



220 N Wisconsin St  
Conrad, MT 59425

406-278-5521  
conradschools.org

9/27/2020

Conrad Public Schools Positive COVID-19 Cases

Conrad Students, Families, Staff, and Community Members:

On September 25 & 26, 2020, the Conrad Public School District was notified that several staff members and students had tested positive for COVID-19. The positive tests are currently being confirmed at the state level. According to the Pondera County Health Department, many of the District's staff and students were in contact with these staff/students during the period of possible exposure. The District is continuing to work with the Health Department to go through the contact tracing process and identifying other possible sources of exposure, positive cases, and close contacts. If your child is determined to be at risk of exposure, Pondera County Health Department will contact you about further guidance. **Current recommendations are that the District transition to remote learning over the next two weeks with a tentative return to school October 12, 2020** to help stem the outbreak within our school district and community. We will prepare as a district to make this transition while continuing to work with health officials to monitor and adjust to the situation.

With considerable work still to do in trying to determine the extent of this outbreak, we have made the decision to close school buildings Monday and Tuesday September 28 & 29, 2020 and prepare for a 2 week remote learning transition. This closure includes a suspension of all activities and athletics for the time being. Along with giving authorities and administration more time to continue working to determine the impact, this will also be time for our buildings to be properly deep cleaned and sanitized allowing our staff to prepare for transitioning to remote learning. The tentative plan is to schedule for student material pickup times on Tuesday, September 29 for remote learning and starting remote instruction Wednesday, September 30. We will continue to work in the coming hours with health officials to determine further strategies for dealing with this outbreak. At this point in time, it is important that we all prepare for a transition to remote learning for the next two weeks.

We would like to take this time to stress the importance of utilizing prevention strategies such as handwashing/hygiene, social distancing, and facial coverings. Any success in stemming and preventing an outbreak lies in all of our hands. In order to keep our students and staff in school and safe, it takes an improved commitment from all of us.

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and support with the current situation. Our number one priority at the school is the safety of our students and staff. We completely understand the impact of closing our buildings and take these actions very seriously. We will continue to gather information and use it to improve our prevention strategies. Please stay tuned for further detailed plans that will be released from the District and individual schools for making the transition to remote learning.

Sincerely,

Sean Beddow, Superintendent  
Conrad Public Schools