



Smart Restart Update

9.8.2020

Fargo Public Schools Staff, Families, and Community,

The purpose of this message is to inform you that an updated [FPS Smart Restart Plan](#) was posted to the FPS website earlier today. Specific updates in the plan include:

- Revised protocols in relation to possible or confirmed cases of COVID-19 based on updated guidance from the North Dakota Department of Health (decision tree for parents on Page 11),
- Updated information from Nutrition Services, and
- Revised definition of Level 3 – Hybrid Instruction for middle and high school students.

On Tuesday, September 8, the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee held their third meeting. At the meeting, the committee discussed specifics about the model that was adopted at their last meeting to help decide the appropriate Level for FPS based on localized COVID-19 data. It was decided that for consistency and alignment, the FPS Plan Levels should mirror the sentiments of the instructional plan levels in the model. Therefore, the FPS Smart Restart Plan has been revised and now includes the following information:

- **In Level 3 – Hybrid Instruction, middle school and high school students will not transition to online learning beginning October 5.** Students will continue in the A/B rotation that is currently taking place.
- Guided Practice Centers for elementary students will not be located/held at all FPS middle and high school buildings. Instead, Guided Practice opportunities will be held in available spaces throughout the district, which include a combination of elementary and secondary buildings (more information will be shared soon on Guided Practice Centers).

The FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee reaffirmed their plan to use the model (model description [available online](#)) at their September 21 meeting for guidance. By beginning to use the model at their September 21 meeting, the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee can consider data specific to Fargo Public Schools and study the impact the start of school has had on the spread of COVID-19 and mitigation strategies specific to our District. Since the first day of school was September 2, students and staff will have gone through one and a half incubation periods (the time from exposure to development of symptoms) prior to September 21, allowing the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee to make a more informed decision about a possible change in instructional level. The 14-day rolling average of the County Transmission Rate that will be used for the model can be found here: <https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/north-dakota-coronavirus-cases> (refer to the chart labeled “14 days of Positives per 10,000 people”).



The committee also decided that, when possible, it will work to provide at least a two-week notice prior to making a change in Level for Fargo Public Schools. Therefore, the FPS COVID-19 Instructional Plan Committee's decision determined on September 21 will begin on Monday, October 5. The 18 members of the FPS Instructional Plan committee are committed to meeting every two weeks, reviewing COVID-19 specific data in Cass County and making the best decision for Fargo Public Schools using the four guiding principles stated in the FPS Smart Restart Plan.

Thank you for all for your partnership in helping achieve Fargo Public Schools' mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed.

Sincerely,

Rupak Gandhi, Ph.D.
Superintendent

