COVID-19 Decision-Making Framework for Schools

This document is meant to provide school districts and school boards guidance for understanding COVID-19 risk and to help districts determine when to implement virtual, hybrid (blended learning), or in-person instruction for the 2020-2021 academic year. Instruction model determinations are made by school boards and district administrations.

This document is intended only for Walworth County School Districts and School Administrators, school boards, and key stakeholders. Further dissemination is not permitted to individuals outside of this list, the public, or the media.

Framework data:
- **Burden of COVID-19 Status:** The number of COVID-19 cases in a 14-day period within each school district boundary computed as a rate per 10,000 people that allows for comparison between communities.

Recommendations Based on Metrics

COVID-19 Risk Level *Level of community transmission*	COVID-19 Burden	Recommended Learning Models		
		Virtual	**Hybrid** *(Blended Learning- Virtual and In-person)*	**In-Person**
Green *Low*	0-9 new cases per 10,000			**X** 5 days/week
Yellow *Moderate*	10-19 new cases per 10,000		**X** *Physically distanced*	**X** *Physically distanced*
Orange *Moderately High*	20-29 new cases per 10,000		**X** *Physically distanced*	**X** *Physically distanced*
Red *High*	30-49 new cases per 10,000	**X** Min: Option	**X** *Exercise Caution* *Physically distanced*	**X** *Exercise Caution* *Physically distanced cohorts*
Purple *Critical*	≥50 new cases per 10,000	**X**		
*Metrics should be evaluated at 2 week increments ***Decisions about learning models should not be based solely on this data, but also using the scenario examples on pg. 2, and any additional considerations as applicable* ****Physically distanced as best as possible given district resources*				

Definitions:
- **In-Person:** The vast majority of students attend school in-person. Some students with health concerns may participate virtually on an as-needed basis. Infection prevention measures are still in place.
- **Hybrid (Blending Learning):** Schools may provide instruction using a combination of in-person and virtual learning environments.
- **Virtual:** All students attend virtually using various instructional strategies.

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The framework and guidelines within this document are an adaption from the Washington Ozaukee Public Health Department's COVID-19 Decision-Making Framework for Schools and have been modified for the school districts in Walworth County.

Examples for Determining Learning Models

Schools should consider the scenarios below to determine if school closure is appropriate. The scenarios below are based off of COVID-19 cases within a particular school. Each school district's COVID-19 burden data (determined from the Recommendations Based on Metrics in table on previous page) should also be considered when making decisions to change the learning models within the school district or school.

Learning Model	Scenarios*	Recommended Transition	Returning Criteria Considerations
In-Person Model *5 days/ week*	• Single, stand-alone cases are confirmed, but close contacts are quickly quarantined • Multiple confirmed cases, but linked to a specific class or activity with no exposures to other school settings • Multiple confirmed cases linked to a clear exposure outside of the school with no exposures to school settings	**Virtual Model** for isolated and quarantined individuals	• All confirmed or close contacts within the school have passed their isolation/ quarantine periods • Cases have significantly decreased over 2 week period
		In-Person Model continues for non-exposed individuals	Continue to actively monitor
Hybrid Model	• Number of students/staff absent or sent home with influenza/COVID-19-like illness equals 10-20% of school population within a single week • Significant community outbreak occurred that may impact the school (i.e. large community event or large employer)	**Hybrid Learning Model** until cases significantly decrease over a 2-week period	• All confirmed or probable cases, and close contacts within the school have passed their isolation/ quarantine periods • Cases have significantly decreased over 2 week period
Virtual Model	• Multiple confirmed cases identified but contact tracing cannot be completed quickly (>48 hours) • Multiple cases identified within 14 days across multiple classrooms or activities with no clear connection between cases • Significant community outbreak affecting the school community • Substantial, uncontrolled transmission in school community with numerous confirmed cases	**Virtual Model** continues for all until cases significantly decrease over a 2-week period	• All confirmed or probable cases, and close contacts within the school have passed their isolation/ quarantine periods • Cases have significantly decreased over 2 week period • May consider transition to Hybrid Model first before In-Person Model

These scenarios are meant to serve as examples in determining transitions between learning models. They do not include all possible scenarios and therefore discretion should be used to consider any additional community, district, or school specific attributing risk factors when making determinations.

**Significantly decrease is defined by a downward trend of 14 consecutive days of newly identified confirmed or probable cases*

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