer School: All families and staff who were in close proximity to the positive case (same classroom, same bus, etc.) are notified, but no communication went out to the rest of the district.

OTHER COMMUNICATION OPTIONS FOR POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES

- ❌ All families in the building (and/or bus) are notified but no communication goes out to the rest of the district.
- ❌ Only those who are considered a close contact with the positive case are notified.

SURVEY RESULTS

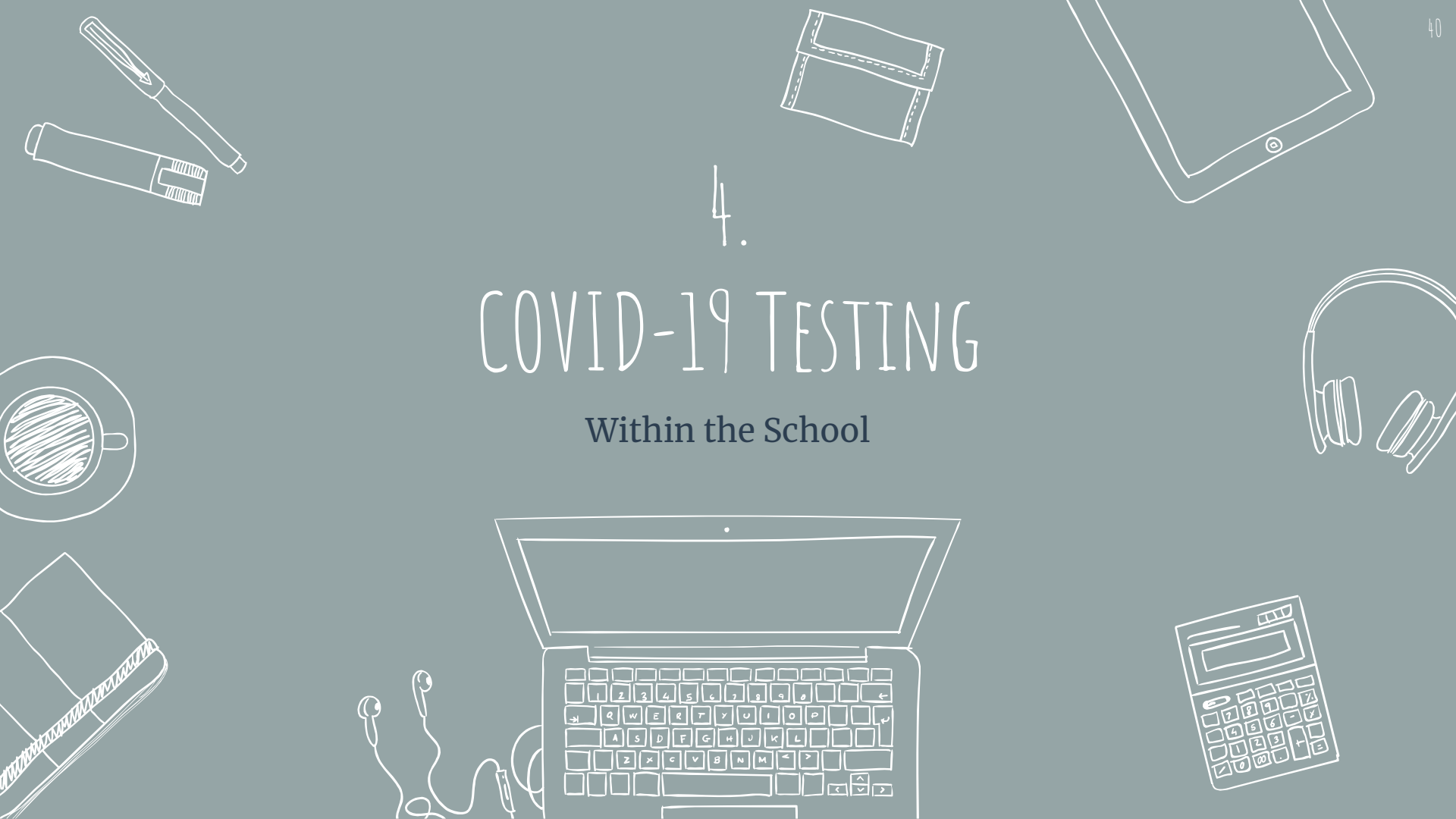
WHEN THERE IS A POSITIVE COVID-19 CASE, I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DISTRICT COMMUNICATE IN THE FOLLOWING WAY:

School	Notify Entire District	Notify All Families in the Building	Notify All Families in Close Proximity	Notify Only Close Contacts
Primary School	21.2%	13.9%	29.4%	35.5%
LES/OSC	30.8%	9.0 %	25.5%	34.6%
Middle School	29.1%	13.3%	19.1%	38.5%
High School	24.4%	13.8%	23.7%	38%

4.

