

# SDMA COVID-19 School Closure Report

## July 27, 2020 Update

- **COVID-19 School Closure- What do we know?**
  - This pandemic continues to be an evolving situation: [CDC website](#).
    - Ninety-three (93) confirmed cases in Dunn County at the time of this report: [DHS Site](#)- sixty-four (64) of the cases have been released from quarantine.
    - [Badger Bounce Back Plan](#)
      - 1) Only three of six indicators hit on Wisconsin's [gating criteria](#).
    - According to [tracking by DHS](#), the current COVID-19 activity level for Dunn County is: High, the burden level is Moderately High, and the trend is Horizontal.
    - Guidance for Gatherings in Dunn County remains at: 25 people allowed for indoor gatherings, 50 for outdoor gatherings- may be more than one separate gathering per facility.
      - 1) Still important to monitor symptoms.
      - 2) Still important to wash hands.
      - 3) Still important to maintain social distancing (6') as much as possible.
      - 4) Still important to wear a face covering and/or utilize other mitigation techniques when social distancing cannot be fully achieved.
  
- **Current Programming in the SDMA:**
  - Summer School
    - Limited in-person summer school is being planned for August.
    - Programming is limited due to the inability to staff courses.
  - Student Activities
    - A number of student activities that began on July 1 continued without incident. It appears that the protocols and mitigation measures have been effective.
  - [Free Meals for Kids](#)- scheduled through August 27
  
- **Reopening the SDMA-** Ongoing communications with the Dunn County Department of Health Services. DHS plans to continue offering guidance rather than issuing legal orders: Discretionary mitigation efforts in the SDMA will help

reduce risk, but effectiveness will be impacted greatly based on decisions and actions by each student, staff member, and family.

- **Phase I-** SDMA offices and facilities were open to the public for essential functions and approved activities with restrictions beginning on July 1, 2020. Virtual summer school was held in July and a diploma presentation ceremony was held at Menomonie High School on July 17.
  
- **Phase II-** Planning for the 2020-2021 School Year
  - A planning team was established- including at least one staff representative from each building level.
    - 1) Meetings scheduled: June 17, July 1, July 15, July 22, July 29, TBD
    - 2) Several other meetings of the administrative team and building leadership teams have also occurred.
    - 3) A districtwide staff meeting was held on July 20 to provide all staff members with an opportunity to hear about reopening plans and provide input.
    - 4) A meeting was provided for SDMA families on July 20 to provide all families with the opportunity to hear about plans and provide input.
  - [Guidance](#) from the Department of Public Instruction was received on June 22.
  - On July 23, the CDC provided update guidance on [The Importance of Reopening America's Schools this Fall](#).
  - Earlier this summer, the Board unanimously directed administration to develop plans for reopening schools for in-person instruction this fall. The Board also expressed a desire for the district to have an online option for families who do not want to send their children to school.
  - On July 13, the Board unanimously supported the recommendation to hire up to 20 additional teachers to ensure that students in grades K-6 will be able to continue with in-person instruction if strict physical distancing is required.
  - The [virtual school](#) has been designed and registration is set to go on July 28.
  - Department/Building Level Plans are being developed based on the SDMA Reopening Plan.

- At this point, the SDMA is planning to open on September 1 for in-person instruction with full enrollment. Thresholds have been set in conjunction with the Dunn County Health Department for using the [Dunn County Dashboard](#) to determine if/when additional mitigation measures may be needed.
  - The SDMA Reopening Plan is being presented to the Board on July 27.
  - Next steps will include:
    - 1) Hiring additional staffing for the plan.
    - 2) Developing building-level protocols aligned with the plan.
    - 3) Registering students who choose the virtual option.
  - The SDMA has received a shipment of reusable face masks and thermometers from the state.
  - Additional computers, hotspots, PPE, and cleaning supplies have been ordered. The district inventory of stored equipment and supplies has also been reviewed in order to maximize the use of resources.
  - The WIAA has issued [new guidance](#) related to the possibility of fall sports. Start dates are delayed, but sports have not been cancelled.
  - The district administrators in Dunn County have [endorsed a face mask advisory](#) with specific guidance for county schools.
- **Phase III- Post-Pandemic- TBD**