



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

September 29, 2021

Dear River Families:

The purpose of this letter is to notify all district families of a temporary closure of several classrooms at Deer River High School due to confirmed cases of COVID-19. We have been fortunate to have had only one reported case at the high school during the first month of school. However, that status changed quickly on Tuesday. We became aware of a classroom setting in which several students had been exposed to positive cases outside of school and then attended class and likely transmitted the virus to a teacher and other students. Our first step of containment was to identify all students who were very close contacts with the affected individuals.

Individuals with confirmed COVID-19 cases are placed on an isolation plan and restricted from coming to school until their plan ends. Students who are symptomatic or have been close contacts to positive cases are strongly recommended to self-isolate, test, and return only after receiving a negative test. Our respect based Safe Schools Plan provides the opportunity for families to make choices about voluntary testing, isolation, face coverings, and vaccination. This plan can only stay in place if we do not have community spread of COVID-19 in the school setting.

We need the help of all our families. You must keep students at home if they have symptoms of any communicable disease to prevent impacting other students. We strongly recommend that students who are able receive vaccinations, wear effective face coverings, practice good hygiene and spacing as practical. Family choice can only be enjoyed if our schools and programs can remain open to safely serve them. If schools close, the entire community is adversely impacted.

Thank you for your efforts to keep schools open for in-person learning and the healthy growth of our children.

Jeff Pesta, Superintendent