



November Family Update

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ADM Families,

The impact of Covid-19 never seems to be far from all of our minds these days and it does certainly dominate our work and planning as a school system. However, in spite of all the effort expended on all things Covid, instruction at our schools has been in full swing and at a high level for 53 days. I see first hand the amazing teaching and learning going on in our classrooms, and it confirms to me all that I know about this place.

We have been fully on site for essentially the same number of days missed last spring, and we have done it in a way that has worked to minimize the impact of Covid and allow for high levels of learning. We meticulously developed a return to learn plan prior to the start of school, and execution of that plan has been outstanding. The effort and emotional investment in all of this by our teachers, administrators, and support staff has been amazing, and quite frankly, really hard. But it continues to be worth it.

The ADM Board of Education reviewed our [most recent Covid data at the November 9 regular board meeting](#). The Department of Education's guidance on important metrics to review at the local level to best determine learning format includes county positivity rate and student attendance rates. Based on our current conditions, we are continuing in our full on-site learning model even though the Dallas County positivity rate currently exceeds 15%. ADM's current five-day average attendance rate is 94.04%. This is very comparable to our 2019-20 average daily attendance of 95.25%.

As of 11/9 we have a total of 10 current positive student cases (0.47% of total students) and 2 current positive staff members (0.62% of total staff). Our data also currently demonstrates that staff and students are not likely to become positive if exposed to Covid while at school. In fact, of the 76 students found to have been exposed to a positive case while at school and placed in quarantine by the health department, none have subsequently tested positive within 14 days.

Our staffing is stable, and we have been able to manage absences effectively to-date in all areas, including teaching absences.

We are committed to monitoring our local conditions and data and will continue to make decisions based on the local metrics and conditions specific to ADM. As always, our focus will be on the safety of ADM students, staff, and families.

COVID-19 Numbers at ADM

Travis Wilkins, Director of Innovative Learning and Communication

ADM continues to study a variety of metrics to make determinations about the learning format most appropriate given the current context of COVID-19 in the school and broader community. Below are current student COVID numbers at ADM. Parents and community members can view all COVID-19 positive case notices at ADM's COVID-19 website: www.admschools.org/COVID19.

Positive Cases: The following data represents the current and historical numbers of positive cases of COVID-19 at ADM.

- **Current:** As of 11/9/20, ADM currently has 10 (0.47%) positive students and 2 (0.62%) positive staff members.
- **Historical:** As of 11/9/20, ADM has had 38 (1.79%) students and 20 (8.02%) staff members test positive for COVID-19 since the start of the school year.

Quarantines: The following data represents the current and historical numbers of individuals identified by the local health department as close contacts who are required to quarantine for 14 days due to an exposure to COVID-19.

- **Current:** As of 11/9/20, ADM has 94 (4.43%) students and 3 (0.93%) staff members in 14 day quarantine.
- **Historical:** As of 11/9/20, ADM has had 310 students and 25 staff members placed in 14 day quarantine since the start of the school year.

The majority of students and staff identified as close contacts have been quarantined due to an exposure to COVID-19 that takes place OUTSIDE of the school setting. The following data represent the historical numbers of individuals identified by the local health department as close contacts who were required to quarantine for 14 days comparing exposures taking place at ADM and exposures taking place outside of ADM.

- **Historical - Exposed At ADM:** As of 11/9/20, ADM has had 76 students identified by the local health department as close contacts and quarantined for 14 days due to an exposure to COVID-19 **in a school classroom, on a school bus, or an ADM event.** Of these 76 students, 0 ended up testing positive during their 14-day quarantine period.
- **Historical - Exposed Outside Of ADM:** In contrast, there have been 234 students identified as a close contact due to an exposure taking place **outside of a school classroom, bus, or ADM event.** These are close contacts that are likely to have occurred whether or not ADM School was even in session, as they typically occur over the weekend, at family events, social gatherings, etc.

County Positivity Rate: The county positivity rate measures the percentage of individuals that receive a COVID-19 test who test positive. The data is reported daily in each county using a 14-day average.

