

October 6, 2021

Deer River Families:

The purpose of this letter is to notify district families of a resolution passed by the Deer River Board of Education while in special session this evening. Effective October 11, all staff, students, and visitors must wear an effective face covering, regardless of vaccination status, during indoor instruction and indoor events operated by the District. This action is a direct and necessary response to a rapidly climbing COVID-19 case rate within the school district boundaries and evidence of transmission of the virus occurring in our school settings. Since March, our Safe Schools Plan has focused primarily on our local data and firsthand reports from our district nurses. A graph of that data is included with this letter.

This year, our local plan has provided as much choice for families as possible. However, the current circumstances require the board to take reasonable precautions to add additional layers of protection against virus spread at school. Layers of mitigation will be added and removed based on the local data described within this letter. A failure to act now puts our students and staff at risk beyond a reasonable level. It also potentially violates the acceptance terms of federal and state pandemic relief support and/or voids our liability insurance. The District will continue to routinely update families regarding local public health data and the next steps for adding or subtracting mitigation layers. No one layer works by itself. Our intention is to use the fewest layers necessary to prevent the spread of COVID at school events.

The board recognizes that some families may be unwilling to have their children comply with this extra layer of precaution. They respect the family's temporary option to have their student satisfactorily continue to make academic progress by utilizing the Learning Management System for each school (Schoolology or Seesaw) or other age-appropriate remote options offered by their school. The State of Minnesota also provides the options of open enrolling to another district for either in-person or online learning as well as private and home schools. We hope that our efforts to protect all who enter our facilities and the use of additional safety precautions only as needed has earned your trust.

All school board documents, including tonight's resolution are available on the district website at <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/2476>

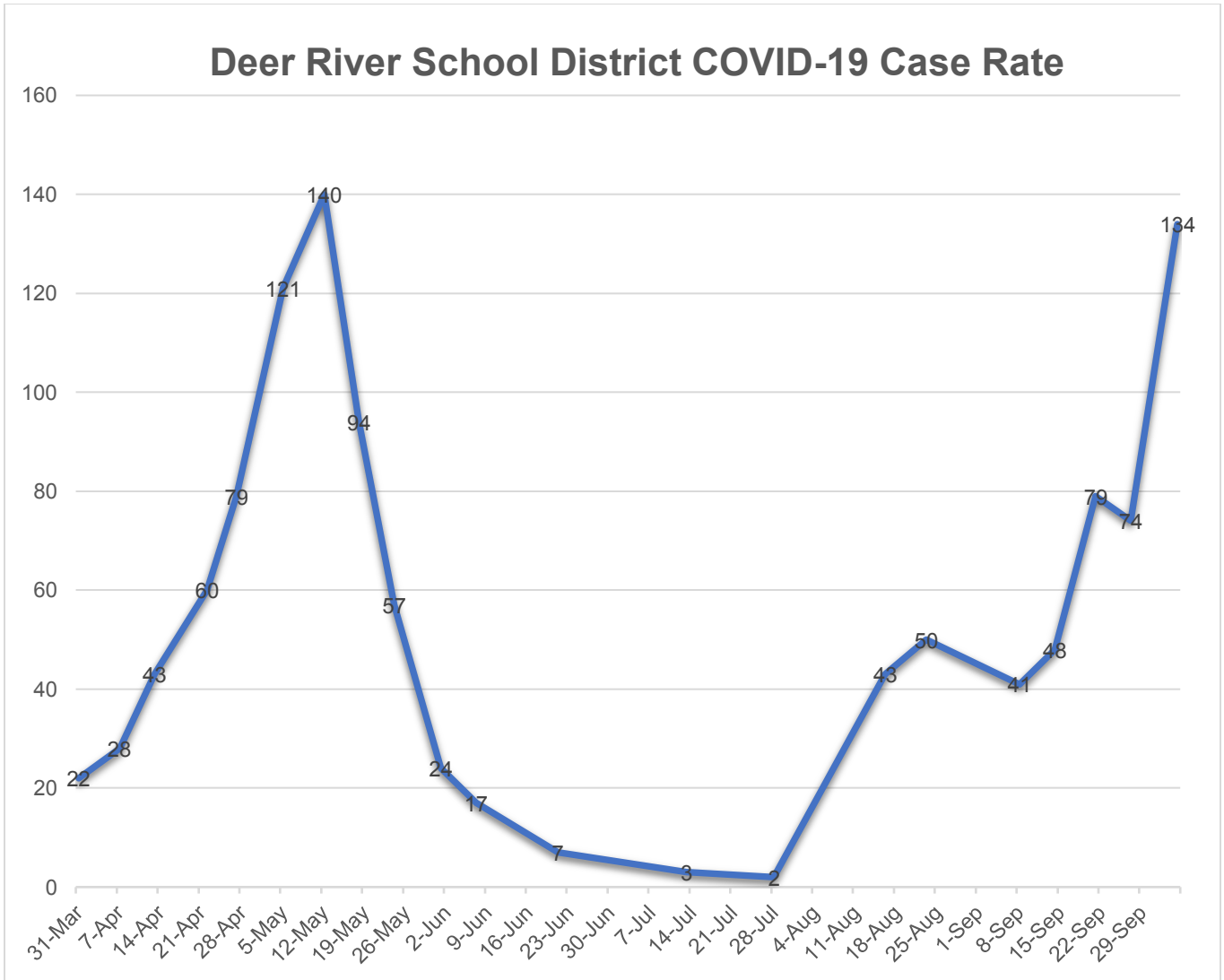


Jeff Pesta, Superintendent



**DEER RIVER HIGH SCHOOL**  
 101 First Avenue NE  
 PO Box 307  
 Deer River, MN 56636  
*Home of the Warriors*

**KING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
 504 5th St. SE  
 PO Box 307  
 Deer River, MN 56636  
*King Pride*



- Case rates are per 10,000 residents within school district boundaries
- Community transmission occurred within the school setting at both high points