



Return to In-Person Instruction Update

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education

January 14, 2021



Dashboard - Public Health Metrics

Dashboard public health metrics for Mecklenburg County

- Positivity rate
- Case rate per 100,000

Recall: the dashboard specifies how to bring students back for in-person learning based on the status of these two public health metrics

- Both green > 14 days: consider in-person learning at all schools
- Both yellow (and none in red) > 14 days: consider in-person learning only for specific prioritized student populations
- One or more in red > 14 days: consider virtual (remote) learning for all students

Both metrics in green for >14 days: Consider/continue in-person learning at all schools in compliance with State's orders. One or both metrics in yellow (and no metrics in red) for > 14 days: Consider/continue in-person learning only for specific prioritized student populations in collaboration with Mecklenburg County Public Health (MCPH). One or more metrics in red for >14 days: Consider virtual learning for all students in collaboration with MCPH.

Dashboard - Public Health Metrics

Dashboard public health metrics are **red** for Mecklenburg County, indicating CMS should consider virtual learning for all students in collaboration with MCPH.



January 8, 2021

Minimal community spread

Moderate community spread

Substantial community spread

Public Health Metrics

Community Transmission and Disease Trends

Case rate per 100,000 persons
(7 days)

< 10 cases/100k

10 – 100 cases/100k

499.7
> 100 cases/100k

Test Positivity %
(7-day average)

< 5%

5 – 10%

15.8%
>10%

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New Public Health Guidance From County

Public Health Director issued a *Public Health Director's Directive* on January 12

- Directive informed by “exponential growth” from September 2020 to the present in multiple key metrics including positivity rate and hospitalizations
- Calls for immediate action from the community
- Several recommendations, including, though not limited to, utilizing full virtual options for work, school and any other activities where in-person is not required
- Asserts that extra precautions, taken over the next 3 weeks, will decrease spread and result in key metrics moving toward acceptable ranges

Recommendation

We will maintain our current plan in full remote learning, until at least Feb. 12, 2021.

- County health directive recommends full remote learning until Feb. 2
- CMS will reevaluate, in partnership with Mecklenburg County Public Health, Feb. 2 - 8.
- At Feb. 9 Board Meeting, Board will determine if CMS will return to in-person instruction based on district & county evaluation.

Pending Board approval, in order to give families adequate notice, return students no earlier than:

- Feb. 15: PreK-5 & K-8, students with disabilities who have been identified through an IEP process to receive in-person services*
- Feb. 22: Middle & High Schools*
- Teachers return the Thursday prior to student return

*PreK-6 schools will return with K-5 and K-8 schools, 6-12 & 7-12 schools will return with MS/HS

Implications of Revised Plan

- **Extracurriculars:** No in-person sports, marching band or club activities until no earlier than Feb. 15
- **Activities:** No in-person CMS affiliated student activities will take place on or off school campuses, beginning 5:00 pm on Thursday, Jan. 14, until no earlier than Feb. 15.
- **Community Use of Schools:** No community use of CMS indoor or outdoor facilities until at least Feb. 15.
- **PSAT/NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test):** Will not be administered on Jan. 26. Alternative means of qualifying for National Merit Scholarship will be pursued.
- **Before School/After School Enrichment Programs:** Any program which has previously opened this year, will be closed until at least Feb. 15.
- **Child Nutrition:** CMS Eats @ Home will continue weekly meal bundle distribution at current sites each Wednesday.

Implications of Revised Plan

- **CARES Act Leave for Designated Non-Exempt Staff:** Using existing CARES Act funds to provide up to 80 hours paid leave to non-exempt staff who have no work available or who cannot work remotely. Non-exempt staff age 65 or older also eligible for leave if their positions cannot be done remotely. Existing local emergency leave expires on 1/15/2021.
- **Work Expectations:** Remote work is encouraged where possible, except for limited circumstances as follows where onsite work will continue: 1) regularly assigned work that can be done when students are remote but cannot be done remotely; and 2) work required to maintain adequate building coverage for continued operations.

Opportunity to Extend FFCRA

- Ensures that employees impacted by COVID-19 have access to all available resources; Could impact staffing readiness levels for return to in-person instruction.

Board Action Items

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Leave:

- Extend FFCRA leave until March 31, 2021
- Provide up to 80 hours of paid CARES Act Leave to Designated Non-Exempt Staff

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