



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LEAD. CARE. INSPIRE.

Superintendent Update

Jeanice Kerr Swift
Board of Education April 21, 2021

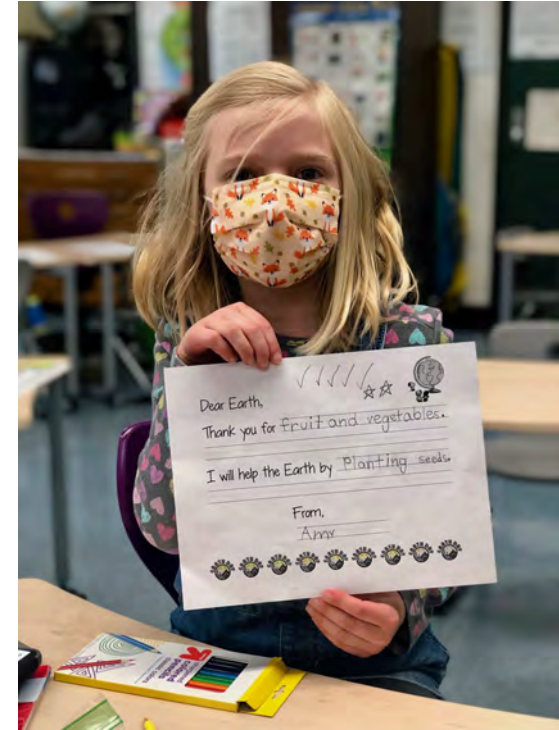
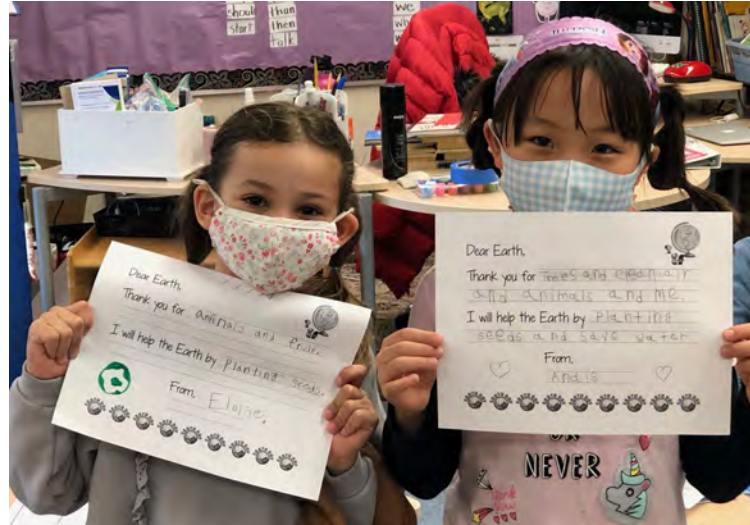
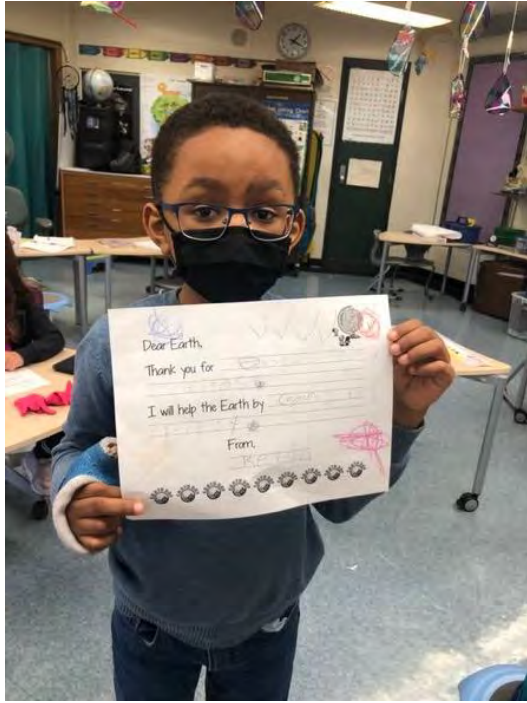


