



School District of Horicon

MARSHMEN MINUTE FROM MR. APPEL

Hello Horicon Families! I hope this message finds you and your families doing well and staying healthy as we continue to navigate through the challenges of this time. The October Marshmen Minute is focusing on our continued response to COVID-19 and how we are addressing it as a district.

The completion of the 1st quarter is in the books and I'm very proud of everyone's efforts to date. The past 9 weeks have not been easy and I know for many of you, very frustrating, as COVID-19 has impacted us all in some capacity. The numbers have increased in our schools, but we remain below 2% of positive cases in our school district, which includes 800+ students and staff members. Please know that these numbers change on a daily basis as students leave and return from quarantine or isolation. As an example: we anticipate a large number of students returning tomorrow from quarantine from a close contact case involving our football team. Some days 50+ students may be quarantined based upon the day and close contact event. The administrative team reviews every case and conducts contract tracing with our school nurse based off of close proximity interaction. Please review the chart of cases that we have used to track our students that is included on the last page of this communication which shows you our current snapshot of cases. We will be posting this chart on our district webpage every Friday afternoon starting on November 6th for the public to review.

We continue to work very hard to keep our schools safe with additional cleaning, hand washing reminders, and reinforcing proper wear of masks. We need your continued help and support as we fight COVID-19. Please continue to encourage your children to follow these expectations so that we can remain operational in our current face to face environment.

We are appealing to all members of our school district communities to PLEASE:

1. Diligently follow [health and safety guidelines](#) from the Dodge County Public Health Department for preventing the spread of COVID-19 including: *practicing physical distancing, avoiding large group gatherings, using face coverings, and frequent hand washing.*
2. Complete a daily health screen on all members of your family for the [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
3. Stay home when you aren't feeling well and contact your health provider or the public health department regarding COVID-19 test options as soon as possible if any symptoms occur.
4. Be cautious about all gatherings and continue to practice safety guidelines. We hope that you will consider limiting exposure to large groups which increases the community transmission of COVID-19 and ultimately impacts our schools. With the Holidays approaching we encourage you all to be selective of the number of people at gatherings.

EDUCATE, ENGAGE, EMPOWER, EVERY DAY



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There seems to be confusion in the community regarding the CDC definitions of "isolation" and "quarantine. **Definitions according to the CDC regarding the meaning of Isolation due to having a contagious disease and Quarantine – BOTH mean you should stay home and not have contact with others.**

• Isolation separates sick people with a contagious disease from people who are not sick.

• Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick.

This means that a person in quarantine may not: attend sporting events, socialize with friends, go shopping, go to work, or visit other family members from outside the home. Quarantine limits the spread of the virus and works! In several situations, quarantined students and family members have become COVID-19 positive, and their quarantine properly reduced the close contacts that the person reported.

** Our efforts and priorities: (while keeping students and staff safe)

1. To keep the schools open for face to face instruction remains our top priority. Delivering virtual instruction to students that need to be home for a short period due to being isolated or quarantined.
2. If our schools need to go to virtual instruction it will likely be due to not having enough staff to deliver instruction or an excessive numbers of student absences.
 - a. First priority in our efforts to deliver direct instruction will be to our elementary school students as they need much more parental involvement at home to deliver the virtual instruction and our new school facilities are large enough to move them around more.
 - b. Next priority would go to the middle school and then finally the high school students as they are older and more skilled at working independently with their teachers to take virtual classes.

If there is anything that we can do to support you or your families please feel free to reach out to me and ask.

My wish is for us all to remain diligent in our efforts and that we start to turn this around so that we can get back to the lives we enjoy!

HORICON STRONG - "STRONGER TOGETHER"

Rich Appel



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Please see the below information that breaks down the total number of cases by category as of last Friday, October 30, 2020. We will be posting this on our website every Friday with the numbers as I have had several people contact me regarding the current situation. Please know that the numbers seem to change daily so we will give a weekly snapshot on Fridays.

Instructional Staff

- 1 Active positive cases
- 4 Positive cases to date
- 4 Close contact currently in quarantine

Non-Teaching Staff

- 1 Active positive cases
- 5 Positive cases to date
- 4 Close contact currently in quarantine

School District of Horicon COVID 19 Dashboard as of 10/30/2020

Students

- 6 Active positive cases
- 12 Positive cases to date
- 111 Close contact currently in quarantine

You Stop the Spread:

Do your part and [protect what's important to you](#) to help protect everyone in Wisconsin. Please check out [You Stop the Spread](#). And then share the information with your organization, family, friends, and community.

Badger Bounce Back Plan Information:

[WI DHS Emergency Order #31 BADGER BOUNCE BACK](#)
[WI DHS COVID 19 Prepare Page WISCONSIN'S PLAN TO GET MOVING AGAIN](#)

COVID 19 testing:

Where to get tested? Should I Get

Tested? <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/testing.htm>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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