



Bulldog families,

October 25, 2020

As active cases of COVID-19 grow within the greater community, we felt it important to provide updates about the continued progression of risk on the dial. While we certainly are not implying that a move to the "red zone" is imminent, we would be remiss to not actively prepare and address the general anxiousness surrounding a shift to a red risk level.

As of this moment, we have had 15 confirmed positive cases within the Gering Public School District since August. Through contract tracing, it has been determined that the vast majority of our few cases have originated **outside** of our schools. This gives us the confidence and hope that remaining in a traditional learning environment is what's prudent.

While all learning environments (in-person, de-densified buildings, and fully moving into ECL) remain possible as we navigate through this pandemic, one KEY factor in determining our response are the active cases within our buildings. The level of active cases within our district has remained manageable because we are doing our best to follow protocols and have been responsive to new information. We will continue to respond with the safety of our staff, students and community in mind.

So what can we be doing now? We understand there is a level of fatigue related to this pandemic and the protocols we must follow. However, we ask that you PLEASE remain vigilant and wear masks **properly**, maintain social distance when possible, and practice good hand hygiene.

What if the dial continues to move to a "red-severe risk" direction? If we continue to trend with manageable case counts within schools but community spread increases, we will continue to tighten public access within our school buildings. At this point, a shift to all GPS students receiving education in an Extended Campus Learning virtual environment would likely come from a Directed Health Measure from the State, a request from local public health officials, or in response to a large number of school-based active cases. This is why we have and will continue to issue a plea to our community ... *"We believe the ability to keep schools open is a shared responsibility that depends on the cooperation from our entire Bulldog community."*

Please remember that you can access up-to-date COVID case information for our district anytime by visiting our website at www.geringschools.net. We appreciate your cooperation, Bulldogs!

Sincerely,

Gary Cooper
Interim Superintendent