

November 9, 2020

Dear BASD Families:

As COVID-19 continues to surge throughout our region and the State we have no choice but to move into a virtual instructional model. With an increasing rate of transmission along with staff and students that have either tested positive or are now in quarantine it has become unsustainable for us to continue in our hybrid / in-person model.

With multiple new positive COVID-19 cases just this morning, the Burlington Area School District has reached a tipping point and has made the very difficult decision to shift to virtual learning beginning **Wednesday, November 11, 2020**.

Our intention at this point is to return to the hybrid model on Monday, November 30. This means there will be ten virtual learning days leading up to the Thanksgiving break. We will continue to monitor the health and wellbeing, as best we can, for those in our district and community. If the situation does not improve, a decision about the final three weeks of the semester (November 30-December 18) will need to be made. Your actions during this duration will impact the district's ability to return to the hybrid instructional model.

Rationale for this decision:

- High positivity rate reported by the Central Racine County Health Department (link: <https://crchd.com/covid-19>).
- High positivity rate within BASD. Where we only had 31 cases in the first 11 weeks of school, we have had 24+ cases in the past 8 days.
- High number of students and staff in quarantine with every school impacted due to school-related and non-school-related exposures.
- An inability to adequately staff buildings, bus routes, and the other essential roles in our district.

We are giving families and staff this notice to help prepare the logistics:

- Students need to bring home Chromebooks and necessary personal items (winter wear, etc.) by Tuesday night
- Watch for an email from the school principal with school-related logistics.
- Our website has resources for people who are positive (and must isolate), were close contacts (and must quarantine), and for people who are symptomatic (link: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/covid-dashboard.cfm>).
- If your family has emergency needs please visit this website to find help (link: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/community-resources.cfm>).

We are thankful that our district has had a little more than twelve weeks of hybrid and in-person learning. Families have been flexible when a class or grade-level have needed to go virtual due to quarantines. We are now facing a level of exposure (link to dashboard: <https://www.basd.k12.wi.us/district/covid-dashboard.cfm>) that creates an unsustainable

operating environment that is not good for kids. Shifting to an all-virtual learning model is definitely not what we want to do, but this is what is necessary to do at this time.

Individuals should continue to inform Jill Dreger, Director of Health Services, if they need to quarantine due to being a close contact, or they have gone for a COVID test, and the results of a COVID test as soon as they can via either email (jdreger@basd.k12.wi.us) or phone (District Office 262-763-0210).

We recognize that virtual learning causes logistical issues for families and that it is less ideal than in-person learning. The district has made several investments to improve the virtual experience. Please reach out to your child's teacher to ensure your student has the resources they need to be successful.

This is a shift to district-provided virtual learning. This does not impact students in the JEDI program who will continue on their JEDI program.

Please continue to check email for more information from building principals and teachers.