



September 4, 2020

Dear SWSC Students, Parents and Staff,

On August 26, 2020, Governor Eric Holcomb issued a new, Color-Coded Counties: Information for Schools and Local Officials system. This colored coded system was updated on September 2, 2020. This updated color-coded system uses two criteria to score each county: number of new cases in the past week per 100,000 residents and percent positivity as determined by the number of positive tests divided by total number of tests administered. The change in percent positivity will show as an up or down arrow but will not be reflected in your score. Based on the counties score, a color is assigned to each county. The colors are blue, yellow, orange and red. Each color has a different set of recommendations for schools and local leaders to follow. Counties that are Blue have minimal recommendations or restrictions. Counties that are Red have the most recommendations and/or restrictions. To view the Governor's entire color-coded system please [click here](#). Each week on Wednesday afternoon county scores/colors will be updated.

The score or color does not trigger a State requirement of any action, but provides local information and recommendations. SWSC will use the color-coded system along with the number of students and staff that are isolated due to a positive test result as well as the number of students and staff that are quarantined due to being a close contact currently in our schools to make a determination on which recommendations we will be following for the coming week/s. SWSC currently has (13) staff and students quarantining due to being identified as close contact. We currently have (1) student and staff that are isolated due to having tested positive for COVID-19.

As I have mentioned many times, this school year will provide many challenges, need for changes, and require much patience and flexibility. However, if we work together, no matter what happens, we will have a successful year!!

I appreciate your support of the Southwest School Corporation.

Chris Stitzle, Superintendent

BASED ON THE GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Blue: Minimal Community Spread

- *Schools operate all grades in person but limit activities where social distancing is not feasible.*

Southwest School Corporation will continue to operate on the current schedule

K-5 = In-Person Learning – Monday through Friday

6-12 = In-Person Learning – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday

Online/E-Learning - Wednesday

- *Extra-curricular activities to follow local and state guidelines, including distancing and masks, and limit spectators.*

Southwest School Corporation will continue with current procedures for conducting extra-curricular activities which includes limiting spectators, wearing masks, and promoting social distancing.

- *Outreach to encourage public to continue with precautions.*

Yellow: Moderate Community Spread

- *Schools continue all grades in person but increase vigilance in distancing, hand hygiene and masks*

Southwest School Corporation will continue to operate on the current schedule

K-5 = In-Person Learning – Monday through Friday

6-12 = In-Person Learning – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday

Online/E-Learning - Wednesday

- *No assemblies or activities if social distancing is not feasible*
- *Postpone or cancel extra-curricular activities as **warranted**, consider allowing only parents or close family to attend athletic and other events*

Southwest School Corporation will continue with current procedures for conducting extra-curricular activities which includes limiting spectators, wearing masks, and promoting social distancing.

If there is an increased rate of positivity within the school environment, the school corporation may deem it necessary to further limit spectators.

- *Work with local health department to determine if increased precautions and public outreach should begin to halt the spread*

ORANGE - Moderate to High Community Spread

- *Grade schools continue in-person; strong recommendation for hybrid learning for middle and high school students*

Southwest School Corporation will continue to operate on the current schedule

K-5 = In-Person Learning – Monday through Friday

6-12 = In-Person Learning – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday

Online/E-Learning - Wednesday

If the school environment sees a significant increase in positive cases and/or home isolated or quarantined staff or students the Corporation may move to an alternate schedule in grades 6-12. See below

Grades 6-12 will be on an A-B type schedule rotating in-school instruction with remote learning

- “A” Group: Last name A-K will have in-school instruction on Monday & Wednesday.
- “B” Group: Last name L-Z will have in-school instruction on Tuesday & Thursday
- Friday will be Virtual/Online Day

- *No assemblies or large group activities*

- *Strong recommendation to limit extra-curricular activities and have competitors and participants only, with no in-person attendees*

Southwest School Corporation will continue with current procedures for conducting extra-curricular activities which includes limiting spectators, wearing masks, and promoting social distancing.

If the county wide positivity rate is on the rise, the school corporation may further restrict spectators for extra-curricular activities to parents only.

- *Discussions with parents about limiting social events outside of school*
- *County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities*

Instruction – This will be for a two week period unless county changes back to Yellow or Blue.

Red - High Community Spread

- *Grade schools remain in person or consider hybrid learning; Middle and high schools consider virtual learning*

K-5 = In-Person Learning – Monday through Friday.

However, if the school environment sees a significant increase in positive cases and/or home isolated or quarantined staff or students the Corporation may move to an alternate schedule in grades K-5.

This instructional model will be for a two week period or less if county changes back to Yellow or Blue.

Grades K-5 may be on an A-B type schedule rotating in-school instruction with remote learning

- “A” Group: Last name A-K will have in-school instruction on Monday & Wednesday.
- “B” Group: Last name L-Z will have in-school instruction on Tuesday & Thursday
- Friday will be Virtual/Online Day

Grades 6-12 may be on an A-B type schedule rotating in-school instruction with remote learning

- “A” Group: Last name A-K will have in-school instruction on Monday & Wednesday.
- “B” Group: Last name L-Z will have in-school instruction on Tuesday & Thursday
- Friday will be Virtual/Online Day

However, if the school environment sees a significant increase in positive cases and/or home isolated or quarantined staff or students the Corporation may move to virtual in grades 6-12.

This instructional model will be for a two week period or less if county changes back to Yellow or Blue.

- *No assemblies or large group activities*
- *Extra-curricular activities cancelled*

The School Corporation may cancel all extra-curricular activities when the county is in RED.

The one exception to this will be for the IHSAA Tournament. If the county is in RED, teams will be able to participate in the tourney unless they are restricted by positive cases or quarantine.

- *Discourage social events*
- *County education leaders work with local health department to consider implementing aggressive prevention efforts in schools and communities*

Extra-curricular Activities

- Practice for High School athletics MAY continue as normal. This will be determined by the number of positive COVID-19 cases and Close Contacts that have been identified in our school. This is to keep eligibility under the IHSAA rules.
- **Competitions/Games may still be CANCELLED**

When does these changes occur?

- **Any changes that affect instruction will start on the following Monday (Monday-Friday). This allows time for families to plan if necessary.**
- **Any changes that affect athletics will start on Thursday (Thursday – Wednesday)**