

Rush City Community,

On Wednesday, December 16th, Governor Walz announced significant changes to the state guidelines that outline how we are able to serve our community. Our District was already implementing several of the measures that will now be required, and the following are changes that would be new to our district:

- **Elementary schools may return to in-person instruction on or after January 18th as long as they implement proper COVID-19 mitigation measures.**
- **Returning to in-person instruction would need to be done in phases to limit the number of students in each building while the district monitors local COVID-19 data to ensure it is appropriate to bring more students into a school building.**
- **High Schools may return to in-person instruction scenarios after January 18th in accordance with the existing safe school's guidance.**
- **Staff would be encouraged to participate in on-site, biweekly COVID-19 testing.**
- **Staff would need to wear both a face mask and a shield.**
- **Schools may allow extracurricular activities to resume on January 4th; however, contests with other schools would not be allowed until further notice.**

Immediately after receiving this information, our administrative team and COVID Coordinator met to discuss the new guidelines and the process our district would use to determine what we will do and how we will communicate this with our community. We will first continue unpacking the guidelines, meeting with public health officials, and working with our colleagues and professional organizations to ensure we understand the guidelines and share ideas. We will then develop a plan and make necessary revisions to our *Rush City Schools K-12 Safe Learning Plan*. This will be presented to the Board of Education at a special session on Tuesday, December 29th at 6:00 PM for discussion and hopefully approval. Once approved, another Tiger Tracks will be sent out to the Rush City community with the updated plans.

Keep in mind that regardless of the plans we put in place, COVID-19 data will still impact the learning model we implement. Please continue to do your part in minimizing the spread of COVID-19. Recently, the case rates have been declining in Chisago County. Let's work to continue this trend so we can get and keep our kids in school and activities. Distance Learning will remain an option for all families.

Please consider helping us meet the needs of our students. We are in need of substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, bus and van drivers. Staffing shortages have caused many districts including ours to shift into distance learning models. Please consider these employment opportunities and encourage others you believe may be interested to apply. See our district website for more information.

Please reach out if you have questions or concerns. It's important to ensure our families are informed and that we are made aware of concerns and ideas you may have. Thank you for your cooperation, understanding, and support as we continue to navigate this school year together and uphold the promise to create global citizens who are lifelong learners.

Thank you,

Brent Stavig
Interim Superintendent