



# **COVID CONVO: ENGAGE WITH LOCAL SUPERINTENDENTS ON COVID-19**

Every Friday through October 30<sup>th</sup>  
October 30<sup>th</sup> | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.



# Introduction from Arif

- **Comments from Arif and COVID Convo extension**
- **Fred Nolan:** building conditions
- **Updates from East Central, Bemidji, and Mora**
- **Steve Sallee:** update on regional support teams
- **Neil Carlson:** ventilation and trends
- **Todd Rapp:** communications update
- **Q&A**

## COVID CONVO

...for two more Friday's in November!  
November 6 and November 20 from 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sign up today at <https://bit.ly/2TOxggd>



[November COVID Convo Registration Link](https://bit.ly/2TOxggd)



# COVID Building Conditions are Key

- *"Now that we are operational, County Rate is not the only nor even the most urgent data,"* Susan Klammer said on 10/28 when making learning model decisions.
- Created a difficult narrative for all state and local school leaders.
- Additional spread can happen in sports and any related social pieces.
- Masks, social distancing, and ventilation are layers in the "safety lasagna."
- MDE is working on ADM estimates for November and February forecasts, which are critical this year with enrollment decline. *"We want most accurate info,"* Denise Anderson, MDE
- December 15 deadline for Free and Reduced Lunch applications critical to Compensatory Ed revenue for 2021 – 2022.
- Learn more here: [E&F Services Blogs](#)

# COVID Convo

East Central Public Schools



# Situation Update

- Pine County case rate number = **36.39 (20.6 w/o prison cases)**
- Predicted case rate number = **34.8 (30.0 w/o prison cases)**
- **District moved from Hybrid to Distance Learning on October 26, 2020**
  - Circuit breaker
  - 15+ staff members quarantining (5 positive tests so far)
  - 1 entire bus route in quarantine (second bus likely to quarantine today)
  - Football team in quarantine along with coaching staff
- Little connection to spread at school





# We're in this Together

- **Supporting Students:**

- Clear expectations
- More devices including Hotspots
- Digital Navigator
- Phone calls and virtual meetings
- Mental health supports
- Communication
- Virtual events: Homecoming

- **Supporting Staff:**

- Patience with all viewpoints
- Mental health supports
- Clear expectations: perfection is not expected
- Professional development
- Covering for each other
- Weekly communications



# Education During COVID-19

- Learning model changes = many first days of school!
- Equity concerns
- Professional development: rising to the occasion
- **Enrollment concerns:**
  - Down 25 students
  - Hold harmless legislation
- **Distance Learning 2.0**
  - Higher expectations of students and staff
  - Skills have grown exponentially



# Education After COVID-19

- Was this the PUSH that public education needed?
- **Distance Learning 3.0?**
  - Maintain a distance learning option for families
- Personalized learning for all?
- Special Education
- **E-Learning Days**
  - Building in days to align school with labor experiences
  - No more snow days





# COVID Convo

Bemidji Area Schools ISD 31



# Positive News

- Mady Schmidt finishes season **undefeated** in diving!
- Football: ISD 31 vs. Edina win!



## FOOTBALL: Jacks smash Edina 35-0 in first-ever gridiron matchup

EDINA -- The Bemidji High School football team will hang onto history a little more fondly than their Friday night counterpart. [...]



# ISD 31 Safe Learning Plans

- **Elementary Schools on Scenario 1: in-person learning**

- Elementary teachers appreciate this model

- **Secondary Schools in hybrid model**

- A/B weekly rotation


- **Full time DL academy (K-5)**

- 970 students

Beltrami County Name  
46,117 Population of Beltrami County  
10/15/20 - 10/28/20 Time Period  
268 Current # of Cases in Time Period  
**58.13 Current 14-Day Case Rate**  
14-day county level case rate per 10,000 =  
Total number of cases for last 14 days / (County population / 10,000)