Superintendent Update

April 21, 2021

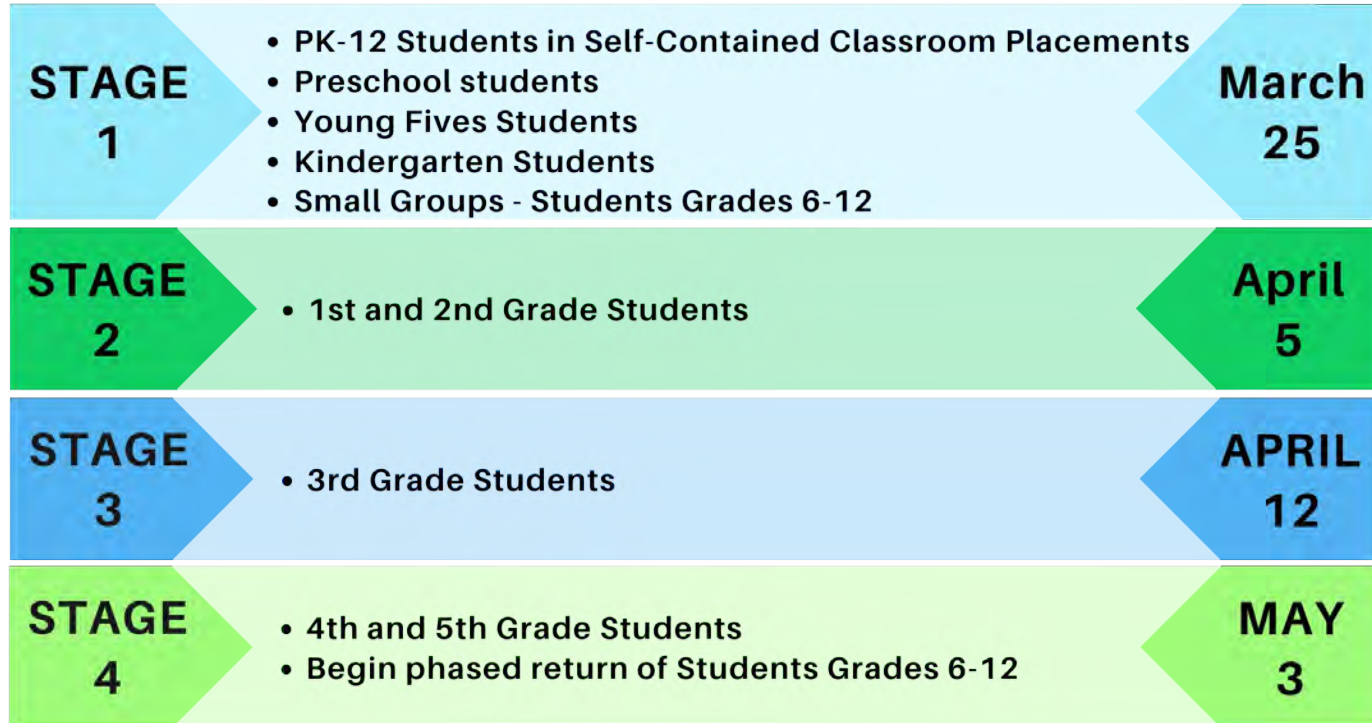
- Spring, 2021 Assessment Plan
- Next Steps Moving Forward:
Spring, Summer & Fall, 2021
- AAPS COVID-19 Status Update

Celebrating Earth Day, 2021 in AAPS



Dear Earth
Lawton Elementary Students
write thank you notes to Earth, & reflect on
small ways they can help the planet,
including to plant seeds & save water

