



Aug. 24, 2020

Hello District families,

It is an exciting time as the majority of MCPASD staff return to work this week. With instruction for students two weeks away, we wanted to provide another update:

1. What does Public Health Madison & Dane County's latest order mean for MCPASD?

PHMDC announced on Friday, Aug. 21 through Emergency Order #9 that all public and private schools in Dane County must begin the 2020-21 school year virtually for grades 3-12.

Because we are beginning the school year virtually in 4K through 12th grade, it has no immediate impact on MCPASD. Superintendent Dana Monogue will briefly address the order at tonight's School Board meeting. The District will provide a possible timeline for bringing K-2 students, and eventually other grades, back into school buildings in the coming days.

PHMDC also outlined the metrics necessary for students to return in-person with different case number requirements for grades 3-5 and 6-12.

Here are the PHMDC requirements:

- **Grades K-2:** Dane County must be at or below a 14-day average of 54 cases per day for 4 consecutive weeks (currently met).
- **Grades 3-5:** Dane County must be at or below a 14-day average of 39 cases per day for 4 consecutive weeks.
- **Grades 6-12:** Dane County must be at or below a 14-day average of 19 cases per day for 4 consecutive weeks.

Dane County is averaging 42 cases per day as of Aug. 21. If that number rises beyond 54, PHMDC would consider closing all schools for in-person instruction.

This order means the metrics the District had planned to use and included moving from Phase 2 to Phase 3 in the Forward Dane Plan AND moving from a high to medium rating in Dane County by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services are no longer in effect.

2. What are the current dates and times for distribution of devices, school supplies and other materials?

The elementary level adjusted its dates recently. Also, we are aware that a communication from Glacier Creek didn't include all of the dates available.

Here are the latest dates and times for each level:

- **4K:** Sept. 1-4 (sites will contact families with more information)
- **Elementary:** Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7 a.m. to 2:40 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 2, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Middle:** Aug. 24-26 and Sept. 1, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m.
- **CSCS:** Tuesday, Sept. 1, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 2, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m.
- **MHS:** Aug. 25, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m. (last name letters A-G); Aug. 26, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m. (last name letters H-N); Aug. 27, 7:30 to 11 a.m. and noon to 6 p.m. (last name letters (O-Z); Aug. 28: 7:30 to 11 a.m. (Make-Up Day)

MHS is only distributing Chromebooks on Aug. 25-28. MHS plans to deliver school supplies and other materials the following week.

Visit the District website to read more about the [secondary distribution](#). There is more information about [elementary distribution and the Ready-Set-Go listening sessions](#) on the District website.

3. My child didn't return all of their materials at the end of the 2019-20 school year? Can I still return them?

Yes, please bring any District-issued materials you have from last school year to the school your child attended in 2019-20 when you go there to pick up your items for this school year. If your child has changed schools, please reach out to the office staff at your new school to set up a date and time when you can return the items.

4. I would like to watch the School Board meeting on Aug. 24. Will it be streamed?

Yes, Monday's School Board meeting will be streamed live on the [District's YouTube Channel](#). The meeting begins at 7 p.m. A fall planning update will be provided with much of the focus on operations and the health and safety protocols that are being put in place in our buildings.

If you can't watch the meeting live, the video will still be available on the [MCPASD YouTube Channel](#) after Monday night.

5. How is the District making sure that internet access isn't a barrier for some families during virtual learning?

The District is working to make sure internet access isn't a barrier for families who need financial support and don't have internet at home. The District has partnered with Charter-Spectrum to provide broadband internet to those households. An email was sent to all families about the program on Friday and more than 40 families have already completed it.

The initial efforts will be focused on providing Charter-Spectrum for those families who don't have internet access and are eligible for free-and-reduced meals or are eligible for McKinney-Vento services. MCPASD will still have MiFi hotspot devices from Verizon for families who need support but aren't in an area covered by Charter-Spectrum.

The Home Internet Access program is free for those who are eligible. The Education Foundation is currently raising funds to cover the program for 200-plus households for the entire 2020-21 school year. They are more than 80 percent toward their goal of \$50,000.

6. Will the District offer a meal distribution program again this school year?

Yes, although it will look significantly different than what the District was able to do in the spring and summer.

All MCPASD students are eligible to receive breakfast and lunch starting Tuesday, Sept. 1. Meals will be available on weekdays when staff are working. Meals must be ordered through the [MyPaymentsPlus website](#). Meals are free for students on free-or-reduced lunch. Meal prices are the same as a year ago for other students.

Some of the other changes to the program include:

- Meals must be ordered at least a week in advance.
- Students who receive free or reduced lunch will get the meals they order free of charge.
- Other students can still order and get meals, although there is a fee.
- Meals will be dropped off at bus stops or available at the school your child attends for those not eligible for busing.

[Visit the District website](#) to learn more.

7. Why can't I view PDFs in the emails in my Parent Portal account?

We have switched to attaching PDFs to many longer emails from the District because of formatting challenges with Infinite Campus. You can find the emails in your Parent Portal account, but they will not include the attached PDFs from the email.

To view the messages with attachments, please view them from the email that you receive from the District or visit the [COVID-19 Information & Updates page](#) on the District website.

8. Will students in the Universal instructional model have some flexibility?

Yes, students will be able to receive assignments ahead of time and have flexible time to complete assignments as we realize not every family is able to have their child or children available every day for the 5 hours when live instruction is set to occur.

Lessons will also be available to view after they have been completed in most cases.

We encourage students and families to work with their teacher(s) to determine the best way to support one another.

9. Has your housing changed since school buildings closed? Have the effects of COVID-19 contributed to loss of housing?

The McKinney-Vento Education Assistance Act is a federal legislation that, in part, makes sure students experiencing homelessness have access to educational programs, services, and resources. The McKinney Vento legislation defines homelessness for educational purposes as- Children and youth who lack fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence including children and youth who are:

- Sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason
- Staying in emergency shelters
- Temporarily living in a motel or hotel due to loss of housing, economic hardship or similar reason
- Living in a car, park, campground, abandoned building or other inadequate accommodation
- Living in transitional housing (case management and subsidy and time limited)
- Living in other situations that are not fixed, regular or adequate for nighttime residence
- Migratory children who live in any of the circumstances as described above
- Children/youth living in a homeless situation who are also not under the care of a parent and/or legal guardian

If you, or a family you know has moved to the District because of housing transition due to finances of COVID-19 and need to enroll, please [visit our District website](#) and click on the For Parents section. For more information on available resources, [visit our District website](#) and click on the '2020-21 Plan section.

If you, or a family you know are experiencing homelessness, please contact Paley Nordlof, Homeless and Foster Care Liaison, at 608-826-7649 or via email at pnordlof@mcpasd.k12.wi.us. If your family is in need of an interpreter, please include that in your message.