# of Cases per 10,000 over 14 Days	Min # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Max # of Cases in County in Last 14 days	Recommended Learning Model	
			Elementary Students	Middle/High School Students
0-9	0	46	In-Person	In-Person
10-19	47	92	In-Person	Hybrid
20-29	93	138	Hybrid	Hybrid
30-49	139	230	Hybrid	Distance
50+	More than 230 Cases	More than 230 Cases	Distance	Distance

# Beltrami County COVID Rates

- Meetings with NW Minnesota Regional Support Team
- ISD 31 town hall meeting 
- Messaging about numerous data points
- Interpreting sports guidance
- Messaging to community about safe COVID practices

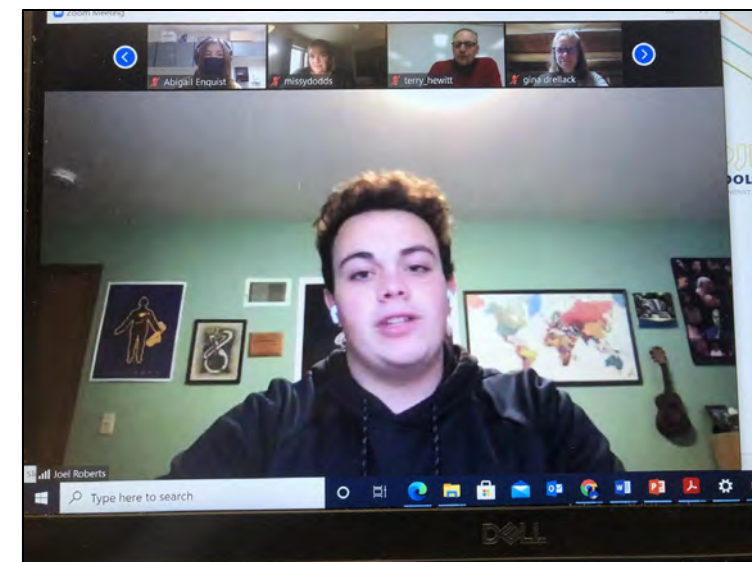


8/30 - 9/12	9/6 - 9/19	9/13 - 9/26	9/20 - 10/3	9/27 - 10/10	10/4 - 10/17
6.94	10.19	23.42	40.33	49.66	49.01

# ISD 31 Staffing COVID Rates

**As of the end of the day yesterday, we have had 200 staff quarantine events (some staff have multiple events). This means everything from a household member with potential COVID symptoms to COVID positive tests.**

- 25 staff have tested positive for COVID (includes student teachers)
- Four (4) at BHS
- One (1) at BMS
- One (1) at Central
- Two (2) Kids & Co
- Two (2) at First City
- Three (3) at Gene Dillion – one (1) student teacher
- One (1) at Horace May
- Two (2) at Lincoln
- One (1) grounds person
- Five (5) at Northern
- One (1) at Solway
- Two (2) in transportation



# We're in this Together

- **Supporting Students:**

- Additional devices to support 1:1 initiative (still waiting on deliver of 2,000)
- Broadband connectivity
- Mental health supports are a priority – normalcy (homecoming, sports, music, etc.)
- Distance Learning student support Wednesdays

- **Supporting Staff:**

- Distance Learning student support Wednesdays
- Reductions in classroom behaviors and increases in student truancy and disengagement
- Mental health supports for staff
- Increased workloads and stressors for staff





