

October 25, 2020

Good afternoon EGF ISD 595 Families and Staff Members!

It was great to see students and staff members back in the buildings after an extended break, but I will also be the first person to say that the week presented some challenges for families and staff members. There were some positive COVID cases in the District which triggered major adjustments to certain classrooms, bus routes, and activities, but everyone worked together as a team to make necessary adjustments and we made it! The week also provided some weather related concerns and we were fortunate to dodge any heavy snowfall. I would like to say “**THANK YOU**” again for being patient, kind, understanding and flexible. Your efforts are **GREATLY APPRECIATED!** Please take a little time to review the following information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

October 28, 2020 Early Dismissal Reminder - Students will be dismissed at the following times on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 for the monthly professional development. The one time per month dates were listed in a previous newsletter and can also be found at [2020-21 EGF ISD 595 School District Calendar](#). Thank you for your cooperation and support!

- **New Heights and South Point Dismissal Times - 1:10 p.m.**
- **CMS and Senior HS Dismissal Times - 1:35 p.m.**

School Model Update - The latest (10.22.20) 14-day case per 10,000 number for Polk County grew to **33.24** (September 27 - October 10) and estimates continue to not predict a decrease in the near future. The weekly [Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County](#) shows data for the last seven weeks for every county in Minnesota. All of us are concerned about the increase in case numbers and making decisions about the best model to educate our children is very difficult. School District officials and PCPH work together very closely when determining the best model for the District and the current recommendation is to continue with in-person instruction for grades PK-5 and hybrid learning for grades 6-12. Sarah Reese from Polk County Public Health produced another excellent video this week regarding the decision making process for school districts and I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and go to [10.22.20 PCPH Director Video on School Model Recommendation](#) to listen to her explanation. If the links listed above do not work, please go to COVID-19 section of the Polk County website to find them.

The following data was recently shared with a local media outlet and the District is working on a communication process to share similar data with all stakeholders every week. We are continuing to see an increase in COVID-19 related activity, but families and school district officials have reacted quickly to help reduce the spread.

East Grand Forks ISD 595 COVID-19 Data

Cumulative Data from 9/8/20 to 10/23/20

- Number of confirmed student cases from 9/8/20 to 10/23/20 - **5**
 - Number of confirmed staff cases from 9/8/20 to 10/23/20 - **8**
 - Number of confirmed cases from 9/8/20 to 10/23/20 by building
 - New Heights - **4**
 - South Point - **1**
 - CMS - **3**
 - Senior High School - **4**
 - District (Not assigned to building) - **1**
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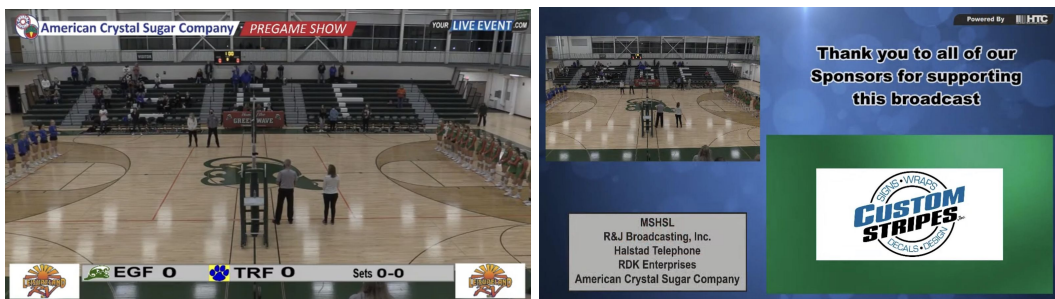
Daily Data from 10/23/20

- Number of student coronavirus-related absences on 10/23/20 - **217**
- Number of staff coronavirus-related absences on 10/23/20 - **27**
- Number of coronavirus-related absences by building on 10/23/20
 - New Heights - **67**
 - South Point - **44**
 - CMS - **65**
 - Senior High School - **63**
 - District (Not assigned to building or works in multiple buildings) - **5**

PLEASE NOTE - Some major factors that contributed to the number of quarantined individuals during the week due to being deemed close contacts included:

- An entire Pre-K classroom was quarantined
 - An entire classroom at New Heights Elementary was quarantined
 - A high percentage of students on one bus route were quarantined
 - A small group of one athletic team was quarantined
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Green Wave Games on YourLiveEvent.com - It was exciting to watch the first Green Wave activity on YourLiveEvent.com on Friday night when the volleyball team played host to TRF. We are very excited to provide this quality service for Green Wave fans and thank everyone for their support!



The continued dedication to excellence and safety by our staff, students and families have made a huge impact on preventing the spread of the coronavirus even amidst high community numbers.

- Maintenance team members are working hard to clean and sanitize the facilities.
- Staff members are working hard to keep students distanced from each other and continue to encourage and implement sanitizing and hygiene practices with their students..
- Food and nutrition services teams are delivering food into classrooms in some buildings while spacing them out in others to further keep kids safe.
- Students are doing an amazing job of keeping each other safe by masking, handwashing, sanitizing and following the additional safety protocols faithfully.
- Families are doing home screenings, keeping their students home when necessary and supporting the efforts that are happening at school.

While the growing community spread is concerning, we need to celebrate all of the great things that are taking place and continue to work hard to do everything that we can to keep our staff and students safe and in school. We applaud families for continually following safety protocols at home amidst pandemic fatigue. We continue to ask the entire community to limit their exposure and follow safety precautions.

Our goal is to get all of our students back in person as much as possible while keeping staff and students safe. We know kids learn best in the classroom and will continue to watch the data closely in order to keep you informed about learning model decisions. Let's work together to slow the spread so we can keep our kids in school and protect the safety of our staff and students.

Please enjoy the rest of the evening and get ready for a great week of learning!

Mike Kolness

Superintendent of Schools

EGF ISD 595

218-793-2880

