

Osage Community School District

The Mission of the Osage Community Schools is to sustain and enhance a caring community to produce enthusiasm for lifelong learning.

November 5, 2020

To: All Osage Families and Students
From: Barb Schwamman, Superintendent

Re: Recent County Positivity Rates

In recent days, the district has received some questions from families and staff regarding the increase in Mitchell County COVID-19 positivity rates and what it means for our schools. Specifically, we are fielding questions about if the district plans to shift its learning model in the near future.

This decision largely rests with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). According to guidance from the state, the IDPH will consider a school closure for a district if the county positivity rate is 15-20% over a 14-day period **AND** the district's absentee rate is 10% or more among students learning in person.

To date, none of our schools have experienced a student absentee rate of 10% or more; however, we do have concerns about the local case number and impact it has on our schools. As stated in our Return to Learn Plan, our learning options have always been subject to change. If the current trend continues, we want everyone to be prepared that a shift in our learning model is a possibility. If that were to occur, the district would work with the IDPH and our county health officials on moving forward with a possible shift to full-remote learning. At this time we are doing everything possible to stay with our face-to-face 4 day a week model. We are in daily communication with Mitchell County Public Health and are confident in our partnership to help keep students learning and safe.

The health, safety, and well-being of the entire Osage community remains our top priority. We are following sound protocols aligned with expert health guidelines to ensure we are doing everything we can to protect the health of our students, staff, and families. We will continue to practice mask wearing, social distancing, frequent hand washing, and other strategies we know help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses. We are doing this all at school, but PLEASE do this at night and on the weekends so that we can continue face-to-face, in person learning!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. As always, thank you for your support during this challenging time in our school district community.

Mrs. Schwamman



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