



COVID CONVO: ENGAGE WITH LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON COVID-19

Every Friday through September 25th
September 11th | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.



Introduction from Jeff

- **Fred Nolan:** calming jitters and enrollment melt
- **Update from each district (Mora, East Central, and Bemidji)**
 - Calming jitters
 - Enrollment – actual vs. projected
 - Any additional updates around reopening schools
- **Neil Carlson:** PPE update, teacher communication, restaurant risk
- **Todd Rapp:** communications around reopening schools
- **Q&A**



School Opening Jitters in COVID-19

- Jitters magnified in COVID-19
- This year, it may mean “COVID-19 Enrollment Melt”
- What are you doing as a district to limit enrollment melt – please download link sent to you (Superintendents only)



School District:						
COVID-19 Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	In-Person or Hybrid*	Distance Learning*	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Melt	COVID-19 Percent Enrollment Melt
Elementary	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Secondary	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
Total	0	0	0	0	0	#DIV/0!
*actual attendance or login to virtual session						

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Mora Public Schools





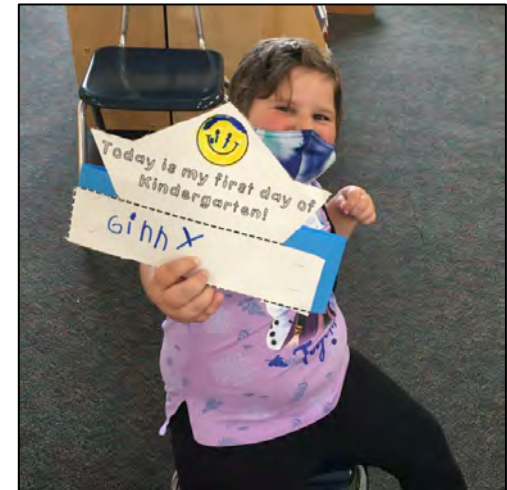
By the Numbers: Enrollment in COVID

School District:		Mora Public Schools				
COVID-19 Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	In-Person or Hybrid*	Distance Learning*	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Melt	COVID-19 Percent Enrollment Melt
El: K-6	872	727	115	842	-30	-3%
Sec: 7-12	774	715	67	782	+8	1%
Total	1646	1442	182	1624	-22	-1%
		*Actual attendance or login to virtual session				

- To limit and address potential enrollment melt:** Digging deeper into our enrollment history, reaching out to families who are not enrolled, tracking homeschool numbers (down from last year), and show families and public students are still learning while being safe at school.

Calming Jitters

- **Instill confidence with our team and families**
 - We are here to serve our students and families.
 - We have a solid plan – work the plan – “Engineering Mindset”
 - Our students are resilient and ready to learn and they need us
- **Constant and consistent communication and visibility**
 - Website, videos, letters, social media, and photos
 - Be visible – staff, families, students, support staff



What Is New & Exciting (Hopeful)

- **Our team is stepping up, working together, and shining!**
 - Following in the shoes of a student, our team is stepping up
 - Bus Drivers, custodians, food service, secretaries, support staff, teachers, and principals
- **Students and parents are adapting to changing conditions**
 - Students are coming to school respectful, responsible, excited, and ready to learn
 - Parents are cooperative, understanding, and appreciative
 - Conditions are different, but learning is happening





What is New and Different

- **Navigating student and staff quarantines**
 - Following the MDH Decision Tree guidelines
 - Working with Kanabec County Public Health – Guidance
- **Health and safety**
 - Students and staff know, understand, and follow guidelines
 - Masking, distancing, hand washing/sanitizing is normal now

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East Central Public Schools



Calming Jitters During COVID-19

- **Current case rate number is 8.58 (predicting 9.3 next week)**
- **Staff:**
 - Regular meetings with union leadership to address concerns
 - Transition Planning – what could be coming up
 - Decision Tree – ask for support from them
 - PPE – checking in, anything else needed?
 - Support staff mental health needs
 - Floating subs to give breaks and support staff needs
 - Regular check-ins with higher risk staff members



Calming Jitters During COVID-19

- **Students and families:**

- Masking has gone very well!
- Communication – regular updates, generally how is it going?
- Remind them to get tested and participate in contact tracing

- **Building leaders:**

- Support the message – masking, social distancing, hand washing
- Guiding the timeline for transition planning – Are they ready to change models?

