



# Smart Restart Update

10.19.2020

Dear Fargo Public Schools Families and Staff,

On October 19, the Fargo Public Schools (FPS) COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee met. The committee reviewed data and discussed what protocols and changes need to be made in our schools to achieve the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee's goal to bring students back to the classroom for full-time in-person instruction. The committee did not make any changes to the instructional model for Fargo Public Schools. Therefore, the current plans are still the following:

***Elementary Schools: Level 4 – In-Person Instruction (4 days per week) Beginning October 26***

***Middle Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning starting today, October 19***

***High Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning starting today, October 19***

The goal of the Fargo Public Schools COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee is to help Fargo Public Schools reach Level 5, where all students and staff can safely return to in-person instruction. Based on the guidance from Fargo Cass Public Health and data specific to schools and re-opening, the committee reached consensus to change the focus of future meetings. Instead of solely reviewing the data every two weeks to determine the level for instruction, the committee will now also review the data and begin discussing plans and conditions required to bring all students, Early Childhood Special Education through grade 12, back for in-person instruction in the future. At the committee's next meeting on November 2, the committee will begin focusing on what is needed in our schools to reach Level 5 and under what conditions. Draft plans will be reviewed and discussed so the committee can vote on timelines to return to in-person instruction. Plans will be dependent upon positive cases in our schools, our ability to carry out protocols, and the ability to fill substitute positions.

*Staff and parents, **we are all in this together.*** This is a time to come together as a community. I urge all of us to make the best choices as possible for us to remain able to educate our students in person. Please follow recommendations and protocols to help stop the spread of COVID-19 – stay at home when not feeling well, wear a mask when around others within six feet, and wash hands frequently. As we enter the cold and flu season, these simple steps will be crucial to our ability to educate students in-person.

Thank you for your continued understanding as we seek to achieve Fargo Public Schools' mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed during this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

