

Dec. 8, 2020



Good afternoon SDNB families,

Last night, I gave a COVID-19 update to the Board of Education. This [LINK](#) will take you to that presentation, but I'd like to summarize some key points below.

Reporting COVID-19 During Break

We ask that families report any student and family cases of COVID-19 to your child(ren)'s respective school(s) during winter break so that our staff can continue to conduct contact tracing. Our goal is to maintain the most accurate district-specific data possible and we will be relying on families to provide the most up-to-date information when we return from the break.

Possible Calendar Changes

In an effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, we continue to investigate potential school calendar changes around winter break and the start of the semester in late January. Options may include adding additional professional learning days for staff or implementing hybrid days similar to the start of the school year. If any calendar changes are deemed necessary, we will alert families as soon as possible.

Close Contact Quarantines

As you may be aware, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recently updated its guidelines related to quarantine periods for those considered close contacts of someone who tested positive for COVID-19. The updated guideline reduces the quarantine from 14 days to 7 days if the close contact receives a negative test or 10 days if the close contact does not get tested. While the CDC still believes a 14-day quarantine is the safest and preferred length for a close contact quarantine, the reduction recognizes the difficulty some have complying with the full 14-day period. The SDNB continues to investigate the new guidelines, but at this time plans to continue with its current 14-day quarantine period for student and staff close contacts until further notice.

Second Semester Learning Model Options

Tomorrow, all families will receive an email from me regarding the SDNB's second-semester student learning options. We will once again be offering in-person and virtual learning. Families that want to change from their current instructional model for the second semester will be asked to alert their school of the change. The window to make a change will be open through Dec. 17, which will give the district time to adjust and align staffing for second semester, as necessary.

Please remember that in order for our schools to stay open, which remains our goal and the preference of a majority of our families, we continue to need your help and diligence. We can not let our guard down. We ask that you continue to keep your child(ren) home when they are sick, showing COVID-19 symptoms or have been around someone who has the virus. Please continue to encourage mask-wearing and social distancing in our buildings, on the busses, on the playground and at events. And please remember that activities such as carpools, sleepovers and gatherings continue to lead to community spread.

As always, thank you for your support of the School District of New Berlin.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent