



Dunn County Health Department

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School District of Menomonie Area Board of Education
c/o David Styer, President
215 Pine St.
Menomonie, WI 54751

Dear Board of Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to give an update on the Dunn County Covid-19 response and subsequent move to recovery. As you can see from the Department's attached regular update, we are enjoying a reduction in active cases. I believe that this reduction is due, in large part, to people doing the hard work to adhere to non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPI) in high-risk situations, the change in how we spend time together and getting vaccinated.

I believe that soon, we will treat Covid-19 like measles, whooping cough and other vaccine preventable diseases. However, we are not there yet. Today about a third of Dunn County residents are fully vaccinated¹. Neither the county nor the state has hit the threshold of community immunity. Notably, the earliest high-risk children aged 12-15 will be fully vaccinated will be June 17, 2021.

It is more important than ever to keep up NPI prevention and mitigation strategies. The CDC has recently published a scientific brief with current evidence supporting the efficacy of using masks and cloth face coverings to prevent Covid-19 transmission.² Both the CDC and Wisconsin DHS have updated their websites following the recent revision for vaccinated people. Their guidance, linked below, encourages continued adherence to their toolkits for in person K-12 instruction.^{3,4} This guidance acknowledges the high density of unvaccinated people and the potential for effective spread through the school and larger community.

Finally, I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for your commitment to the health and safety of your school community.

Respectfully,

KT Gallagher
Director/Health Officer

¹ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/vaccine-data.htm>

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

³ <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02757.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#fully-vacc>