

October 4, 2020

Greetings EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

It is hard to believe we have already completed four successful weeks of learning at EGF ISD 595 and will be hitting the midway point of the first quarter! I will be the first person to admit that the 2020-21 school year has presented some major challenges for all of us and want to express my sincere gratitude for the amazing job you are doing to make the best out of a difficult situation! As we continue to travel down this winding path, my appreciation for the students, staff members and parents grows daily. I see the greatness in the community as we do everything we can as individuals to prevent the spread of the virus and collectively work together to keep students and staff members safe. Please take a little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

School Model Update - The latest 14-day case per 10,000 number for Polk County grew to **18.99** (September 6-19) and it looks like the number could continue to grow in the next report. District officials continue to consult with Polk County Public Health on a regular basis to discuss the best learning model for the school district. There is a strong possibility that the 14-day case number could go over 20 next week, but this **DOES NOT** trigger an automatic transition to the hybrid model for all grade levels. Polk County Public Health leaders monitor the area data very closely and are not recommending the transition to the hybrid model for elementary students. **The School District and PCPH continue to be comfortable with the current model and do not plan to recommend a transition at this time.** You can go to [Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County](#) to see the 14-Day counts for all of the counties in MN.

School-Related COVID-19 Case Data - The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) recently began publicly reporting on confirmed COVID-19 cases that are related to Minnesota schools. Going forward, MDH will include school-related data on their weekly data reports that are updated on [their website](#) every Thursday morning at 11 a.m. The school-related data reflects confirmed COVID-19 cases in all Minnesota prekindergarten through grade 12 school buildings including public, nonpublic and tribal schools. This only includes confirmed COVID-19 cases where the individual was present in a school building while they were infectious. For example, if a student who is receiving their education via distance learning tested positive for COVID-19 but never entered the school building while they were infectious, their case would not be reflected in this data. Minnesotans are now able to see the [aggregate number of school building-related cases](#) throughout the state broken down by the number of cases associated with adults who are employed by a school and students. MDH is also providing the total number of schools impacted with a range of cases: one case, two through four

cases, and five or more. School buildings with five or more confirmed COVID-19 cases are identified on [MDH's website](#) (at the bottom of the page under "Facilities with Cases & Exposures"). School buildings' names will come off the identified list if they have no new confirmed cases after 28 days, which is two incubation cycles. All of this is in an effort to be transparent with the public about the prevalence of COVID-19 in our school buildings across the state and give Minnesotans an accurate picture of how the virus is impacting our school communities. The East Grand Forks School District has had a total of five (5) confirmed students and staff COVID cases since the start of the school year and fifty-one (51) students and staff members were in COVID quarantine last week.

Bullying Prevention Month - The month of October is designated as National Bullying Prevention Month and I encourage parents and staff members to continue to promote bullying prevention. Monday, October 5th is World Day of Bullying Prevention and I hope to see everyone wearing blue. The next section is a newsletter from the TVOC and there is a very good section on bullying prevention. Let's STOMP OUT bullying!

10.5.20 WEAR BLUE
WORLD DAY OF BULLYING PREVENTION™

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council Newsletter - Please take a little time to read the [October 2020 TVOC Newsletter](#). Thank you to Nancy Ramon from the TVOC for providing the information!

Symptom Screening Reminder (updated slightly from 9.25.20) - We continue to learn more about COVID-19 every day, and as more information becomes available, we continue to update our Safe Learning Plan and share information with families and staff. The CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools. **Instead families and staff should self monitor for symptoms at home.** The Minnesota Department of Health has developed a tool for families to use at home to self monitor their children for COVID-19 illness and a link to the tool is listed below. ***This means the district will not be using PARENTVUE or STUDENTVUE any longer for symptom screening.*** Parents will still need to screen their children, but do not have to enter the information. We continue to ask our families to act compassionately toward your fellow neighbors by conducting daily home screening, staying home as much as possible, wearing a face covering when outside of your home, maintaining social distance when possible, frequently washing your hands and cleaning all commonly touched surfaces, areas and equipment. Most importantly, if a person is sick or awaiting test results, please stay home.

HOW DO I DO THIS AS A PARENT/GUARDIAN?

Use the [Home Screening Tool](#) for COVID-19 symptoms to help you decide if your child(ren) should come to school, child care, or other youth programs.

- Put this sheet in a handy place to review daily with your children.

- Answer the screening questions each time you are going to send your child to school, child care, or another youth program.
- If you answer “yes” to any question, your child should stay home, then the parent should contact the office of the school(s) your child(ren) attend to report their illness.
- There will be a follow-up call with a COVID team representative following the report to the office to assist families with the [DECISION TREE](#) pathway process.

We need everyone to follow the screening guidance and be diligent in having students stay home when they are experiencing symptoms. If you have questions about this process you can contact any of the following representatives of the COVID-19 team.

- School Nurse: Christy Carlstrom, ccarlstrom@egf.k12.mn.us 773-0908
- School Nurse Assistant: Kristie Devine: kdevine@egf.k12.mn.us 773-1141
- COVID ADMINISTRATION: Peggy Dunn pdunn@egf.k12.mn.us 773-1149
- COVID ADMINISTRATION: Suraya Driscoll sdriscoll@egf.k12.mn.us 218-793-2901
- COVID COORDINATOR: Mike Kolness mkolness@egf.k12.mn.us 218-793-2880

Green Wave Activities Update - The Green Wave cross country, girls tennis and soccer teams are getting close to starting their playoff seasons while the football and volleyball teams are preparing for their first games of the seasons.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2020 Lakes to Prairie Girls Soccer Conference Champions!



CONGRATULATIONS to the 2020 EGF CC Invitational Meet Winners from EGF!



The Girls Tennis team was seeded #3 for Section 8A playoffs and will host W-DC at 1:00 on 10.5.20



The Soccer teams will finish their regular seasons this week and start playoffs the week of 10.12.20

High Need for Bus Drivers - The District continues to have a need for more **bus drivers**, **paraprofessionals**, and **substitutes** in all areas. Please consider joining the Green Team and go to [EGF ISD 595 Job Opportunities](#) to apply.

THANK YOU for all of your efforts!

Mike Kolness

Superintendent of Schools

EGF ISD 595

218-793-2880

