



# Smart Restart Update

12.7.2020

Dear Fargo Public Schools Families and Staff,

On December 7, 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 make no changes and continue with the return to in-person instruction plan adopted at the last meeting. The plan keeps the current instructional model in place for all levels for the remainder of the first semester. **The goal is to return to in-person instruction for all grade levels beginning January 19, 2021.**

The timeline below is a **goal** but is subject to change as the committee continues to review data and guidance specific to COVID-19.

**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**

Although the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee's adopted plan sets a goal of returning to in-person instruction for all grade levels beginning the second semester, which begins on January 19, 2021, **Fargo Public Schools may need to transition one or multiple buildings to distance learning for set periods of time due to staffing shortages.** Critical staffing shortages continue to create operational challenges that may lead classrooms or schools to transition to distance learning while working toward the goal established by the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee.

It is important to know that the committee will adapt and make changes based on new information or guidance, if needed. **The timeline referenced above is the goal of the plan that was adopted.** If guidance or data require a change or delay in this plan, the committee can exercise that option at future meetings. The committee will meet again on Monday, December 21 at 6:30 a.m. to review data, see if there has been a significant increase in cases impacting schools following Thanksgiving break, and to review data on student absences to help determine transitioning to four or five days a week beginning January 19, 2021.

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. We appreciate all families and staff members of Fargo Public Schools for their grace, understanding, and flexibility.

Sincerely,  
Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