Stages for In Person Hybrid Learning

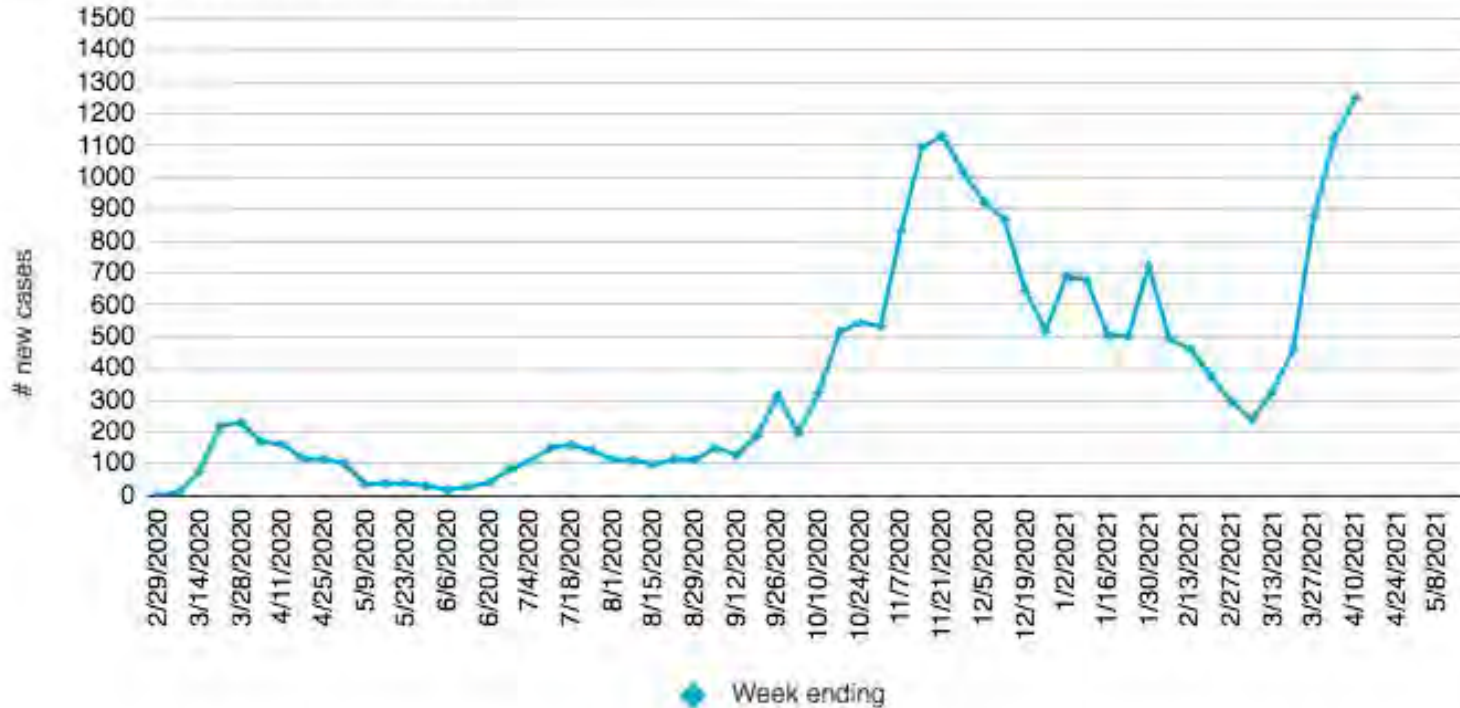


AAPS Current COVID Reality - Data - April 14th/21st

- Despite the positive news of vaccines, COVID case levels have increased dramatically over recent weeks in our community and across Michigan, and are among the highest level of any time during this year + COVID pandemic - we are in the midst of another COVID surge - *while remaining at high levels, case numbers appear to be levelling*
- The spread of more contagious variants continue in our community and are a cause of added concern
- K12 schools continue to lead in the number of reported outbreaks in the state
- Percentage of cases among children aged 0-17 have risen over weeks, and pediatricians report increased hospitalizations among COVID infected children
- Over previous 3 weeks since spring break, *we have not seen escalation among AAPS cases among elementary Ss & staff in-school hybrid*