- On August 12, the Dallas County Positivity Rate was 7.0%. As of 11/9/20, the county positivity rate is 18.9%.
- While ADM has seen a small increase in the number of students and staff who test positive, the increase does not match the high positivity rate currently being reported for Dallas County.

Average Daily Attendance Rate: The average daily attendance rate measures the average daily attendance rate for students expected to learn on-site or virtually but who were unable to participate due to illness or absence.

- During the 2019-20 school year, ADM's average daily attendance rate was 95.25%. As of 11/9/20, ADM's 5-day average attendance rate was 94.04%. At this time, it does not appear that COVID-19 is having a significant impact on ADM's 5-day average daily attendance rate, as the current average rate is only slightly lower when compared to the 2019-20 school year average.

On-site and Remote Learners: Currently 93.78% of ADM students are attending school on site, with 6.22% of ADM students enrolled in the second 9-week remote learning period from October 26 - January 19.

ADM Wellness Screener: Families are reminded to use the [ADM COVID-19 Daily Wellness Screener](#) to identify if they are ill and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. This tool has been created in consultation with the Dallas County Health Department to help families and staff determine if and when they should come to school. One of the most critical safety mitigation measures is for staff and students to stay home when not feeling well. If you ever have any questions about whether your child should come to school or not, please reach out to the building nurse. They are very adept at helping work through these questions with families.

Adel Elementary Face Coverings: At this time Adel Elementary students are not required to wear face masks. The ADM Health and Safety Return To Learn Committee met twice over the past month to review new guidance and to review data about the current impact of COVID at Adel Elementary. It was decided to continue with masks being optional at the K-2 level and that the committee would revisit the topic if conditions change in the future.

Understanding Isolation, Quarantine, and Self-Monitoring: It can be challenging to understand the impact of a student or staff member being identified for isolation, quarantine, or self-monitoring by the local health department. The [Parent Guide: Isolation, Quarantine, and Self-Monitoring](#) document has been created to support parents with an overview of each health department designation. Please take a moment to review this document for a better understanding of Isolation, Quarantine, and Self-Monitoring.

Snow Days: We have obviously reached the time of year when inclement weather becomes a factor. Starting this year, Iowa schools are allowed to have students learn virtually in lieu of a traditional snow day. We do not anticipate using this option this year for several reasons. First, we place a premium on face-to-face instruction due to the ten-week school closure last spring. Especially for our younger students, virtual learning is just not as robust as on site learning. An additional consideration is device access for students in grades PK-5. While we are 1:1 for students in grades 2-5, students do not take home the devices and we do not have a device for all PK-1 students (we are 2:1). Oftentimes, closure decisions are not made until the early morning hours. Finally, of all years, a snow day here or there may be a nice break from the new normal routine. As in previous years, we will plan on making up snow days at the end of the year. We will have the option to determine the exact number of snow days necessary to be made up as we move through the year and see how many we actually have.

PPEL: We are nearing the end of our ten-year, voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy passed in 2012 to finance major improvements in district technology and transportation. This revenue allowed the district to make critical and substantial upgrades to our technology infrastructure and device availability for our students, culminating in our 1:1 device deployment at grades 3-12 (now includes second grade) and 2:1 in grades PS-1 three years ago. We anticipate bringing a resolution for Board consideration to call for a PPEL renewal election in March 2021. The necessity of having a strong technology program has never been greater, as evidenced by the reliance on technology to deliver instruction during the pandemic. The Board plans on considering a resolution to call for a March 2021 election at the December board meeting. [You can review the PPEL board presentation here.](#)

District Enrollment: All Iowa districts certify their enrollment in October every year. Once again, ADM's enrollment increased significantly with 65 total new students this year for a total of 2,071. Over a ten year period, ADM's total enrollment has increased by 593 students! Enrollment growth is a critical variable in a district's financial health as each district receives a per student allocation from the state of Iowa.

Meadow View Elementary: Meadow View Elementary is progressing nicely and is on schedule to be completed by August. This 78,000 square foot facility will house all ADM students in grades 2-4 starting with the 2021-22 school year. If you have a chance, drive by on 15th Street in Adel and take a look. It is impressive!

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. I hope you have a great week, I wish you all a happy (and safe) Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Greg Dufoe, ADM Superintendent