

May 7, 2021

Hello SDNB families and staff,

We are down to five weeks of school remaining; our COVID-19 numbers - both cases and quarantines - in our schools have dwindled, and nearly 75 percent of our staff has been vaccinated. We continue to move forward with our eyes on the end of the school year, and we want to once again thank everyone who has made this school year a success.



With that, here are some important updates related to COVID-19:

Rest of the Year

We continue to follow the guidance and recommendations of the Waukesha County Public Health Department as it relates to “staying safe to stay open.” The County continues to recommend that schools maintain their COVID-19 mitigation strategies, which for the SDNB include requiring masking indoors, sticking with social distancing, utilizing plexiglass partitions and more.

We will continue these practices through the remainder of the school year but please note the following change the School Board will consider adopting at its meeting Monday, May 10, in order to align with the County’s guidance:

- **Quarantining:** the SDNB will consider implementing a change the County [announced yesterday](#), which was the relaxation of quarantine guidance to allow students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in school settings to continue in-person learning, if the following conditions are met:
 - The school has committed to COVID-19 prevention policies, which include the following: mask wearing, implementing strategies to maximize distance between students, handwashing, ventilation and management of students exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
 - Close contacts remain symptom-free and agree to self-monitor for symptoms a full 14 days following exposure; close contacts will immediately remove themselves from the school environment if symptoms develop.
 - Close contacts strongly consider getting tested on day 6 or 7 after exposure to help identify asymptomatic spread.
 - Some exceptions apply when it comes to athletics and WIAA requirements. Student-athletes will receive more information in the near future.

Additionally, the CDC has updated its guidance related to masking outdoors, and therefore, we are considering doing so as well. Administration is recommending for approval at the School Board meeting Monday that fully vaccinated individuals - meaning someone who is two full weeks after their second vaccine dose (or first and only dose, if receiving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine) - no longer be required to wear masks outdoors unless they are in a crowded space.

Summer School & 2021-22 School Year

As vaccination numbers increase and COVID-19 cases remain stagnant and low, our goal is to further scale back some mitigation measures for summer school, which begins June 21.



Specifically, the SDNB is considering additional changes to quarantining practices and is considering changing mask-wearing from required to recommended for all students and staff participating in summer school, both indoors and outdoors. The School Board will discuss these considerations Monday, May 10, and may make a decision at the following meeting, Monday, May 24.

Decisions made for summer school will likely help inform our planning regarding mitigation measures in place for the start of the 2021-22 school year. Additionally, families and staff will be able to provide their input and share their feedback through district surveys, the first of which is expected to be emailed on or around Monday, May 10.

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

A third-party provider will hold COVID-19 vaccination clinics at both Eisenhower and West for students ages 16 and up. SDNB students and staff members are eligible to participate.

The clinic will administer the Pfizer vaccine - the first dose Friday, May 28, and the second dose Wednesday, June 16. Eisenhower's clinic will run from 7:30-10:30 a.m. and West's from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The sign-up links for each clinic are here: [EISENHOWER](#) | [WEST](#).

A parent-signed consent form (available [HERE](#)) will be required for students under 18 years old. Participants will need to bring a copy of the front and back of their or their insurance card; if a participant is uninsured, however, they can still receive the vaccine.

Currently, the vaccine provider is only offering the vaccine to those 16 and older. That may change if the FDA authorizes the vaccine for 12- to 15-year-olds in the coming weeks.

Lunch Balances

The United States Department of Agriculture has extended the free lunch program for all students across the country through the end of June 2022. We realize that as a result of the free lunches, many students have positive food service (lunch account) balances.

Rather than issuing refunds to families with positive lunch balances, which would result in a large administrative expense to the district, available funds will continue to roll over year to year until they are eventually used by the student. Refunds will be issued only if the family leaves the district for whatever reason or upon graduation, provided there are no other outstanding school fees. We appreciate all families' understanding of this decision.

Thank you for your continued support of the SDNB.

Sincerely,

Joe Garza, Superintendent