

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”

HOPE. HAPPINESS. SUCCESS.

bagosendam. minawaanigozi. gashkitoon.

November 10, 2020

Deer River Public Schools Families:

Late last evening we were notified by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) of a cluster of positive cases of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) potentially impacting both the King Elementary and Deer River High School sites. Due to time constraints, it was not possible to complete contact tracing before school started today. Therefore, we enacted the emergency school closing plan that has been a part of our Safe School plan since its inception. Fortunately, we didn't previously have a circumstance where we needed to activate the plan. The philosophy behind the plan is that when we can't reasonably assure student safety on our campuses, we will hit pause to provide enough time to work through the situation.

After completing tracing, we now know that a total of eight students attending our two school sites are confirmed positive. Their identified close contacts include one staff member and two additional students. All of these students were either already in quarantine or are now on a quarantine plan. We will proceed with a regular blue hybrid day tomorrow.

Rapidly increasing case rates in both Cass and Itasca Counties are directly impacting our schools. To date, our hybrid protocol has been effective in limiting school spread of the virus. This will be increasingly difficult without assistance from the greater community. Our Safe School plan emphasizes respect for the choices that parents make about the educational setting. As a district, we intend to offer a hybrid in-person option for as long as it is reasonably safe to do so. However, it is the parents and guardians that must determine each day whether or not to send their children to school. We continue to offer full-time Warrior Online instruction and will work with families when they are temporarily unable to attend in person.

Although current MDH guidelines suggest possible exposure to other students was limited, you should still monitor for symptoms of illness. Other students do not need to stay home unless symptoms develop. If symptoms develop, stay home and consult with your physician to determine if medical evaluation is needed. MDH does not specifically recommend that non-close contacts be tested for COVID-19 at this time. However, many local testing options are available, including free saliva testing kits for residents of Itasca County.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html>

Sincerely,

9 Feb