- **School Board members:**

- Support messaging within the community. What are we doing to keep students and staff safe? They are being asked!





What's Next...

- **Watch the case rate numbers closely -**
 - Can we "ride it out" if case rate numbers are above 10 for one week?
 - Transition Planning – Layout the steps of transitioning models and communicate with department leaders. (modeled after Mora Public Schools)
 - Communication:
 - The Pine County Schools are likely to make the transition decision together. Support a united message.
 - Pine County Public Health [Video Presentation](#)
 - Manage the questions that arise - be proficient with the [Decision Tree!](#)



By the Numbers: Enrollment in COVID

School District:		East Central Public Schools				
COVID-19 Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	In-Person or Hybrid*	Distance Learning*	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Melt	COVID-19 Percent Enrollment Melt
El: K-6	333	305	39	344	+11	N/A
Sec: 7-12	392	315	65	380	-12	3.2%
Total	725	620	104	724	-1	0.1%
		*Actual attendance or login to virtual session				



Preventing Enrollment Melt

To limit and address potential enrollment melt, East Central is taking the following steps:

- **Conservative Budgeting:** we planned for lower numbers, 2019-2020 ending enrollment was 752
- **Home Visits:** Principals visit homes of kids we have not seen or heard from
- **Focus on Relationships:** seek out families, welcome them, and reassure safety as much as possible
- **Attendance and Truancy:** adding equity considerations to truancy decisions
- **Communicate with and welcome** students back from distance learning
- **Stay in touch** with home school families – how can we support you?
- **Maintain trust and build confidence:** The best PR is word of mouth!
- **Focus on the future:** What will education be like post COVID-19?

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Bemidji Area Schools ISD 31



By the Numbers: Enrollment in COVID

School District:		Bemidji Public Schools				
COVID-19 Enrollment	Projected Enrollment	In-Person or Hybrid*	Distance Learning*	Total Enrollment	Enrollment Melt	COVID-19 Percent Enrollment Melt
El: K-6	2839	2459	380	2725	114	3.88%
Sec: 7-12	2761	2380	381	2204	557	25.27%
Total	5600	4839	761	4929	671	11.98%
		*Actual attendance or login to virtual session				

- **What Bemidji is doing to limit enrollment melt**

Calming Jitters by Creating Confidence

- **Students and families:**
 - Messaging about student screening and masking
 - Communication – numerous media outlets and social media/email messages
 - Building relationships with families (townhall meetings)
 - Messaging about creating cohorts withing buildings
 - Limiting outside groups, cohort mixing, traveling staff, etc.

- **Building leaders:**
 - Consistent messaging – masking, social distancing, hand washing
 - Enlisting staff in the process of keeping classrooms clean

Preventing Enrollment Melt

- **Distance learning teams** - supporting students and families
- **Distance learning student support day** – secondary level schools
- **Parent choice** - flexibility and communication
- **Confidence in district efforts** – communication, updates, and information
- **Summer food program** - providing a service to families
 - Flexibility in menus
 - Curbside pickup for families

Preventing Enrollment Melt Continued

- **Equity Teams** – Indian education
 - Many on distance learning
 - Videos and virtual programming to keep American Indian students engaged
- **Special Education Equity Team** - focusing on the unique needs of each IEP
- **Focus on resilience and collaboration** - We will get through this year and make it great!