COVID-19 TESTING

Within the School





TESTING

Testing opportunity is available free of charge through DHS, was included in last stimulus package passed at federal level.

Pairs schools with testing vendor to allow testing at schools.

TESTING OPTIONS

- ✗ Testing individuals with symptoms or those who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- ✗ Testing for people who attend or participate in school-based events or activities
- ✗ Testing on a routine bases for unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals
- ✗ Testing large groups in schools where there has been a COVID-19 outbreak

LODI'S PLAN

- ✗ Testing individuals with symptoms or those who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19
- ✗ Testing for people who attend or participate in school-based events or activities
- ~~✗ Testing on a routine bases for unvaccinated asymptomatic individuals~~
- ~~✗ Testing a large groups in schools where there has been a COVID-19 outbreak~~



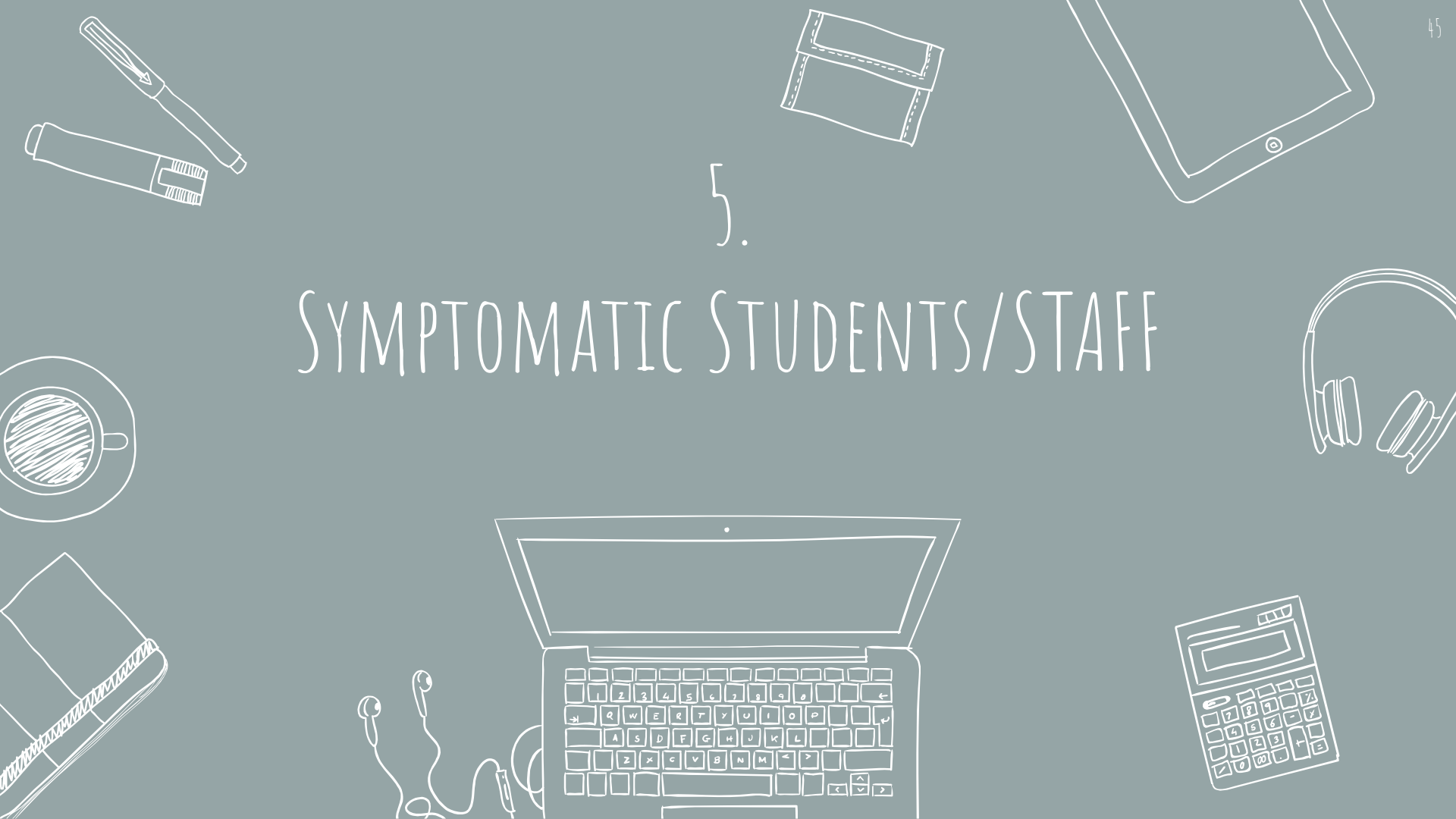
REASONING

- ✗ Testing individuals with symptoms or those who have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 will be a helpful service to our families and students
 - Parental consent is needed to complete the COVID test.
- ✗ Athletics was highest area of transmission in 2020-21
- ✗ Feel that other options would be controversial for families who feel it is unnecessary to test their children
- ✗ Increased staff workload to complete this testing

Next Step: DHS will assign Lodi a vendor and we will meet with them and decide what we need to have in place to make this work for our families and our District.

5.

SYMPTOMATIC STUDENTS/STAFF



SYMPTOM MONITORING