# Supporting Administrators

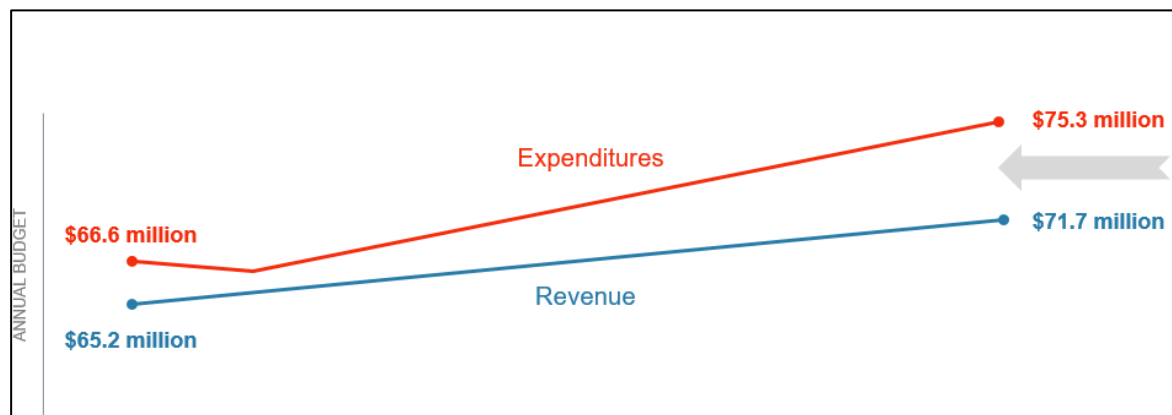
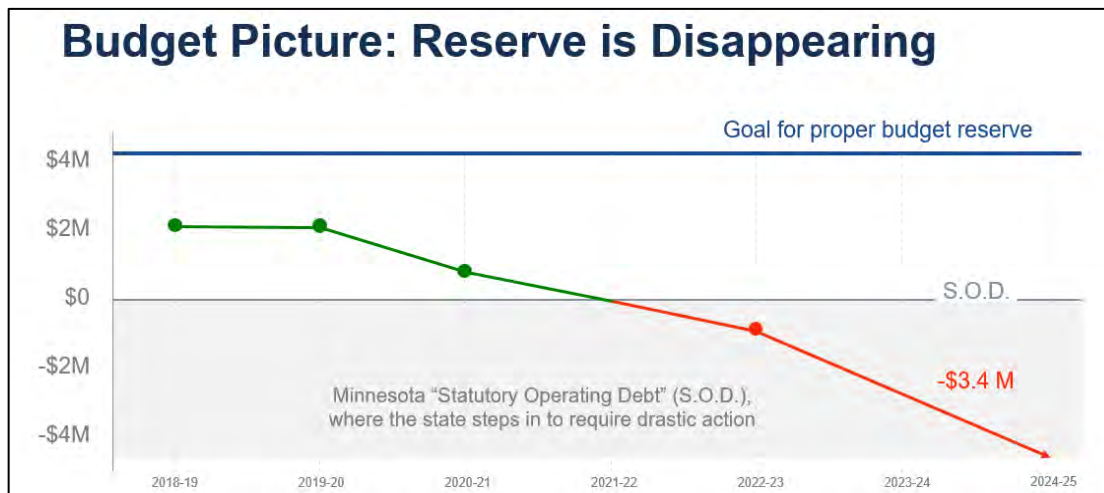
- **Landscape constantly changing**
  - Guidance on learning models
  - Guidance on extra-curricular activities
  - CDC/MDH guidelines changing
- **Long days**
  - Reductions in discipline – issues with truancy & engagement
  - Contact tracing duties
  - Communications with parents and families

- Weekly meetings
- Daily check-ins
- Asking them what they need



# Ongoing Concerns

- **District budget concerns**
  - Referendum vote next Tuesday
  - Hold Harmless legislation
  - Financial support



