

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. A Tiger Tracks message went out on December 18th informing the community of the changes, the process we would use to develop a revised plan, and how we would communicate this once approved. Since this time the guidance has been updated again multiple times. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff and School Board, a revised plan has been approved. Fortunately, we were able to follow through with our previously communicated plan of returning to in-person instruction as soon as possible.

Please note that while we strive to provide our community with consistent programming, COVID-19 data will continue to drive the learning models for our students and the type of participation we can allow in extracurricular activities. Please do your part to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 so we can implement these plans and keep in-person instruction and activities options for our students.

### Summary of Changes to Rush City Schools K-12 Safe Learning Plan:

- Introduction:
  - Describes the shift in guidance to enhancing mitigating strategies and the increased focus on building level data as opposed to the 14-day metric
  - January 14th and 15th will be staff planning days - No school for students
  - Describes the plan for return on January 19th
    - CE Jacobson in-person PreK-6th Grade (Distance Learning on Wednesdays)
    - High School Hybrid 7-12 Grades for at least the first two weeks
      - Blue students begin 1/19/2021
      - Gold students begin 1/21/2021
    - Extracurricular activities to resume January 4th
  - Plans subject to change based on COVID-19 data or state guidance/direction
  - All students may choose Distance Learning
- Face Shields required to be worn by staff
- High School students will not be allowed to move around the lunchroom
- Childcare for 7th graders of Tier 1 workers may attend on Wednesdays
- Our Incident Command Team will make activities decisions
- Added language regarding prioritizing in-person special education services and evaluations
- Added language describing our willingness to assist the county with a safe and convenient space to vaccinate for COVID-19

### Additional Information:

Click on the link to view the [Rush City Schools K-12 Safe Learning Plan](#), the plan will also be on our district website. All significant changes are currently highlighted for easy review. Some activities are scheduled to begin January 4th, use this link to learn more about [winter activities](#).

I believe one of the most likely reasons we could need to transition to a more restrictive model in the future may be due to staffing shortages. Please consider helping us meet the needs of our students. We are in need of substitute teachers, paraprofessionals, bus and van drivers. 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