- ✗ In the past 24 hours, have you had at least 1 of the following symptoms as new or above your normal baseline: shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, cough, loss of taste or smell?
- ✗ Within the past 24 hours, have you had at least 2 of the following symptoms as new or above your baseline: fever, or chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nasal congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea (at least 2 times in 24 hours)?

OUR PROCESS HAS NOT CHANGED





UNDERSTANDABLY FRUSTRATING FOR FAMILIES/STAFF

**Why Exclude
Symptomatic Students**
Stops spread of COVID.
Ensures that others are
not being quarantined
due to close contact.
Symptoms of cold and
other respiratory
illnesses are identical to
COVID-19

Why Exclude...
Delta Variant is highly
contagious (4-6X)
Recommendation of
medical and public
health experts CDC,
DHS, Lodi Clinic, Sauk
Prairie Healthcare, and
UW Health

WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

- ✘ If you send your child to school with symptoms it jeopardizes:
 - Their classmates, bus mates, and potentially others
 - They impact the families of all those students if others end up being quarantined due to close contact
 - Impact others, even if sharing other respiratory infections, as other students will need to miss school and get tested for COVID
 - Puts students, staff and families with high risk medical issues in jeopardy of serious complications if they become infected with COVID, even if they are fully immunized.

7.

BUSING



BUSING SURVEY

- ✘ Survey about face coverings based on mandate possibly lifting on September 13, latest direction from our legal counsel is that CDC has mandate which District are required to follow indefinitely

BUSING (MANDATED FACE COVERING PER CDC)