New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Washtenaw County Residents (by Symptom Onset Week)* (as of 4/16), updated weekly

Washtenaw County (total N =21867)



MDHHS: COVID Infections in Michigan Schools

Data retrieved from Michigan.gov / MLive

Updated as of [April 19, 2021](#)

MICHIGAN SCHOOL-RELATED OUTBREAKS:

- **AAPS** is noted this week under new school related outbreaks - Mitchell Elementary
- **173** staff and students infected in 41 K-12 **new** school districts and three colleges
- **2,166** staff and students infected in 269 PK-12 **ongoing** school outbreaks
- **8,559** total cumulative cases in schools as a result of ongoing infections

SOURCE: [Michigan.gov Coronavirus - School-Related Outbreak Reporting](#)

* MDHHS outbreak data for K-12 schools includes only cases in which the student or staff was infected at school or at a school-related function.

201 infected in new coronavirus outbreaks at 51 schools, says Michigan's April 12 report

Updated Apr 12, 5:37 PM; Posted Apr 12, 5:36 PM



Current COVID Reality - Steps & Tools

- All on **AAPS school team** have had the **opportunity to receive full vaccination** - 27.5% Washtenaw County Fully Vaccinated - 45% Have One Dose (April 19 data)
- We ALL understand the critical importance of the **COVID safety fundamentals** - wear a mask & keep distance when outside the home or with anyone outside the home family unit
- **Readily available testing** - strong advised for all unvaccinated students, staff, and parents - baseline now, and 1X per week is recommended - *thank you to all in community who tested on Sunday!*
- **Vaccines** now available for those aged 16+ (huge plus for high school - 11th & 12th graders)
- AAPS 20-21 reimagine COVID year design allows for **parents & families may choose to remain virtual or to elect for hybrid in-school learning as their grade level transitions this spring**

The COVID risk continues, and we have improved understanding and deploying more tools to address this situation, continued flexibility for our AAPS families is critical.

**“What does
that look like
at my child’s
school?”**

AAPS School Checklist

- Universal use of face masks
 - Physical Distancing: 6 ft
 - Small, consistent class cohorts
 - Modified classroom design and seating
 - Cleaning and disinfecting protocols
 - Handwashing and Hygiene
 - Indoor air quality preparation
 - Health Screening
 - Adequate PPE and cleaning supplies
-
- Staff Safety Training
 - Contact tracing processes
 - Rapid antigen testing
 - Vaccination of school staff

Family Choice

AAPS families will always have the **option to remain fully virtual** through the end of 20-21 school year - these decisions can be adjusted as needed

Students who remain fully virtual will continue to receive **daily instruction remotely in much the same way they are currently experiencing**. Some adjustments are to be anticipated as teachers work within hybrid model, with students in person and some online.

Student and family needs and preferences fall across a wide continuum

Safety remains the critical priority in the return to in-person **learning**.

Family Responsibilities

In-Person Hybrid Learning Option

- **Screen your student** for symptoms each morning before sending them to school. A District screening questionnaire will be provided.
- **Keep your student home** when they are exhibiting symptoms.
- **Immediately notify** your building principal if your student or someone in the household tests positive for COVID-19. **Speak with a district contact tracer** if needed for an investigation.
- Ensure your student has a **mask and water bottle** every day. Masks will be provided to those who do not have one.
- **Be available** to pick your student up from school should they begin to show symptoms while at school.
- **Be patient** and know that hybrid plans may change from day to day to better meet the needs of our students.
- Understand that **students or staff may need to quarantine** if there is a classroom case.

