



Press Release: Monday, January 10, 2022

Regarding GFPS School Closure:

Great Falls Public Schools has been monitoring the COVID-19 spread since school started. This morning information was shared with the District COVID-19 Task Force that the number of COVID-19 infected students and staff has skyrocketed over the weekend. Today we have over 125 staff out on COVID related illness. Our substitute fill rate was below 46%, which meant that there were roughly 54 classrooms without substitutes across the district. The total number of students and staff that are confirmed COVID Positive as of 12:00 noon today was at 185 individuals. That is the highest number of infections that we have experienced this year to date. The inability to cover classes adequately has prompted an analysis of the data regarding the infection rates in our schools and the recent upward trend in the community transmission rates over the past week, the recommendation of the Task Force is that **ALL GFPS SCHOOLS will be closed for the remainder of this week beginning, Tuesday, January 11th through Monday, January 17, 2022 (MLK Holiday). We will continue to monitor infection rates and hopefully, resume regular classes on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. This temporary closure will allow adequate time for staff to recover and return to work. In addition, the closure will reduce the rate of spreading infections.**

During this time all students will move to remote learning. Students and teachers will communicate via email, remote websites and the telephone. High School Students who are concerned about semester exams will be notified by their teachers for plans for their finals. If parents have questions about student assignments, please contact your child's teacher or the school administration at their school. School Offices will be open for regular school hours during this closure.

Meals will be available to all enrolled students from 11:00-12:30 at Paris. They will be distributed from the kitchen entrance on 25th Street. Limited options of cold meals will be provided along with a breakfast for the following day on Tuesday, January 11 through Friday, January 14, 2022.

Parents, staff and students are reminded to monitor your health and wellbeing each day. If you are feeling sick and/or exhibiting any flu-like symptoms, please stay home and contact your health care provider. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Students, with parent consent, and staff can access rapid tests at most schools and at the Community drive-through testing center at the Fair Grounds. <https://www.alluvionhealth.org/covid-19/>

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this memo, please contact your school administrator.