



September 23, 2021

Dear School District of Wisconsin Dells Parents/Caregivers:

This letter is to inform you of several adjustments being made to our instructional delivery model due to increased positive COVID cases at specific classroom levels and building levels. Specifically, at Spring Hill Elementary beginning Friday, September 24, 2021 an additional section of 5th grade will move to remote learning and this section will be able to return to in-person instruction on Monday, October 4, 2021. Because elementary schools work in more of a cohort model this will keep other grade levels which have not been disrupted by COVID moving forward with in-person learning.

Wisconsin Dells High School has also experienced an uptick in positive COVID cases and as such will shift to reduced (50%) capacity effective Friday, September 24, 2021 and they will return to full capacity on Monday, October 4, 2021. Students with the last names of A-L will be in attendance tomorrow and students with the last names ending in M-Z will be expected to be in attendance on Monday, September 27, 2021. Mr. Gaston will be providing students and staff with greater details and expectation on the afternoon of the 23rd. If you as a parent have specific questions regarding expectations for your child please contact the WDHS office and they will do their best to answer your questions.

The rationale for moving to 50% capacity is to slow the spread of COVID with the goal of doing this now to ensure the district can keep in-person learning moving forward as well as provide an opportunity for our students to be able to participate in traditional school activities such as our upcoming homecoming. As many have realized in the past 20-months our students have missed out on a number of these traditional activities and while they may not be completely academic in nature they are good for our students mental health. The district will also make every attempt to safely keep extra-curriculars moving forward and this may include the rescheduling of contests as well as adjusting practice protocols to further reduce the spread of the virus.

Additionally, at WDHS, yesterday afternoon, we had approximately a dozen students become ill with stomach flu-like symptoms. While some students had additional symptoms consistent with COVID, others did not. They all had eaten lunch but there was not a single item that we could trace as being a possible culprit. In other words, some students had only veggies, some only the meat entree and even among those students, some of them had beef and some had chicken. After reviewing our internal food safety protocols and ensuring compliance, and in consultation with Sauk County Health and Human Services, we took precautions by serving an alternative lunch today while the investigation continues. We are deeply grateful to Elvis Ajvazi and the Pizza Pub staff for their help in providing lunch to our student body.

Finally, like last year, the district is going to have to remain flexible with our approach in order to provide as much in-person learning as possible. The stresses of dealing with these aforementioned items is exceeding our capacity for normal day-to-day operations. By slowing down now, just as we successfully did last year, we can have a successful school year. In return, I thank you for your flexibility and patience at this time.

Sincerely,

Terrance Slack

Terrance Slack

District Administrator