# COVID Convo

Mora Public Schools



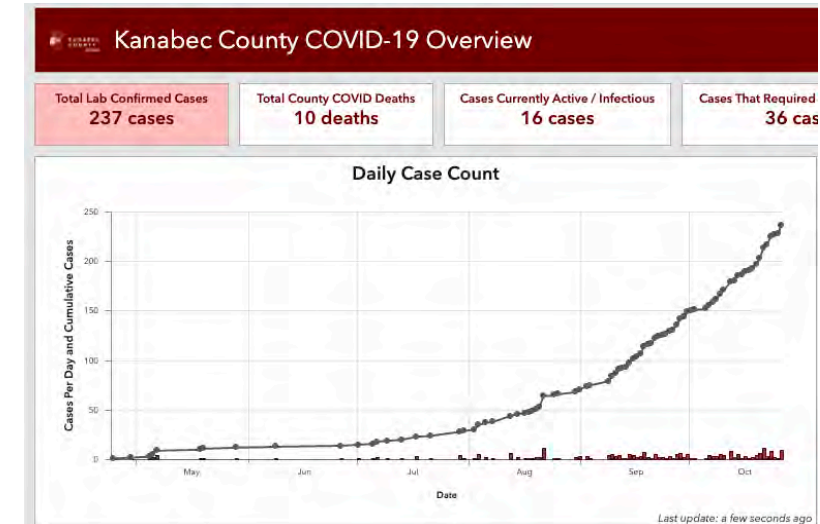
# Positive News and Stories

- Commitment to students and families
- Students and staff are adjusting
- Signs of teamwork
- Community/County support
- **Communication appreciated**
  - Board
  - Staff
  - Families



# Current Learning Model

- **Kanabec County Case**
  - MDH – 24.99
  - Rolling 14 days – 35.62
- Hybrid learning Pre-K-12
- Minimal cases of students & staff
- No transmission in school or sports
- **"Scalpel Approach" – determining model**
  - Case rates, spread, school level



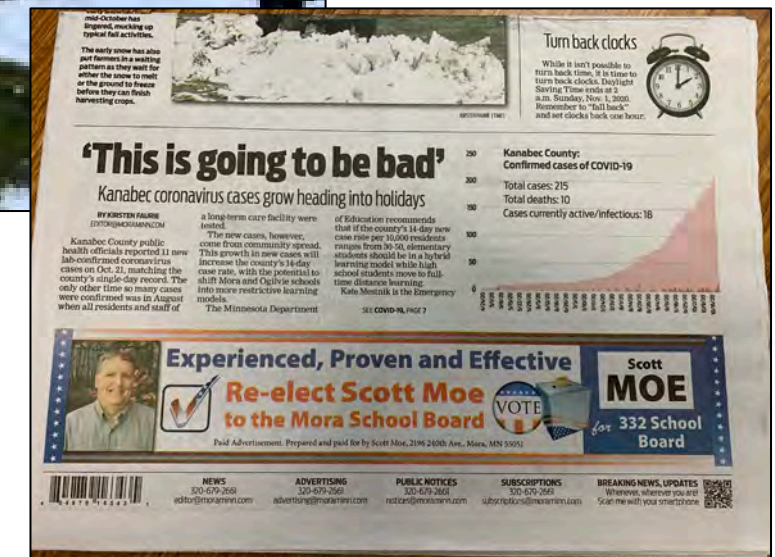
Learning Model Parameters		
Mora Phases	Number of Cases per 10,000 over 14 days by County of Residence	Learning Model
PHASE 1	0 - less than 10	In-Person Learning - K-12th Grades
PHASE 2	10 - less than 20	In-Person Learning - K-6th Grades Hybrid Learning - 7th-12th Grades
PHASE 3	20 - less than 30	Hybrid Learning - K-12th Grades
PHASE 4	30 - less than 50	Hybrid Learning - K-6th Grades Distance Learning - 7th-12th Grades
PHASE 5	50+	Distance Learning - K-12th Grades





# Challenges – Surfing

- Public case rate numbers/media
- Division of perspectives
- Balance safety and in-person learning
- **Ever-changing guidance**
  - MDE, MDH, MSHSL, and Public Health
- **Budget futures**
  - Enrollment down 75
  - Costs up
  - Compensatory funds