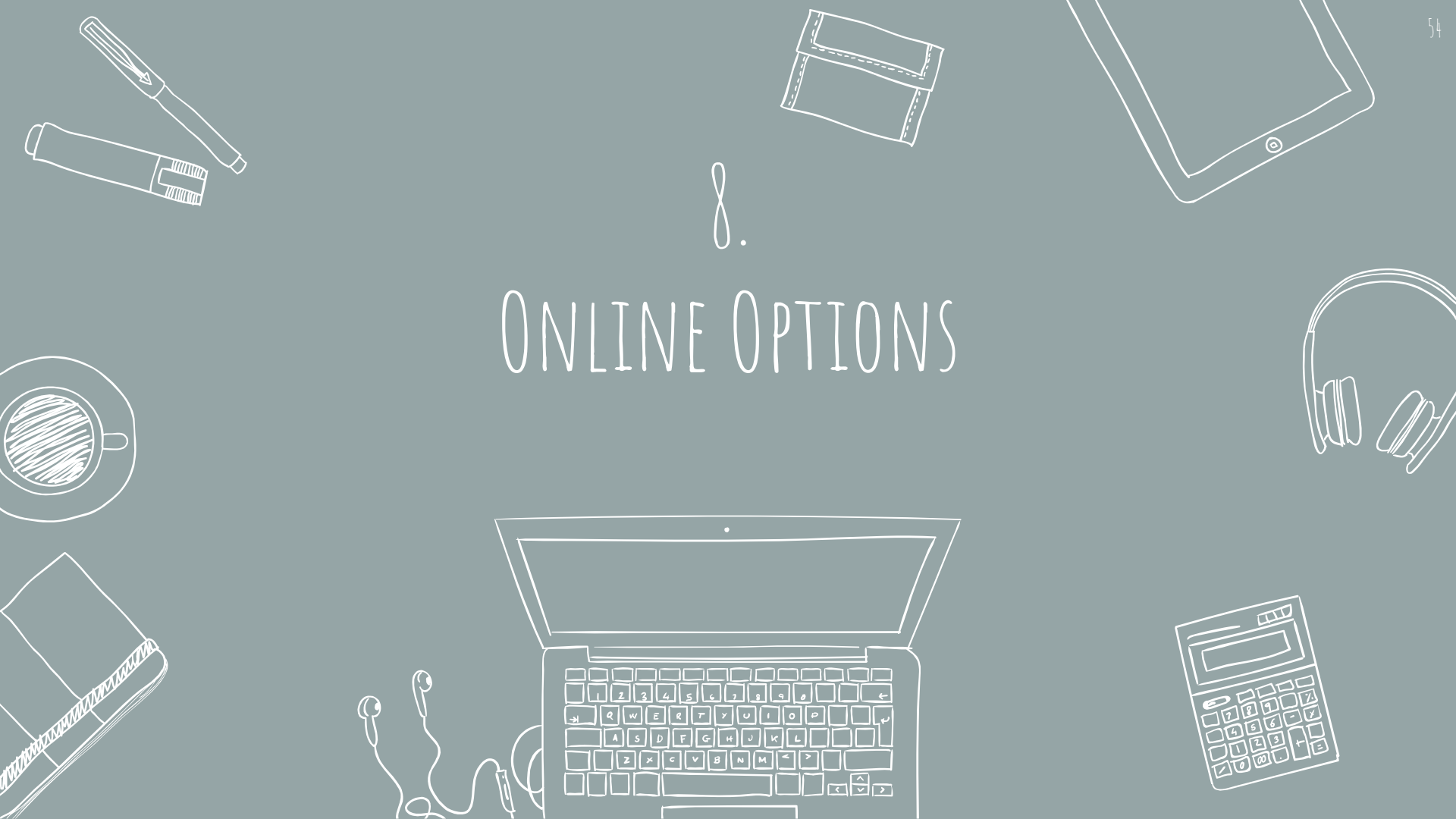
- ✗ CDC Mandate
- ✗ 2021-22: No limits on bus ridership, students required to wear face covering through CDC mandate, routes will be 4K-12 as in the past
- ✗ Middle school hub/exchange
- ✗ Seating charts for contact tracing purposes

BUSING SURVEY RESULTS (AFTER FEDERAL REQUIREMENT IS LIFTED)

School	Require Face Coverings	Face Coverings Recommended but not Required	Face Coverings Optional
Primary School	33.1%	50.9%	16.0%
LES/OSC	39.9%	43.3%	16.8%
Middle School	33.3%	46.7%	20.0%
High School	27.6%	52.5%	19.8%

8.

