



# Smart Restart Update

12.21.2020

Dear Fargo Public Schools Families and Staff,

On December 21, the Fargo Public Schools (FPS) COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee met to review COVID-19 data. Per recommended guidance from local healthcare agencies, the committee decided to continue with the previously adopted return to in-person instruction plan and make no changes. The plan keeps the current instructional model in place for all levels for the remainder of the first semester. **The plan is to return to in-person instruction for all grade levels beginning January 19, 2021.**

**Elementary Schools: Level 4 – In-Person Instruction (4 days per week) until January 19, 2021**

**Middle Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning until January 19, 2021**

**High Schools: Level 3 – Hybrid Learning until January 19, 2021**

At a January 11, 2021 committee meeting, the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee will decide whether or not to transition to in-person instruction beginning January 19 for four days a week or five days a week for all levels (elementary, middle, and high school). In-person instruction four days a week allows the opportunity for FPS staff to connect and support students that are quarantined or isolated during the distance learning day for all other students. Additionally, one day of distance learning (in-person instruction for four days a week) might provide for a more efficient process to allow K-12 staff to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Additional information regarding potential vaccination plans for staff members is forthcoming and will be shared at the next meeting, if available.

It is important to know that the committee will adapt and make changes based on new information or guidance, if needed. The committee will meet again on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6:30 a.m. to review data, see if there has been a significant increase in cases impacting schools following the winter break, assess student absence data, and evaluate a potential vaccination plan to help determine transitioning to four or five days a week beginning January 19, 2021. A plan for second semester will be shared with staff and families on January 11.

I appreciate all Fargo Public Schools families and staff members for their grace, understanding, and flexibility during the first semester of the 2020-21 school year. We have all endured an abundance of changes and adapted our daily lives for the greater good of our community and loved ones. As we approach winter break, I wish everyone a happy, healthy, and relaxing end to this historical year.

Sincerely,  
Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

