



# May Family Update

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ADM Families,

## Finishing Strong:

May is always a busy month and is full of celebrations. Prom was a great success, activities have been in full swing, and we are looking forward to graduation on May 23! Last week was Teacher Appreciation Week and this week is Board Member Appreciation Week. Our last day of school is quickly approaching and we are all committed to finishing strong after a long, challenging year of unprecedented challenges. It is clear we are going to finish the year with full on-site learning, just as we started the year on August 24.

## 2021-22 School Registration June 1 - June 30:

With the school year coming to an end, it is time to start thinking about registering your student to attend ADM for the 2021-22 school year! Registration will open on June 1 and close on June 30. Parents of returning students will receive an email on the morning of June 1 with directions for how to complete the online registration process. Parents of new families to ADM will be able to find directions for registration on the ADM website and social media starting June 1. Please look for communication about registration on June 1 and plan to complete the online registration process by June 30.

## Open Enrollment:

The ADM Board of Education annually reviews the district's open enrollment status and makes a determination to open or close open enrollment for the following year. For the past four years, the Board has closed open enrollment due to classroom space limitations. With the opening of Meadow View Elementary and additional capacity within the district, insufficient classroom space is no longer a driving factor to close open enrollment in grades K-6.

On May 10th, the ADM Board approved a resolution to participate in open enrollment as a receiving district in grades K-6 for the 2021-22 school year. Presently, based on a review of the factors described in the policy linked below, it has been determined that open enrollment will be closed in grades 7-12 and for special education students in grades K-12 for the 2021-22 school year subject to the exceptions provided for in policy [501.13](#). The district reserves the right to close open enrollment in grades K-6 at any time the total enrollment of the district at any grade level meets any of the "insufficient classroom space" factors as determined by the district.

## 2021-22 Walk Zones:

On Monday night, the ADM Board of Education approved the following walk zones in an effort to reduce bus ridership to reduce transportation costs and respond to the challenges of hiring bus drivers. Students who live in the walk zone are ineligible for transportation to and from school.

School districts in Iowa are legally required to provide transportation to students in grades K-8 that live more than 2 miles from the school designated for attendance and students in grades 9-12 that live more than three miles from the school designated for attendance. The approved walk zones are well within the legal requirements, with ADM continuing to provide transportation to significantly more students than legally required. **Please Note:** Additional information will be shared with parents about busing and transportation during the registration process in June.

- Adel Elementary Walk Zone (PS-1): [View Interactive Map](#) | [View PDF Map](#)
- Meadow View Elementary Walk Zone(2-4): [View Interactive Map](#) | [View PDF Map](#)
- DeSoto Intermediate Walk Zone (5-6): [View Interactive Map](#) | [View PDF Map](#)
- ADM Middle School/High School Walk Zone (7-12): [View Interactive Map](#) | [View PDF Map](#)

## News and World Report - ADM High School Ranked #11:

U.S. News & World Report released their annual high school rankings on April 27th, and ADM High School again received recognition as one of the best high schools in the state of Iowa and the nation. ADM High School is ranked as the 11th best high school out of 317 high schools statewide, and is also ranked #2,038 out of nearly 18,000 high schools nationwide. ADM is one of the smaller high schools to be ranked among the top 15 in the state of Iowa. ADM High School's enrollment of 505 is the fifth smallest among this group; the average enrollment of schools in the top 15 is 1,147. This is a very nice honor and indicative of great work at the high school and across our school system!

### COVID-19 General Trends:

Over the past several months we have experienced a continued decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases at ADM. As of May 10, we have a total of 1 current positive student case and 0 current positive staff members. Our data also continues to demonstrate that staff and students are not likely to become positive if exposed to Covid while at school. Parents and staff can continue to view real-time data using [ADM's COVID-19 Dashboard](#).

### COVID-19 Numbers at ADM:

The ADM Board of Education reviewed our most recent [Covid data at the May 10 Regular Board Meeting](#). Please review the following section for the most recent informational summary of COVID-19 Numbers at ADM. We are extremely grateful that we have been in school, full-time, since August 24 without interruption.

### 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 and the ADM COVID-19 Dashboard at ADM's COVID-19 website: [www.admschools.org/COVID19](http://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 5/10/21, ADM currently has 1 (0.05%) positive students and 0 (0.00%) positive staff members.
- **Historical:** As of 5/10/21, ADM has had 155 (7.37%) students and 52 (16.51%) 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 were required to quarantine due to an exposure to COVID-19.

- **Current:** As of 5/10/21, ADM has 1 (0.05%) students and 0 (0.00%) staff members in quarantine.
- **Historical:** As of 5/10/21, ADM has had 764 students and 44 staff members placed in 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 took place OUTSIDE of the school setting. The following data represents the historical numbers of individuals identified by the local health department as close contacts who were required to quarantine, comparing exposures taking place at ADM and exposures taking place outside of ADM.

- **Historical - Exposed At ADM:** As of 5/10/21, ADM has had 206 students identified by the local health department as close contacts and quarantined due to an exposure to COVID-19 **in a school classroom, on a school bus, or an ADM event**. Of these 206 students, 1 ended up testing positive during their quarantine period.
- **Historical - Exposed Outside Of ADM:** In contrast, as of 5/10/21, there have been 558 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 5/10/21, the county positivity rate was 4.9%.

**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 95.34%. As of 5/10/21, ADM's 5-day average attendance rate was 95.45%. 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 96.53% of ADM students are attending school on site, with 3.47% of ADM students enrolled in the fourth 9-week remote learning period from March 22 - May 28.

### **2021-22 Anticipated COVID Mitigation Changes:**

At the May 10 Board meeting, we discussed anticipated changes to COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the 2021-22 school year. As we continue to review data from the course of the school year, the current conditions being experienced in the district, and the anticipation of improving conditions related to increased vaccination and decreased transmission levels - we are excited to begin planning for a return to "normal" for the 2021-22 school year. The following key points were discussed and shared with the Board for their feedback:

- **2021-22 Face Coverings:** Face coverings will not be required for students or staff.
- **2021-22 Learning Environment:** The learning environment will return to pre-covid mitigation operations.
  - Examples: Students working in groups, mixed cohorting, students and staff within 6 feet of each other, etc.
- **2021-22 Remote Learning:** Remote learning will not be provided for students who are sick, quarantined, or unable to attend school. Support for students unable to attend school will return to pre-COVID operations. Students who are unable to attend on-site will be counted absent.
  - ADM will work with families who have legitimate health circumstances related to COVID a case by case basis to determine support for the 2021-22 school year.
  - ADM staff will not be expected to provide remote learning services to students, as we do not believe providing simultaneous on-site and virtual instruction is in the best interest of students or teachers.
- **2021-22 Transportation:** Transportation will return to pre-covid mitigation operations.
  - Examples: Bus seats will be allowed to be filled to the capacity allowed by code, masks will not be required for students or staff, etc.
- **2021-22 Quarantine Procedures:** ADM believes it is reasonable to expect that the health department will make changes to quarantine procedures for students and staff who are unmasked and within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes of a positive individual.
  - In the event that health department quarantine rules are not changed for the 2021-22 school year, ADM believes that the benefit of returning to a pre COVID learning environment with a risk of quarantine outweighs the negative impact of continuing to implement COVID mitigation strategies for the sake of reducing quarantines, especially considering the low incident rate occurring in the district and community.

I am extremely proud of our collective efforts to remain in school for full in-person learning for the entire year. What we have asked our staff, students, and families to do throughout the course of the school year has been significant, and we are excited to look forward to a more normal return to school next fall.

Have a great rest of your week!

Greg Dufoe, ADM Superintendent