Student Responsibilities

In-Person Hybrid Learning Option

- **Wear a mask at all times**, except when eating or drinking.
 - Note: Students who are unable to remove a mask independently must not wear one. For all other students, rare exceptions can be made with a doctor's note for a valid medical reason. Care and patience will be exercised for students with special needs.
- **Bring a personal water bottle** daily. (AAPS will support, if needed).
- **Follow the safety protocols to stay physically distanced** from others.
- **Monitor health status** and report symptoms immediately to an adult.

AAPS Progress

- **Students have returned for in-school learning**

Self-contained classrooms, preschool, Y5, Kinder, 1st, 2nd & 3rd whose families choose continue in-school hybrid learning

- **COVID school is a challenge**

Teachers, students, school teams & leaders are adapting admirably to hybrid learning - continue to refine protocols - & there is joy & happiness in the return to in-school learning

Understand concerns re: hybrid approach - this is the balance to allowing for some students to return to in-school hybrid learning

- **AAPS responding as COVID cases arise in school**

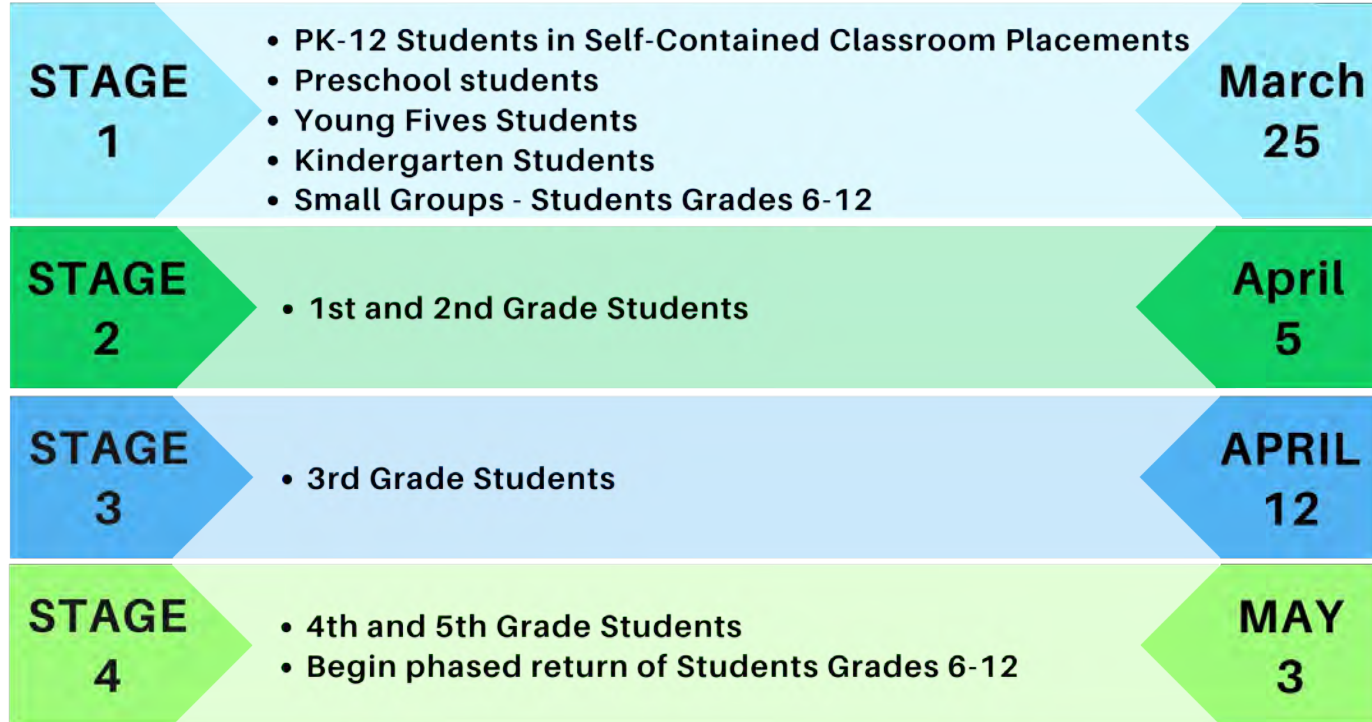
AAPS Contact Tracing team has processed cases & in close consultation with Washtenaw County Health Department team

