

2021-4-9

Each week the Rooks County Administrative Team reviews the current COVID-19 data. One of our means of communicating within the county involves daily updates in the “Rooks County Schools Educational Setting COVID-19 Dashboard.” We review five sources of data including daily student absenteeism, county two-week percent positivity rate, county two-week incident rate, county week-by-week trend, and Rooks County Health Center hospital capacity availability. Rooks County currently has no active cases of COVID-19 in the county. This week the absenteeism rate is at 0.0% above the baseline from 2019-2020, and the positive testing rate is at 2.2% this week.

Information from the dashboard places each of the five sources of data into a colored zone, either green, yellow, or red, with green serving as the best possible zone. In addition, USD 270 developed a school safety phases matrix to determine the appropriate phase for each week based upon the information from the dashboard. In this document, there are four phases of the matrix, which include criteria for each of the phases. This matrix has been our guiding document as we have navigated through the pandemic this year. On Monday of this week, the county hit green in each of the data sources on the dashboard. Therefore, our team has determined the data supports making a safe transition in our USD 270 Plainville Navigating Change Competency Based Learning and School Safety Operation Phase Matrix.

Starting Monday, April 12, 2021, USD 270 Plainville will transition to Phase 2 Minor Restrictions. Components of Phase 2 include monitoring temperatures, practicing social distancing, practicing hand hygiene, continuing regular disinfection of classrooms and facilities, and utilizing assigned seating when applicable. In Phase 2 face coverings are recommended but not required.

School districts in the county will continue **in-person for the week of April 12-16, 2021**. If there is any adjustment required to the learning setting due to concerns in the schools, we will update your family quickly following a decision.

At this time all staff at USD 270 Plainville who wanted the vaccination have had the opportunity to receive it. If you are interested in getting on the list to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, please call the health department or your primary care physician. Rooks County also has the ability to offer the Pfizer vaccination to young adults ages 16 and older. If you would like your child(ren) to receive the vaccination, please contact your local health care provider or click on the link to submit your request. postrock.us/studentvax

In addition to reviewing the data, district administrators are involved in multiple meetings on a weekly basis with local and state educational consultants and local health care professionals. Based on these conversations and the available information, we will continue to make decisions on a weekly basis in the best interest of students, staff, and communities.

Without a doubt, this has been a very challenging time for everyone. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from our parents/guardians and communities. Throughout our schools, students and staff have been very cooperative and understanding. They are willing to do whatever it takes to keep our communities safe and to remain in school. It has truly been a team effort, and we appreciate your role in this process. We are thankful to reach this point in the year and to move into Phase 2. As long as the data supports this phase, we should be able to continue these practices. If we determine the need to transition to another phase based upon the data, we will let you know as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact an administrator in your district.