

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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District unveils decision matrix for future return to schools

LA CROSSE, Wis., (September 11, 2020) - In lieu of specific State or County guidance, the School District of La Crosse is using the [Harvard Global Health Institute](#) (HGHI) [guidance for schools](#) to determine how instruction is provided. The HGHI [indicates](#) the guide to risk levels is based on the case rate and that other [factors](#) should also be considered.

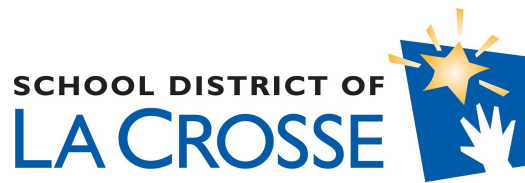
The decision matrix below will guide the School District of La Crosse in determining the mode of learning for students after October 1, 2020.

HGHI COVID Risk Level	RED	ORANGE	YELLOW	GREEN
CDC Community Spread Designation	Substantial	Moderate	Minimal	No Community Spread
Primary Metrics¹				
7 Day Case Rate Per 100K	> 25	10-25	1-10	< 1
7 Day Positive Test Ratio	> 10%	5-10%	3-5%	< 3%
Secondary Metrics				
7 Day Origin - Close Contact %	< 60%	60-80%	> 80%	> 90%
Case Rate Trend	Increasing to Neutral	Increasing to Neutral	Neutral to Declining	Neutral
Mode of Learning				
4k-5	Virtual	In-person	In-person	In-person
6-8	Virtual	Virtual/ Hybrid	In-person/ Hybrid	In-person
9-12	Virtual	Virtual	Hybrid	In-person

¹ Multiple measures are used at this time because the testing and tracing infrastructure in the County does not yet meet the HGHI guidelines for a mitigation strategy. This includes access to tests (anyone should be able to access a test regardless of symptoms), turnaround time on tests (24 hours), and turnaround time on contact tracing (24 hours). When the County meets these conditions, only HGHI case rate benchmarks will be necessary to determine the mode of learning.

Either primary metric could trigger a move to a more restrictive learning environment. Regardless, schools will maintain a two week stability period before moving to a more or less restrictive learning environment unless ordered to shut down by the State or County Health Department. Secondary metrics will assist in determining the mode of learning as well as aid in anticipating the future risk level.

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Classrooms and schools will move to virtual learning for a period of time if a significant percentage of students are absent for COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. The percentage will be determined in coordination with the La Crosse County Health Department. Classrooms and schools may also be closed as a result of staffing shortages that prevent safe operations or the inability to conduct contact tracing by the following day.

Starting next week, the School District of La Crosse will provide a weekly update on Wednesdays about the COVID-19 conditions in the County and the anticipated future learning mode for students. Weekly updates will be found on [the district's website](#) and [Facebook page](#).

The primary metrics indicate that the district should be conducting virtual learning for all students at this time. We are committed to virtual learning until October 5, 2020.

The secondary metrics indicate the COVID-19 conditions in the community are not improving. Starting September 23, 2020, the district will provide information on the anticipated future mode of learning in two weeks. If these were the current conditions on September 23, 2020, the district would anticipate remaining in virtual learning in two weeks.

On Wednesday, September 9, 2020, the La Crosse County Health Department reported the following COVID-19 [metrics](#) and numbers that are used to aid the district in determining the mode of learning.

Week: 8/30/2020 - 9/5/2020

Primary Metrics	Number	School District Status
7 Day Average Case Rate (Metric 1)	21.3/100k people	Orange
7 Day Average Positive Test Ratio (Metric 9)	18.2%	Red

Secondary Metrics	Number	School District Status
7 Day Origin - Close Contact % (Case data)	59.2%	Red
Case Rate Trend (Metric 1, trajectory)	Increasing	Red/Orange

During the period from 8/28/2020 to 9/5/2020 the School District of La Crosse had 4 positive cases in the district and 3 close contacts of a positive case in the school district.

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