AAPS Progress & Next Steps

- **Students who choose continue transition to in-school learning**
self-contained classrooms, preschool, Y5, Kinder, 1st, 2nd & 3rd continue in-school hybrid learning

4th - 12th grade students who choose in-school hybrid learning begin on May 3rd
- **Continue to monitor COVID cases daily & take steps as needed**
At classroom, school & district, AAPS zip codes & county levels - strategic action if/when needed
- **AAPS responding as COVID cases arise in school**
AAPS Contact Tracing team continues to process cases & in close consultation with Washtenaw County Health Department team

Stages for In School Hybrid Learning



Reminder: Additional Layers of Protection during this spring return time

- **Strongly urge Student & Family COVID Testing Prior to Return**
 - Drive-through testing events offered free of charge for families
- **Please obtain COVID vaccination - all aged 16 years+**
- **Those families who have concerns, exercise family choice for full virtual**
- **Please exercise caution with social engagement outside the home/family prior to return to school**
- **We will continue to monitor the situation daily**

AAPS Progress & Next Steps

- **All grade level students have opportunity to return for in-school learning**
self-contained classrooms, preschool, Y5, Kinder, 1st, 2nd & 3rd **continue** in-school hybrid learning

4th - 12th grade students who choose in-school hybrid learning **begin on May 3rd approximately 70% of grade 4/5 indicate they intend to return**
- **Will continue to monitor COVID cases**
At school & district, AAPS zip codes & county levels
- **AAPS & WCHD respond as COVID cases arise in school**
AAPS Contact Tracing team continues to process cases & in direct consultation with Washtenaw County Health Department team

AAPS Next Steps Summer, 2021

Robust AAPS Summer Learning Program

Enrollment NOW Open!

- **Special Education Programming**
 - Include Extended School Year & recovery services for students with special needs
- **Elementary, Middle & High School Programs**
- **Virtual and In-School Learning Opportunities**
- **Most all programming is free of charge for AAPS students**
- **Full Rec & Ed Summer Enrichment programming**

AAPS Next Steps Fall, 2021

- **Full Fall, 2021 Back to School Opening**
5 days per week in-school learning
quality AAPS teachers & staff, academic programs,
world languages, performing & visual arts & sciences
Early childhood through 12th
- **Spring enrollment continue in progress -**
Kinder round-ups occurred during March & transition
activities are now in-progress at all schools
- **No hybrid instruction** is a part of AAPS programming
for Fall, 2021
- Students & families will continue to have the choice
of a fully virtual learning program

Ann Arbor Public Schools Spring Community Engagement

As we prepare for a full reopening of our schools on August 30, 2021, please share what you are most hopeful for that we should prioritize in our planning and work



AAPS COVID-19 Status Update

Jenna Bacolor, MPH, LMSW
Executive Director, Community Division

CDC Indicators & Thresholds for Community Transmission

[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#mitigation-strategies](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#mitigation-strategies)

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19¹

Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

NAATs = nucleic acid amplification tests (PCR tests)

CDC: Washtenaw County Data

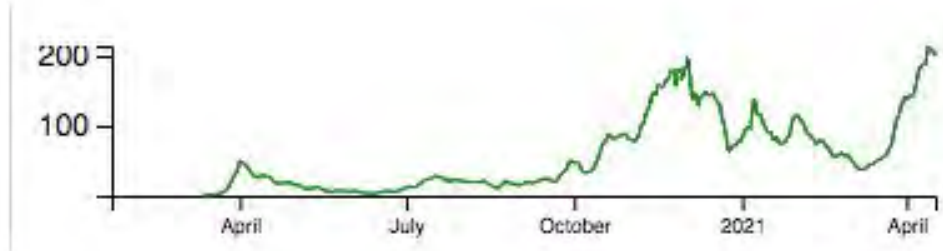
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view>