ONLINE OPTIONS

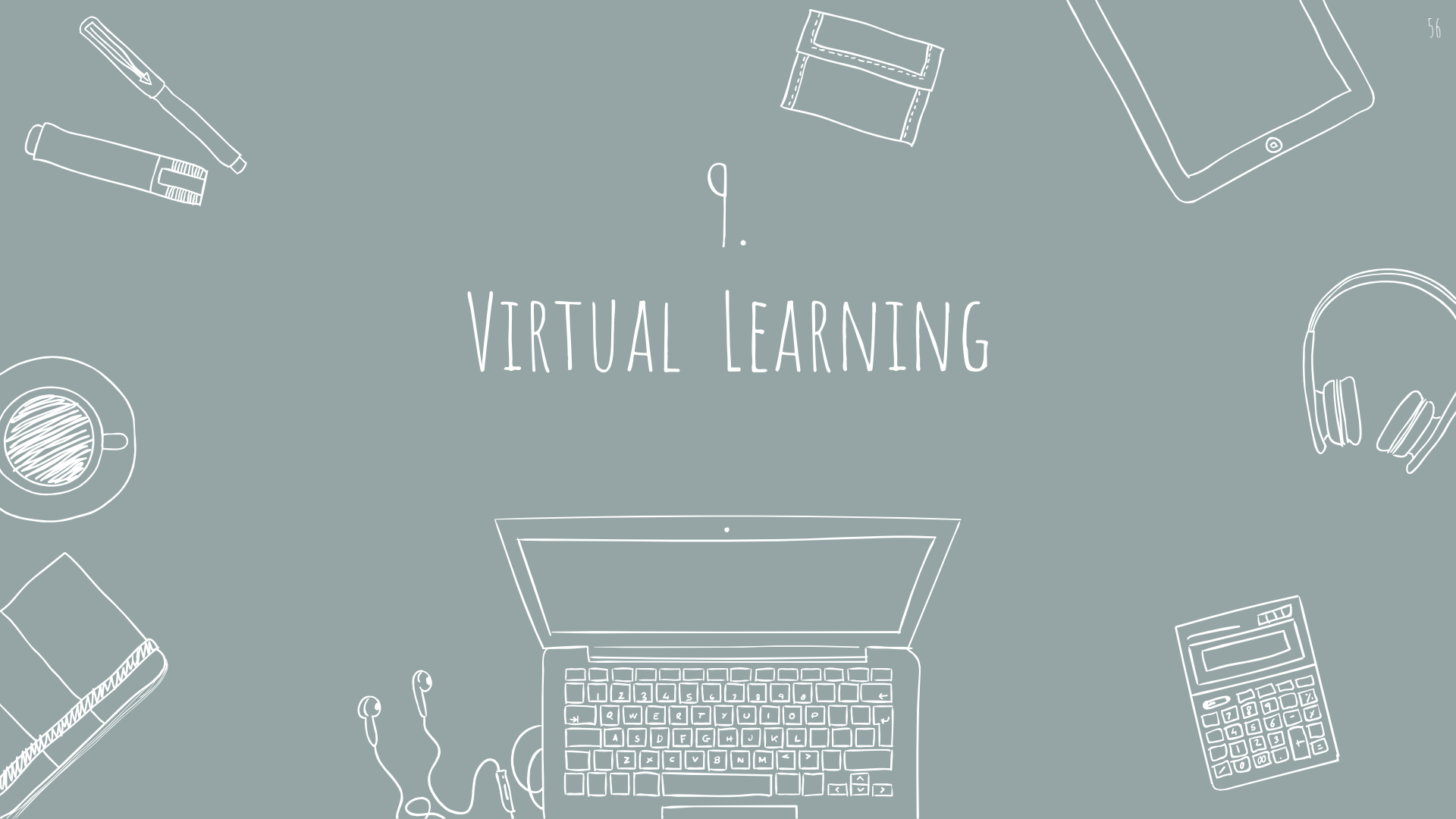


QUARANTINED STUDENTS

- ✗ Will provide some support from classroom teacher or teachers
- ✗ Will not be nearly as robust as last year's online support of students
- ✗ Quarantine will have significant impact on students educational instruction

