



Good afternoon WISD families:

Today marks the end of the fourth week of this first quarter of the school year. We are near the end of September, and look forward to the fall colors in October. The weather has been agreeable these past weeks, and the staff and students are muscling through their essential standards daily. We are grateful for your support and partnership each day that we are together with your children.

The district has received several official notices from Governor Ever's office, which I have included at the end of this correspondence for your perusal. Thank you for reading through it.

The WISD Board of Education passed a renewed 1:1 Computing Initiative that will allow families to rent a school computer from the district, which can be kept at home for school-related use. Please contact the district office should you need more information. The WISD provides a computer (digital device) for every student who attends school in the district each school year. These devices do not go home with the students. They remain on campus. This new lease agreement is strictly for any families who want to rent another (secondary) device that their children can use at home to do school work.

Our high school Academic Decathlon Team is organizing in preparation for the upcoming state of Wisconsin program. This will mark the 3rd year that Head Coach, Ms. Dahlke and our WISD high school

students will compete in this academic team event. The research topic this season will be the COLD WAR. Ms. Grzelak is assisting with this endeavor.

Our Middle School science students will participate in the Journey North Symbolic Monarch Migration program sponsored by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. They will partner virtually with students from Mexico during this migration process.

These same Middle Schoolers will also participate in a Junior Phrenology Program funded by a grant program offered by the Wisconsin Society of Science Teachers, that Ms. Dahlke secured. (phrenology: the detailed science for the study of the shape and size of the cranium as a supposed indication of character and mental abilities).

This district invested in several new systems that are dedicated to our ongoing intervention work with students in the area of reading. This program is called FastForward. We are also utilizing a new universal screening tool called Fastbridge. This will also be employed as our progress monitoring program that is used three times a year, to assess our student's academic progress in the areas of reading and mathematics. The first screening is slated for October. Data gleaned from these two programs assists the district in curriculum development and academic services.

Please continue to check out the district webpage. We add photos, resources, information, articles and much more each week. We are now adding a MENTAL WELLENSS MOMENT link. This link takes you to 5 activities that can be used at home for your whole family. We use weekly tools during our morning announcements.

Finally, in light of the current COVID-19 situation that the district faced this week, we are mindful of the support and guidance of the Door County Health Department. Ms. Sue Powers and her staff worked with district officials and staff, reminding us of the importance of reviewing and re-teaching students those recommended protocols and practices that can assist in keep them, and the staff, safe and healthy. We ask for your partnership while students are at home, in reinforcing handwashing, social distancing, masking, and the general cleaning of spaces and services people utilize in your home. We are in this together! We appreciate your partnership, and your support to keep everyone safe and healthy during this thought-provoking time.

Enjoy fall weekend with your family. Stay safe, and be well.

Gov. Evers Declares New Health Emergency Due to Campus Outbreaks, Issues New Face Coverings Order

Gov. Tony Evers today declared a new public health emergency in Wisconsin due to recent surge in cases among young people and issued a new face coverings order effective immediately. Executive Order #90 is available [here](#). Emergency Order #1 is available [here](#). Both orders are effective immediately and will expire after sixty days or with a subsequent superseding order. The governor previously declared a public health emergency under Executive Order #82, which remains in effect.

“We continue to learn more about this virus, but what we do know is that we are facing a new and dangerous phase of the COVID-19 pandemic here in Wisconsin,” said Gov. Evers. “We are seeing an alarming increase in cases across our state, especially on campus. We need folks to start taking this seriously, and young people especially—please stay home as much as you are able, skip heading to the bars, and wear a mask whenever you go out. We need your help to stop the spread of this virus, and we all have to do this together.”

With the start of the school year, Wisconsin is seeing a surge in cases, especially among young people. In fact, 18 to 24-year-olds have a case rate five times higher than any other age group. This significant increase has only occurred within the past month and appears to be driven by in-person social gatherings. Last week, eight Wisconsin cities were listed among the top twenty cities in the United States where COVID-19 cases were rising fastest, and six of those eight cities have University of Wisconsin System campuses.

“The current surge among young people is concerning, but it is important to remember that this increase in cases is not confined to college campuses,” said Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm. “Students come to these campuses from across the state, and we worry about the effect their return from an area with a high infection rate could have on their home communities. That is why it is imperative we take action to curb transmission now – to protect residents of Wisconsin in every corner of the state.”

Wisconsin is now experiencing unprecedented, near-exponential growth of the COVID-19 pandemic with the daily number of new cases rising from 678 on August 31st to 1,791 on September 21st, a 2.6-fold increase in three weeks, driven in part by the unprecedented number of infections among 18-24 year-olds.

“We need to remember that most respiratory viruses see their peak activity in Wisconsin between late fall and early spring,” said Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Wisconsin’s Chief Medical Officer and the State Epidemiologist for Communicable Diseases. “We need to do everything we can now to slow the spread of COVID-19 and prepare for the winter. That is why we need to continue wearing masks and practicing physical distancing. It is also why we encourage everyone to get a flu shot this year; the flu shot cannot protect you from COVID-19, but by helping protect you from the flu, it helps strengthen our COVID-19 response here in Wisconsin by preserving hospital and testing capacity.”

On July 30, Gov. Evers issued Executive Order #82 to declare a public health emergency as a result of a spike in COVID-19 cases in counties throughout the state. At the same time, Gov. Evers issued a statewide face covering mandate. New cases of COVID-19 slowed down in August as a result of the mandate, but as campuses reopened the last several weeks, we’ve seen a new surge in cases across our state. With today’s new face covering order, Wisconsin residents ages five and older are required to wear a face covering when they are indoors or in an enclosed space with anyone outside their household or living unit.

For up-to-date information about Wisconsin’s COVID-19 response, visit the DHS COVID-19 webpage.