# We Will Get Through This

- **Administration**
  - Constant communication and check-ins – buddy
- **Staff**
  - Self-care, mental health supports, and check-ins
- **Students**
  - Academic, social-emotional, and physical
- **Families**
  - Communication, contacts, and assistance



# COVID Convo

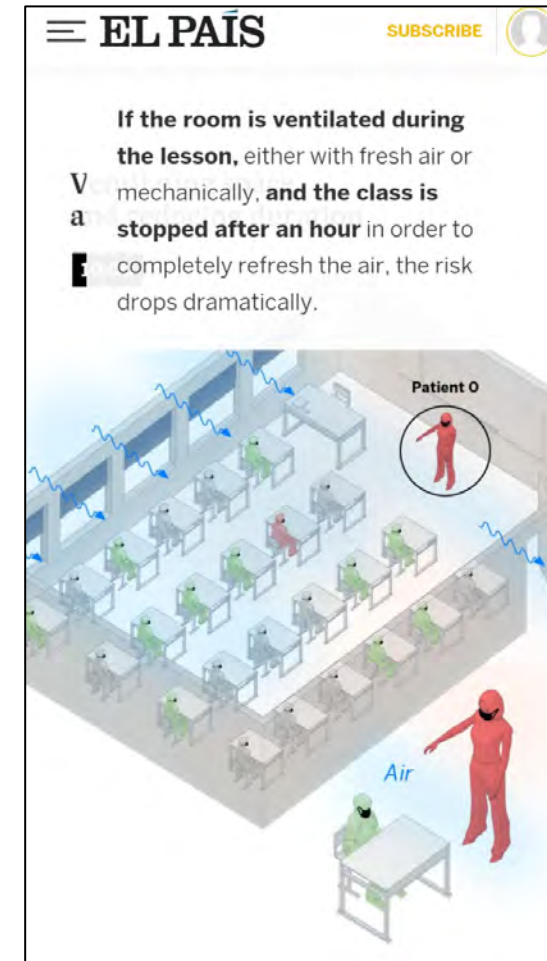
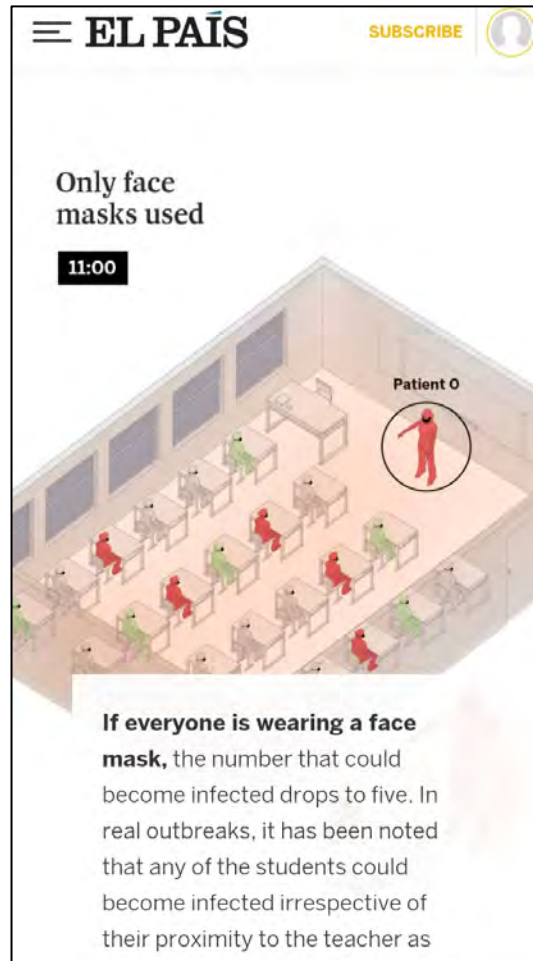
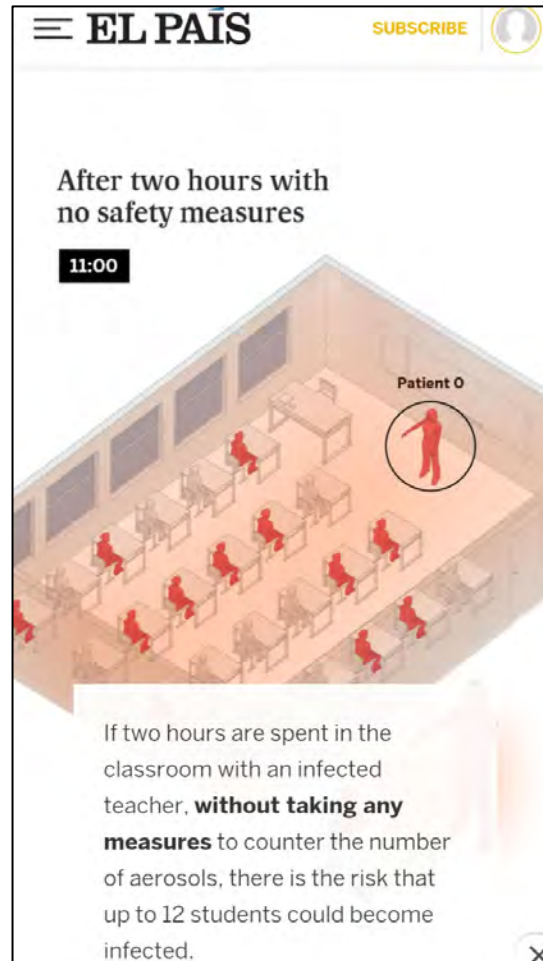
## Service Cooperative Update



