

August 27, 2020

Hello Arrowhead families and staff members,

As you know, Arrowhead is reopening school with a choice of two student learning formats: five days/week in-person or five days/week virtual. We hope conditions allow that structure to continue throughout the school year, however it is quite possible we will need to shift formats from time to time between in-person, hybrid (50% of students present, half the week), and fully virtual modes of instruction.

***Q: How will Arrowhead decide if/when school needs to close to in-person instruction?***

A: Shifts between learning formats may occur for multiple reasons, including:

- Internal Arrowhead conditions- Teachers/staff absences due to illness or close contact quarantines, lack of substitute teachers/aides, spread of disease among students, and the ability to keep up with contact-tracing/number of close contact quarantines.
- External community conditions- The proportion and spread of active disease cases in high school-aged students as compared to the entire local community, and significant increase in disease cases that adversely impact our county's healthcare system capacity.

***Q: What is the 'magic number' of COVID-19 positive cases within our school that will force a change in learning formats?***

A: At this time, there is no clear-cut number, percentage, or threshold of COVID-19 cases or absences that will trigger a change in learning format. It depends on how well we are able to manage the conditions noted above. As the health department explained it to all superintendents in Waukesha County, "We recognize the importance of data-driven decision making and planning efforts while also understanding that there is not a one-size-fits-all approach to each school district's unique circumstances." Arrowhead will continue to work frequently and closely with the Waukesha County Public Health Department for their guidance on health conditions and our related decisions.

***Q: How many positive coronavirus cases are needed in Waukesha County to close schools districts?***

A: We are aware there are some nearby counties and school districts that are planning to implement movement between learning formats seemingly based just on community rate of spread, with a predetermined case number threshold. Waukesha County's leadership and health department officials, as well as our Arrowhead administration and school board, feel the decisions need to be based upon all the internal and external factors noted above, and not just the rate of spread in the community. For example, a large spike in cases within our county, which happens to be at an assisted living facility, likely should not have a bearing on whether or not Arrowhead can hold in-person classes. With that said, our health department is consulting

guidelines provided within Harvard University's Global Health Institute's framework for public health risk.

Harvard's framework indicates that when the 7-day moving average number of new cases per day of COVID-19 hits 25+ per 100,000, which means 100+ for Waukesha County's 400,000 people, precautionary measures should be considered. If Waukesha County reaches a 7-day average of new positive cases per day of 100+ (which it did once in mid to late July), health department personnel will assess if hospitals/healthcare clinics are overburdened and will be sure to check in with schools to confirm what our internal number of cases looks like before discussing a change in format to virtual or hybrid. As a point of reference, during the last seven days, the average is 53 new cases per day. To monitor community COVID-19 conditions, please visit the Waukesha County Public Health Department's related [webpage](#), which includes a 'COVID-19 Dashboard' of current disease spread and impact data.

One important note: Within that dashboard there is a map of disease cases by community in the bottom, right-hand corner of the webpage. If you click to open/expand that map, there is a tab along the bottom where you can see the number of positive COVID-19 cases within any school district's boundaries. Those boundaries include all students who live in the district, regardless of which public school, private school, home schooled, open-enrolled to a different school/e-learning school, etc. For example, a week or two ago the school district boundary map showed a dozen high school-aged students were COVID-positive in 'Arrowhead district boundaries,' but in checking with the health department, they confirmed none of those cases were Arrowhead students.

***Q: If Arrowhead must move to fully virtual instruction, how long will that last?***

A: The duration of closure for in-person instruction will depend on the reason for the closure. For instance, if we must move to fully virtual instruction because we don't have enough staff members on campus to teach and supervise students, we will return to in-person instruction when that absenteeism rate is able to improve. If we must close in-person classes as a result of significant disease spread, the county health department suggests the period of fully virtual instruction should last at least two weeks. We would resume in-person instruction when our school's number of positive cases, and that for high school-aged disease spread within our region, improves. Finally, if the state or county health department shuts down schools for some reason (this is not anticipated to happen again), we will comply with those orders. If we must move to a fully virtual model, far more information will be communicated with families and staff at that time.

***Q: If in-person instruction must be paused at some point, will Arrowhead reopen with the current choice of two student learning formats: five days/week in-person or five days/week virtual?***

A: If Arrowhead is closed for in-person instruction as a result of disease spread, it is likely we will reopen, at least temporarily, in a hybrid model. How that model will work is still being discussed, but may have half the students (1st half of alphabet, for instance) attending

in-person on Monday and Tuesday, while all other students attend virtually. On Wednesday, all students would attend virtually, with the exception of perhaps small groups of identified students coming in for special assistance or projects. On Thursday and Friday, the other half of the students ( 2nd half of the alphabet, for instance) would attend in-person, while all other students attend virtually. Attending classes virtually five days per week would still be an option within a hybrid model. If we must move to a hybrid model, the county health department would help guide us on when health conditions are adequate for a return to our current model of a choice of two student learning formats: five days/week in-person or five days/week virtual. If we must move to a hybrid model, far more information will be communicated with families and staff at that time.

***Q: If Arrowhead is closed for in-person instruction at some point, would athletics and other co-curricular activities still occur?***

A: If school is closed or paused as a result of disease spread among students, it is likely athletics/co-curricular activities will be paused for that same period of time. If in-person instruction is paused as a result of staffing shortages, it is likely athletics/co-curricular activities will run as usual, unless impacted by the staffing shortage.

**For more information regarding Arrowhead's *Stay Safe to Stay Open- Reopening School Plan* and many other COVID-19 pieces of information and links, please visit our COVID-19 Communication [webpage](#), found under the 'Resources' tab on the district website, under 'Communication.'**