As of Friday, April 16, 2021 (latest data available as of April 20)

High Transmission Red
≥100
≥10.0%

7 day total cases
1392, or
378.67 per 100K

↑ 6.5 % change



Low Transmission Blue
0-9
<5.0%

Percent positivity
4.31%

↓ -0.64 % change



AAPS COVID-19 Case Dashboard

Per MDHHS requirements, the dashboard only includes cases that were on a school campus during their infectious period. These cases go through the AAPS Contact Tracing process and may lead to quarantine for students/staff.

Updates for the Week of April 12-18			
Total New Cases This Week:	12		
New Individuals in Quarantine	30		
* cases and quarantines are only those reported to AAPS			
Location	New Student Cases	New Staff Cases	New Contracto Cases

<https://www.a2schools.org/casedashboard>

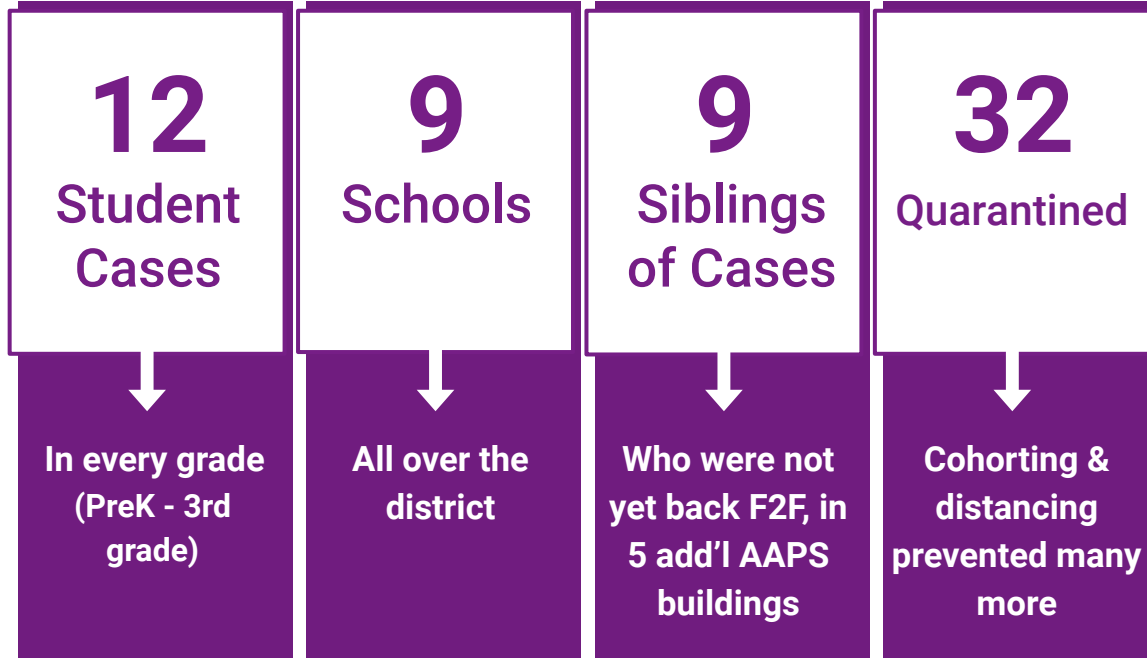
- The dashboard is updated as soon as there is a new confirmed case and communication has gone out to the school community. It may be updated multiple times in one day.
- Cases are recorded by school and by type of case (student, staff, contractor).
- At the end of the week (Mon. - Sun.), the totals are saved and a new sheet is created.
- Be cautious making interpretations.
- *We understand there other cases involving students and staff who have not been on campus.*

AAPS COVID-19 Case Dashboard - Report

Week	Student Cases	Staff Cases	Contractor Cases	Weekly Total Cases	Total Schools* with cases
April 5-11	3	3	1	7	5
April 12-18	9	0	3	12	9
April 19-25 <i>as of 4/21</i>	4	1	1	4	6

*Includes transportation (bus) cases.