# COVID Convo

Public Health with Neil Carlson



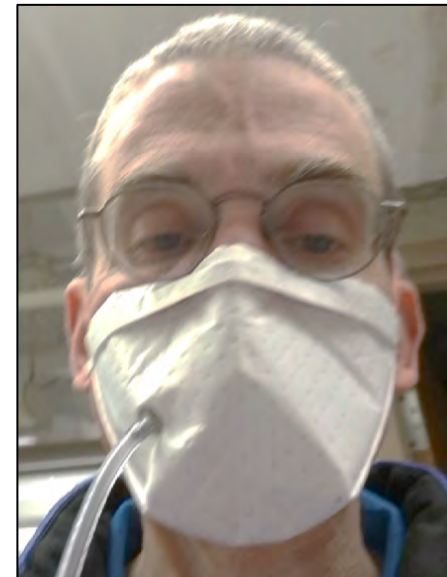


[Article: How Coronavirus is Spread through the Air](#)

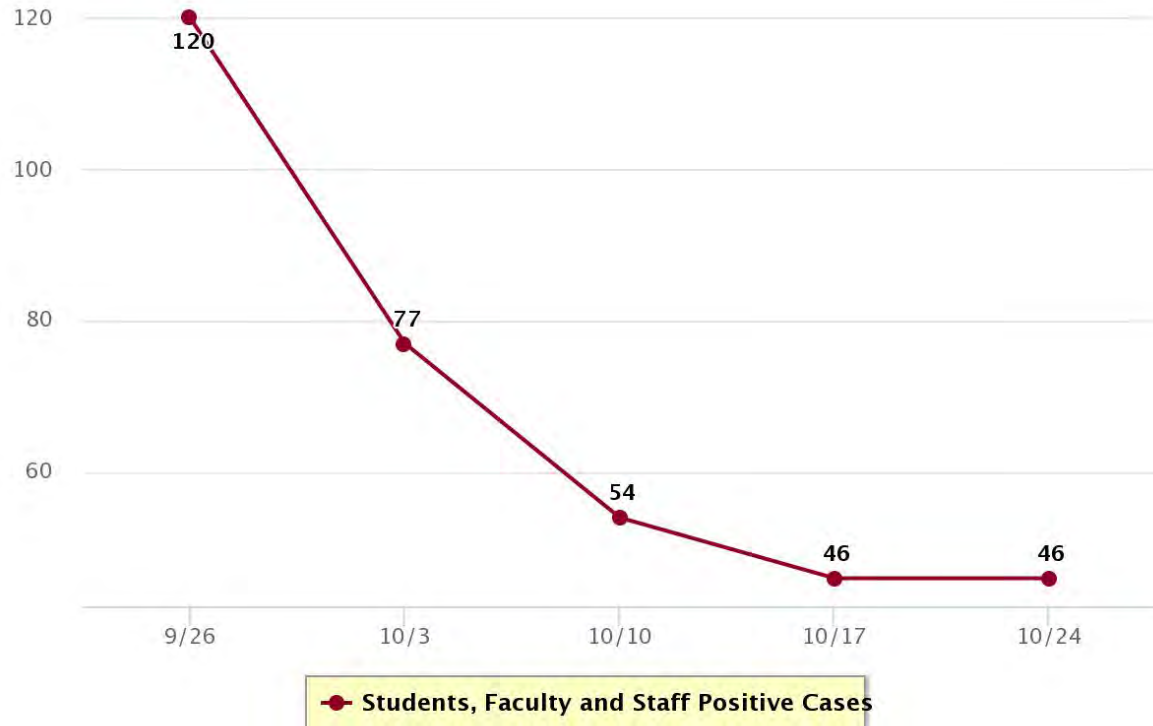


# Research and Ventilation Update

- Bipolar ionization technology study
- M3 mask study continues
- **Ventilation**
  - Increase air changes
  - Reduce outside air to prevent coil freeze up
  - Change VAV boxes to provide more air
  - Look at local filtration



## TRENDS – UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

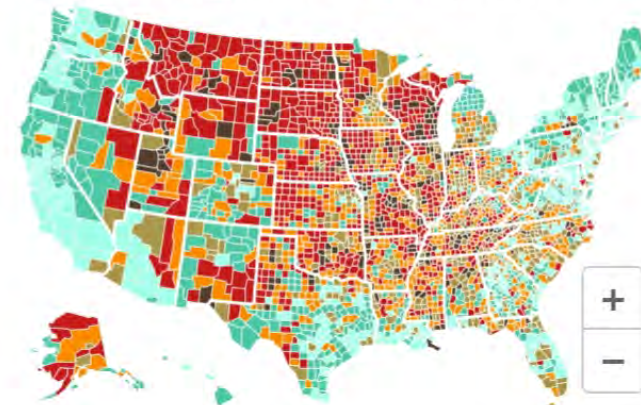


[U of M COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

## Rate of New Infections by Metro Status

The colors denote the rate of new infections (low, medium, high) for rural (nonmetro) and metropolitan counties. Values are total infections October 15-21 per 100,000.

High, Rural High, Metro Medium, Rural  
Medium, Metro Low, Rural Low, Metro



Low Rate: 0-94.9 per 100,000; Medium: 95 to 209.6; High: 209.7 to 3591.0. The ranges were determined by ranking all U.S. counties by infection rate and grouping them into three equally numbered sets.

Map: Daily Yonder • Source: [USA Facts](#) • [Get the data](#) •  
Created with [Datawrapper](#)

[Article: Welcome to the Rural Wave](#)



# COVID Convo

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](#)
- [COVID Convo November Registration Link](#)
- [E&F Services Blogs](#)
- [Star Tribune Article: Minnesota Teacher Juggling Online, In-Person Classes Fight Stress in Pandemic](#)
- [Star Tribune Article: More Minnesota Schools Move to Distance Learning, Prompting Questions about Sports](#)
- [Article: How Coronavirus is Spread through the Air](#)
- [U of M COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Article: Welcome to the Rural Wave](#)