



LAKE OF THE WOODS School

PO Box 310 • 236 15th Ave. SW • Baudette, MN 56623 • 218-634-2510 • Fax: 218-634-2750

A Message from Superintendent Nelson

October 22, 2020

The decision to change learning models is not based upon a single, objective number or data point. Nor is there a “magic” number that will determine when a model change needs to be made. Instead, schools must examine and analyze a number of “data points” in making this important decision. **Initially, the 14-day rolling average in each county was an important metric schools were directed to use to determine the learning models they should use to start the school year. However, these rolling averages should not be the only metric schools use to determine the need for a model change during the year.** The following data points should also be utilized to inform such a decision as we move forward:

- Geographic data (zip codes and other data) about the spread of COVID-19 in the area;
- Demographic data around age groups with positive cases (how many school-aged children have COVID-19?);
- Whether or not community spread is occurring in our school building;
- The number of school district employees who are unable to perform their duties due to contracting COVID-19 or needing to quarantine after close contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19;
- Whether school is still a safe place for students to learn and employees to work.

Through conversations with county public health, it has been determined that we do NOT need to change our learning models at this time. While numbers are rising throughout the county, COVID-19 is still not spreading in our school. At this time, we feel that the school is still a safe place for students and employees.

For us to continue to keep our students in school, it is critical that everyone follows the recommendations from public health to self-isolate or quarantine when someone in the household has symptoms of COVID-19. One of the most common places of COVID-19 spread is within the same household. Those in quarantine should do their best to distance from family members as well as utilize all methods of protection including masks when appropriate. Please adhere to recommendations from public health. Ignoring recommendations to self-isolate or quarantine, only puts others at risks and increases the potential impact of increased community spread that could force our school to move to a distance learning model. Please go to <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/schools/attendance.pdf> to access the COVID-19 to access MDH’s COVID-19 Attendance Guide for Parents and Families.

We continue to focus on our goal to deliver the best education possible to all of our students, while keeping students, staff and the community safe. During this pandemic, we feel the best way to accomplish this is by keeping our current learning model and having students in school as much as possible. We can only accomplish this by reducing the transmission of COVID-19 within our community.

We are asking for cooperation in keeping everyone safe and our kids at school by following these guidelines:

- Stay home if you are sick and follow recommendations when asked to self-isolate or quarantine.
- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).



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- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.
- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.

Please make sure to visit our school website at www.lakeofthewoodsschool.org for the most up-to-date information for Lake of the Woods ISD 390.