

Prairie Hill Waldorf School Policy for Masks and Moving to Distance Learning

Purpose: To clarify for the community and the faculty the policy around masks and when the school would move to distance learning (if there are positive cases of COVID-19).

Decisions: 1) The Board of Trustees along with the Faculty have made the decision that Prairie Hill Waldorf School continue to require faculty, staff and students to wear face masks inside and outside (as determined by the teacher) of the school for the **remainder of the 2020-2021 school year**. If the state mandate is lifted, this decision will remain in effect. If new information becomes available this decision may be reviewed.

2) The Board of Trustees along with the Faculty have made the decision that Prairie Hill Waldorf School will move to distance learning if **5% of the total population** (students, faculty and administration) have tested positive or are quarantined for COVID-19. Distance learning will be in effect for 10 days. If after 10 days new cases are found, it may be necessary to extend distance learning for the school. Prairie Hill will move to distance learning if mandated to do so by the state, federal or local government even if the rate is less than 5%.

Basis for this decision:

1. What the CDC/State/ Local experts are saying:

Covid positive cases are rising. According to the Waukesha County Health department Wisconsin has a 33% positive rate on its testing. The health department is no longer tracking cases and are asking school personnel to be the contact tracers.

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/cloth-face-cover.html>
- <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/PublicHealth/public-health-preparedness/COVID19/safeschools/>
- <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/decision.htm>

2. How is our school doing with the rate of infection based on others in our area:

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_totalcases

The rate of infection in our area continues to increase. Wisconsin is rated as one of the highest states for the increase in positive cases. Our school has not shut down for a quarantine period or positive, close contact exposure. Kettle Moraine, Lake Country, University Lake School, Waukesha County, Arrowhead have all moved to distance learning due to positive cases.

We are fortunate that we have the opportunity to be outside, but with winter approaching it will be less time outside and more inside. The fact that we have made it to November without moving to distance learning is a testament to the fact that our community wants to be on campus and is supporting the faculty.

The faculty has seen a decrease in other common illness that school experience such as colds.

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Update: 1/4/2021

After a brief move to distance learning around the winter holiday time, the school will resume on campus learning on January 11, 2021.

3. How successful have we been in securing substitute teachers when faculty is out:

When our teachers feel ill, we go through a checklist of symptoms, conversations about if these are unusual symptoms, where they have been and if anyone has COVID near them or if they have been in close contact. If they stay home, they are required to get a COVID test and if warranted, they may need to stay home for a full 10 days. Results of the COVID test can take up to 48 hours. We have a shortage of substitute teachers. Many of the people that substituted last year are not doing so this year.

Update: 1/4/2021

In November 2020, two classes were required to move to distance learning because of positive cases in direct contact with the class. Seven faculty members were also moved to quarantine. The school was unable to find substitutes for all the faculty members for the remainder of the grade's classes.

4. What is the faculty doing to stay healthy?

The faculty is doing everything they can to stay healthy, we hold zoom faculty meeting, the administrative staff supports the faculty by holding recess/snack/lunch duty so that faculty can take breaks and we have modified our daily schedule so that subject teachers meet with classes once a week for a double period.

The faculty is required to always wear masks inside of the school and outside when in close contact with students. This includes in the parking lots during drop off and pick up.

The faculty is limiting the travel around the holiday time and will follow safe practices when around others outside of their households.

Update: 1/4/2021

Three faculty members have tested positive.

5. What are the policies in place for students regarding COVID?

[When should my child stay home and when can they return to school](#)

[Travel and Return to School Policy](#)