



2021-22 School Year Information

1.10.22

Dear Fargo Public Schools Community,

This message is to provide you on an update on COVID-19 mitigation strategies used in our schools. As previously communicated, **beginning January 17, masks will be strongly recommended, not required, in all Fargo Public School buildings.** As such, also beginning on January 17, Fargo Public Schools (FPS) will not be identifying or notifying close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case, unless it is a specific situation in which FPS is recommended to do so by the North Dakota Department of Health. These specific situations would result from the North Dakota Department of Health identifying multiple related cases in which contact tracing is necessary to reduce the potential spread of COVID-19.

Instead, FPS will provide a general exposure notification to staff or students that have shared a class with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19. This exposure notification will be sent to staff and families of the class or classes of the individual who tested positive. Receipt of such a notification does not mean someone is being identified as a close contact (as defined by being within six feet of a positive case for 15 or more cumulative minutes). Staff or students who may have been in the same non-classroom environment as a positive case (i.e. cafeteria, common spaces, locker bays, etc.) will not be notified unless the individuals in that space also are in a class or multiple classes with that positive case. Additionally, participants in a co-curricular or extracurricular activity will not be notified of a positive case amongst another participant or leader of that activity, unless FPS is directed to provide notification by the North Dakota Department of Health.

Unvaccinated household close contacts are strongly recommended to quarantine from school for ten days from the onset of their positive household member's symptoms or from the day their asymptomatic household member tested positive. After those ten days, the unvaccinated household should return by participating in an every other day testing program. If they chose not to participate in the testing program, they are strongly recommended to remain home for an additional five days. Testing during this time is strongly recommended. Students or staff members who are identified as a household close contact may continue to be in school if proof of vaccination is provided and they remain symptom free. For students, proof of vaccination can be uploaded to the student's PowerSchool account.

Fargo Public Schools' mitigation strategies are based on guidance from Fargo Cass Public Health and North Dakota Department of Health. On August 10, 2021, the Fargo Board of Education directed FPS administration to implement mitigation strategies recommended by Fargo Cass Public Health for the 2021-22 school year. These updated guidelines reflect the guidance provided by Fargo Cass Public Health and the North Dakota Department of Health. Should their guidance change, Fargo Public Schools will adapt and communicate accordingly.

Fargo Public Schools will still offer COVID-19 testing to staff and students at two locations – South High School and North High School. More information on the testing [is available at this link](#). Those wishing to be tested on an on-going basis or those exhibiting symptoms may be tested at these locations. Testing can also



be done by your healthcare provider or at the [Fargo Cass Public Health testing site](#).

Fargo Public Schools continues to be grateful for your understanding, cooperation, and flexibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes reflect the first steps to begin a more normal school experience for our students and staff. Thank you for your continued support as we fulfill our mission of educating and empowering all students to succeed.

Sincerely,
Dr. Rupak Gandhi, Superintendent
Fargo Public Schools