9.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

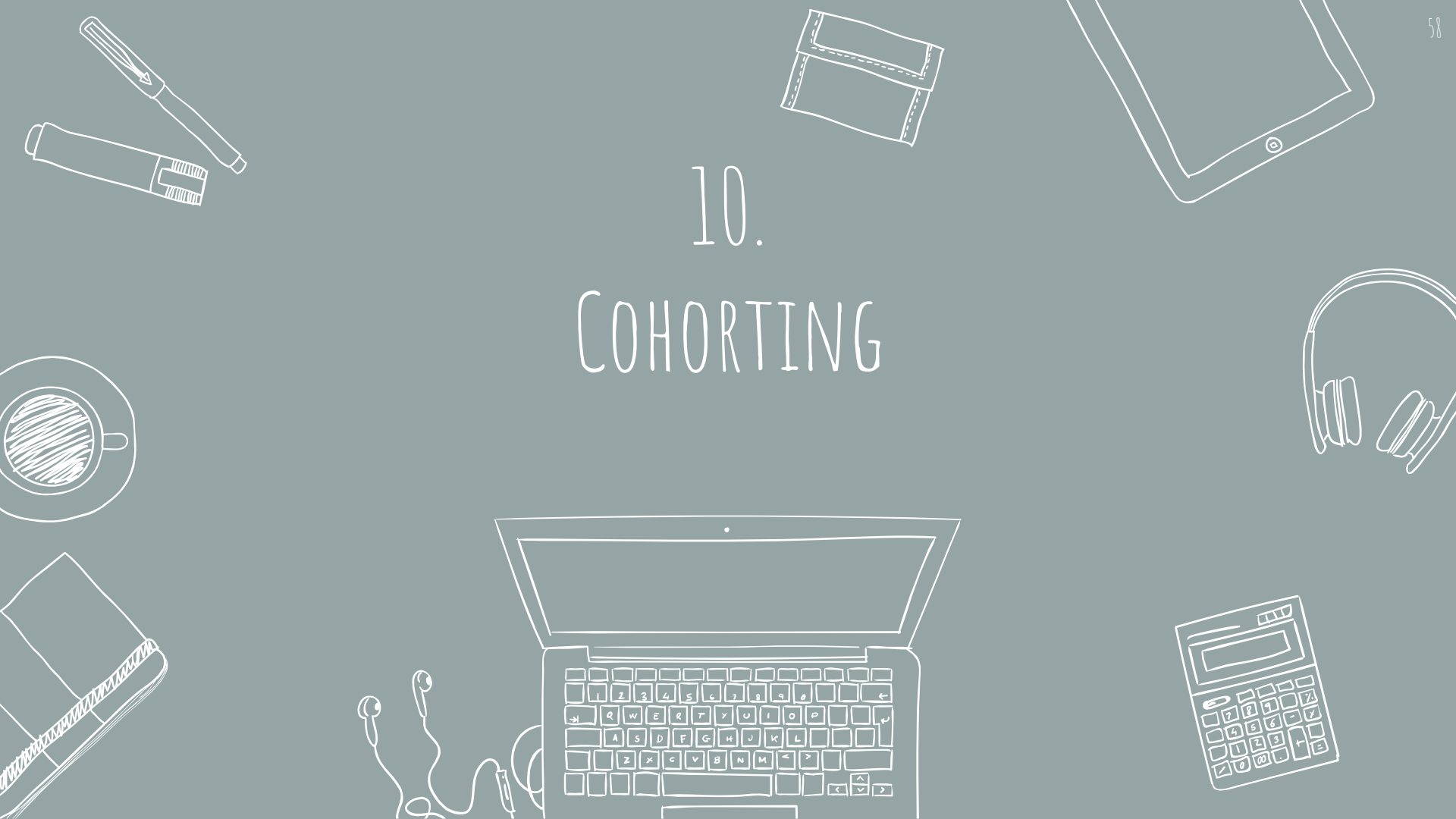


VIRTUAL OPTION

- ✗ The survey in May showed very little interest in a virtual option
- ✗ The district plans to provide virtual academic content from two online vendors for these families to access (K-12). This digital content will be provided to students in an asynchronous (not live) format.
- ✗ An educator from the district will provide families feedback on student progress each week by checking assignment completion and offering a weekly check-in via google meet.
- ✗ This option will not be nearly as robust as the virtual option offered in 2020-21. It would require significant guardian support.
- ✗ A communication specific to this option will be shared with families this week.

10.

COHORTING



COHORTING

PS/ES/OSC

- ✗ Continue to cohort to greatest extent possible
- ✗ Will not be possible at all times - with academic supports that will be put in place