Deeper dive: What are we learning from elementary student cases, April 5-21?



Elementary staff cases in the same time period: 4

What we've learned:

- A case at one school will impact several other schools if all siblings are infected.
- Many students have mild symptoms that may look like allergies, especially at the beginning
- Most parents were conscientious, but a few sent their child to school even when a parent was symptomatic or had tested positive, or when a sibling had stayed home ill.

Parents as Partners in Preventing COVID-19 Transmission at School

THANK YOU for everything you're doing to keep your student and schools safe!

As we move forward with plans to bring more students back F2F, parents can continue to be strong partners by:

- Pre-screening their child daily with questionnaire - *update coming soon*
- Keeping all students home if anyone in the household shows symptoms or tests (+)
- Letting your principal know ASAP if there's a case in your household or student, and answering the call from a school nurse
- Understanding that despite all efforts at physical distancing, your student may need to quarantine based on a classroom case. WCHD determines details of any quarantine needed.
- Contacting your school nurse with questions - bit.ly/NurseCareCorner

What to Expect as More Grades Return to F2F Learning Spring, 2021

- Continued vigilance with Super Six mitigation measures
- Encouragement for students & unvaccinated staff & parents to get tested regularly as an additional tool
- More community vaccination opportunities for students 16+
- Virtual days may be needed as cases arise in order to complete case investigations
- Continued encouragement to avoid in-person, indoor socializing with people outside your household

COVID-19 Testing: Report from Pioneer Drive-Thru

By the numbers

- 522 rapid antigen tests, 13 positive
- 47 PCR tests given, 10 positive
- Unduplicated positives = 16/569 or 2.8% positivity

Successes

- We saw lots of Driveline hang tags and cars full of families getting tested
- Thank you AAPS families & community!

Challenges

- Long lines and wait times
- MDHHS contractor cut off line early (it was reopened)
- PCR was nasopharyngeal swab; some decided not to test because of this specimen collection method



COVID Testing at Pioneer HS, Sun., April 18

COVID-19 Testing: Next Steps

More opportunities for students and staff

- Partnering with LynxDx for rapid, painless PCR testing
- Improved process flow to reduce wait times
- Individuals can choose to share their results with district

Continued high school athletic antigen testing

- Required by MDHHS for athletic participation
- Mapping cases to siblings in the district

Additional antigen testing available for HS students

- For example, Marching band and flag

→ Watch your email ←

**Huron High School
Drive-thru PCR (saliva)
Saturday, April 24
12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.**

Details coming soon

Offered in partnership with LynxDx



Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention

Updated Mar. 19, 2021 Languages Print

Summary of Recent Changes

Updates as of March 19, 2021

- Revised physical distancing recommendations to reflect at least 3 feet between students in classrooms and provide clearer guidance when a greater distance (such as 6 feet) is recommended.
- Clarified that ventilation is a component of strategies to clean and maintain healthy facilities.
- Removed recommendation for physical barriers.
- Clarified the role of community transmission levels in decision-making.
- Added guidance on interventions when clusters occur.

As levels of community transmission increase, schools should further strengthen prevention strategies and monitor cases to reassess decisions.

Despite careful planning and consistent implementation of prevention strategies, some situations may lead school officials to consider temporarily closing schools or parts of a school to in-person instruction.

In communities that have rapid or persistent rises in COVID 19 incidence or severe healthcare capacity burden, school leaders may decide to temporarily close schools to in-person instruction until levels of community transmission stabilize.