

# COTTER COVID FAQS



As of August 31, 2020

## Final Covid FAQ Sheet

This is the final edition of the Covid FAQs. We hope it has answered the majority of your questions. Further questions will be addressed in the weekly CPC that comes out each Friday or check our Covid webpage at: [www.cotterschools.org](http://www.cotterschools.org).

### WITH THE LARGE SPIKE IN POSITIVE CASES IN WINONA COUNTY RECENTLY, WILL WE BE CHANGING WHAT WE ARE DOING FOR SCHOOL?

This is the most frequently asked question related to Covid-19 and school, and it is asked from both perspectives, i.e., "numbers are low, shouldn't we all be in person?", to "numbers are high, shouldn't we all be on line?" As stated in previous FAQ bulletins, we do not want to jump back and forth between models every time the community transmission numbers change. This would create a negative learning experience for our students. In fact, the Minnesota Safe Learning Plan uses the transmission rate metric in order to give schools guidance and yet flexibility to adapt to their needs.

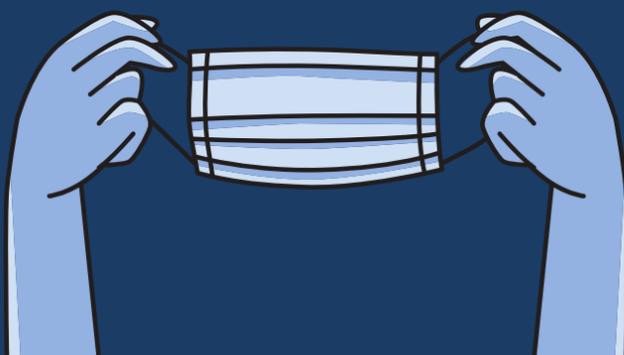


Winona County is currently at the second level for transmission with over 17 positive cases per 10,000 residents. Earlier we were below 10 cases per 10,000. This number escalated in one week. The suggested education model for the second level (10-19 cases/10,000) is what we are currently doing, i.e., a hybrid model (social distancing and 50% capacity) for both elementary (K-8) and high school. If the number climbs higher, above 30, then we would need to curtail all activities and in-person experiences for our high school students; and, if above 50, then we would need to consider distance learning for all grades. So, for now, we will continue with our current plan and protocols.



### Is there any time when we would close school again and have all grades be in distance learning?

There are only two situations that would warrant closing school and going online. First, the Governor could declare a state of emergency again - and he would do that only because of a high level of community transmission. Second, if Cotter Schools reaches a critical mass of students and/or teachers who are quarantined, and we are unable to function effectively. This option could be independent of the community level.



STAY SAFE. BE WELL. WEAR A MASK.