MS/HS

- ✗ Not feasible with current schedule in either building

11. LUNCHES

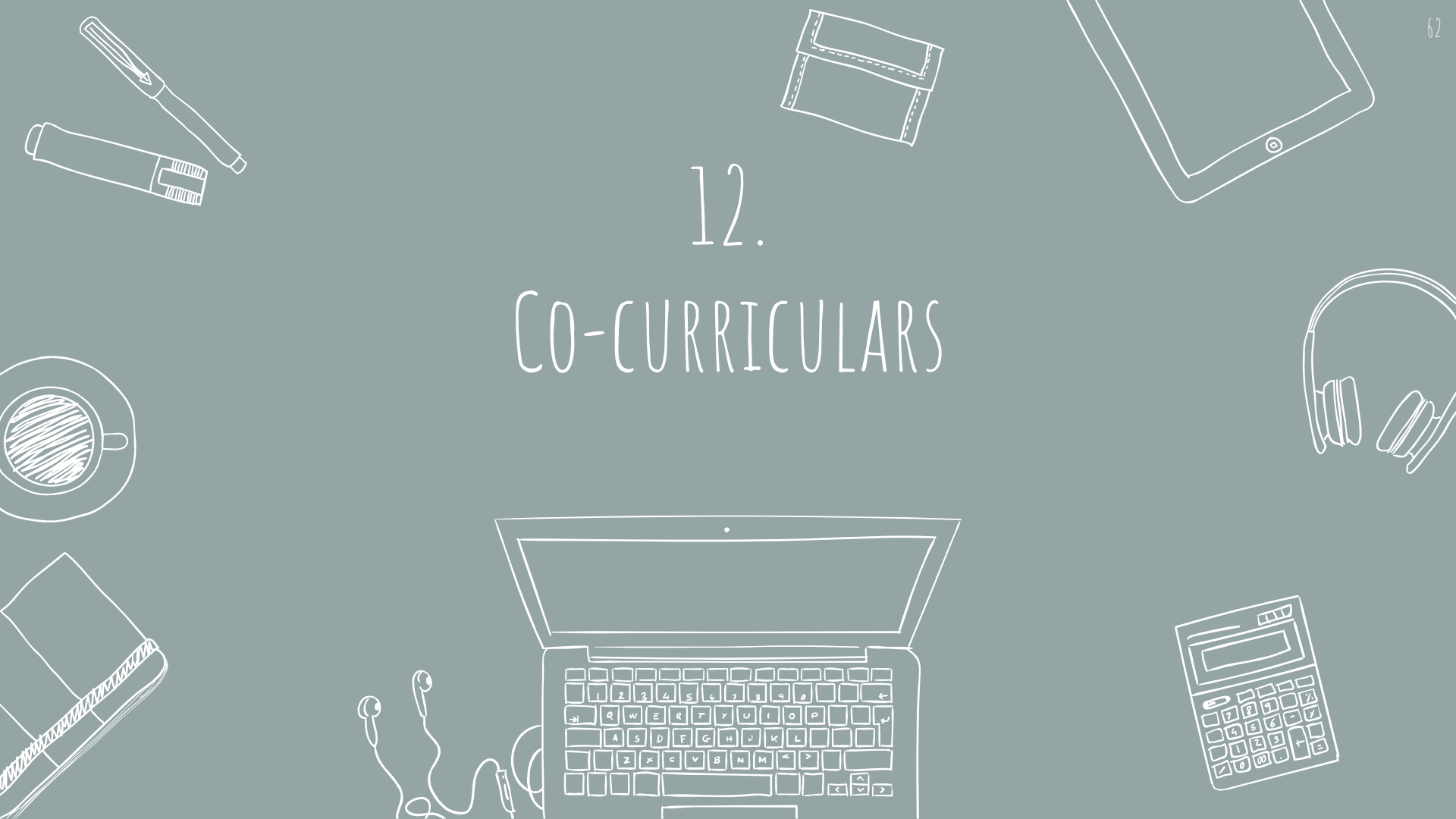


LUNCHES

- ❌ PS - will eat as a class and spread out approximately 3-6 feet between students
- ❌ ES/OSC - will eat as a class in little gym and cafeteria -and spread out approximately 3-6 feet between students
- ❌ MS - will split lunches similar to 2020-21
- ❌ HS - will have two lunches, spread out in commons, LGI, and encourage kids to eat outdoors.
- ❌ Students will be asked to sit next to same peers for lunch

12.

CO-CURRICULARS



OUTDOORS

- ❌ Face covering optional per CDC
- ❌ Spectators Outdoors - face covering and social distancing strongly recommended (especially in large crowds) but not required due to vaccination opportunity and choice activity
- ❌ Exploring option of adding additional bleachers for football games

INDOORS

- ✘ Follow Board decision regarding face coverings inside for athletes and fans. Minimum will be a strong recommendation for face coverings for fans.
- ✘ Will encourage, but not require adult or student fans to socially distancing - optional due to vaccination opportunity and choice activity for families.

SUMMARY



DELTA VARIANT IS A GAME CHANGER

- ❌ DHS predicts transmissions and cases to be worse by start of school year
- ❌ More contagious than original COVID virus
- ❌ Breakthrough infections may be as transmissible as unvaccinated cases

FAMILIES WANT FACE COVERINGS TO BE OPTIONAL BUT WANT CHILDREN TO STAY IN SCHOOL

- ✖ These are in polar opposites of each other
- ✖ If District drops all quarantines and there is optional masking, will have COVID transmission in the District
- ✖ If District keeps quarantines and has optional masking = increased days of school missed

DECISIONS TO MAKE

- ❌ Face covering requirements indoors
- ❌ Quarantine length for close contacts
- ❌ Communication to families on positive COVID-19 cases
- ❌ Testing



THANKS!

Any questions?

