July 30, 2020

Good afternoon EGF Families and Staff Members,

Governor Walz and other State of MN leaders released the following information to the public this afternoon. I need to take a little more time to review team information and am not going to go into great detail today. I was encouraged when hearing about a localized, data-driven approach when determining the best learning model for our community. Please take a little time to review the following information from the MN Department of Education. One of the next steps in the planning process will be to determine the number of students who will be choosing to participate in a full-time district sponsored distance learning model. A “Distance Learning Request Form” will be distributed to every district family in the next day or two.

**7.30.20 Minnesota’s Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year - from the MDE**

Minnesota’s Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year uses a localized, data-driven approach that allows school districts and charter schools to operate in a learning model that is responsive to the prevalence of COVID-19 cases in their community. The plan prioritizes safe learning for all Minnesota students, including requiring school districts and charter schools to give families the option to choose distance learning for their student no matter which learning model their school district is implementing.

To begin the 2020-21 school year, MDH developed parameters using county public health data to support the determination of learning models for each school district and charter school. In order to determine the base learning model for the beginning of the school year, school districts and charter schools should review the bi-weekly case rate (over 14 days) by county of residence. These data are the number of cases by county of residence in Minnesota over 14 days per 10,000 people by date of specimen collection (when a person was tested).

[View the bi-weekly case rates by county](#) on the MDH website.

Please stay tuned for updates on plans for the 2020-21 school year. Our goal is to have final plans prepared and shared with stakeholders by August 14, 2020.

THANK YOU!

Mike Kolness
Superintendent of Schools