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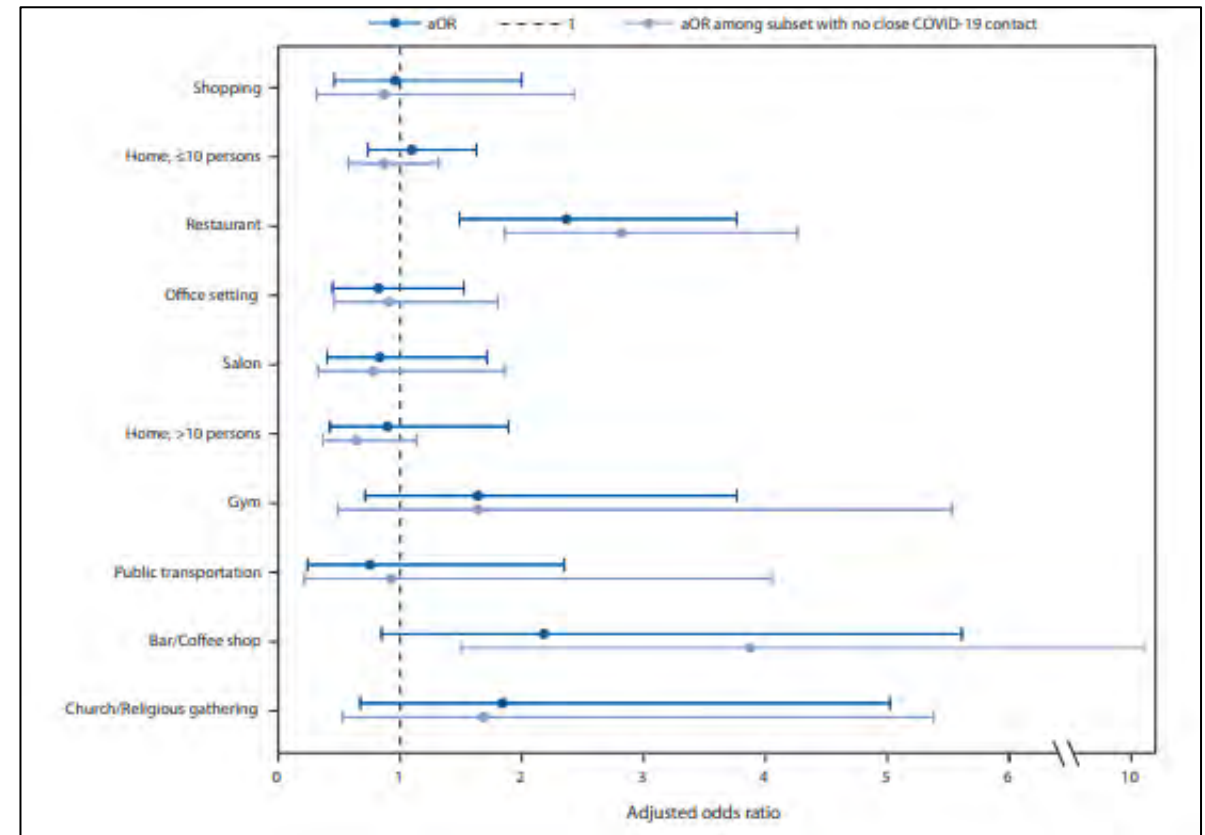
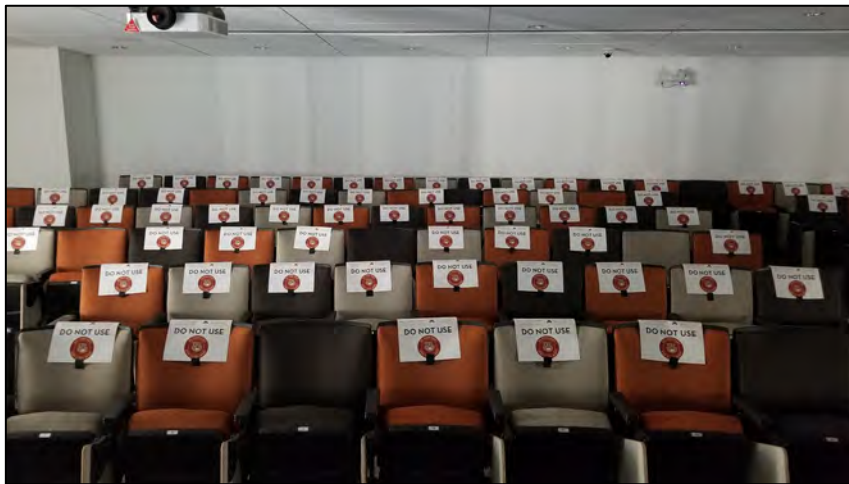
Public Health with Neil Carlson





Update from Neil Carlson

- PPE update
- Teacher communication
- Restaurant risk



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Communications with Todd Rapp





Q&A



Thank You for Your Time!

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Presentation Resources

- [East Central Public Schools Reopening Schools Plan](#)
- [Mora Public Schools Reopening Schools Plan](#)
- [Bemidji Area Schools Reopening Schools Information](#)
- [ICS Reopening Schools Website](#)
- [Community and Close Contact Exposure Associated with COVID-19](#)
- [Pine County Public Health Video Presentation](#)
- [MDH Decision Tree](#)