

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

11/13/2020

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Covid-19 Update

The concern is very great regarding the uncontrolled, widespread Anoka and Hennepin County Covid-19 spread.

Earlier this week I spoke to David Law about the extreme rate increase and have asked that he provide some communication to the employees of the school district in response to what decisions, if any, are being made. Later the announcement came that Distance Learning will be expanding to Elementary. We appreciate transparency and communication; I, along with field staff, will continue to urge openness through newly established weekly meetings with administration.

I will be certain to represent your interests of communication, safety and workload in continued discussions with the school board and district administration. As the superintendent and school board ultimately make the decision of an instructional model change, the board can be reached directly through email by using the board members' name similar to your email address: firstname.lastname@ahschools.us.

*AHEM members have held rallies, press releases, hosted meet and confer, attended and presented at school board meetings, and AHEM will continue to advocate for our members any way we can. If you have any further questions, please email me, and I will bring your concerns forward.
Valerie.Holthus@edmn.org*

Thank you for voting!

Electoral results continue to be finalized, but no matter what the makeup of the state Legislature or U.S. Congress, educators vote, even while teaching, learning and supporting students during a pandemic.

Unfortunately, we will not have a pro-public education majority in the Minnesota Senate. However, we held onto that majority in the Minnesota House.

We also have sent our U.S. Senator Tina Smith back to Washington, D.C., with a solid congressional delegation to support her. And of course, President-elect Joe Biden has already shared that his wife, an educator, will make sure education and educators have a strong advocate in the White House!

What's next?

We know our work is not done. When our leaders are sworn in, we need to hold them accountable for the funding and support needed to reach our goal of providing a world-class education to all of our students — this legislative session or in future sessions.



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Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP)

WE HAVE THE POWER!

The PEIP committee has started to meet and have heard from the State of MN's PEIP Coordinator, and also Education Minnesota's PEIP expert. At their Wednesday night meeting this week they heard from Presidents of other locals who are members of PEIP.

Please contact
Laura.bratland@edmn.org if you would like to participate on the insurance organizing committee.



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Recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)
Covid case rates have shown an increase in both counties since the last reporting period.

In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

MN Dept. of Health: Case Rates per 10,000, Based on 14-day Case Rate, Updated 11/5/20

10/11 – 10/24: Anoka County, 48.70 Hennepin County, 34.25

jwolfson.shinyapps.io: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 14-day Case Rate by County
Updated 11/11/2020

Anoka: 127 Hennepin County 78.1

A Letter from Minnesota Department of Health Commissioner

November 9, 2020

To: Anoka County Elected Officials

I am writing to make sure you are aware that Anoka County currently has a COVID positivity rate of greater than 5%. This rate reflects the number of COVID-19 tests that were positive over the total number of tests performed in your county during the most recent 14-day period prior to a one week lag period to assure data completeness...

Having a positivity rate above 5% means the spread of the virus in your county has reached a concerning level. Higher rates of virus transmission in the community increase the risk for all members of your community, including residents and staff in long-term care (LTC) facilities...

We all need to pull together. Halting community spread is critical for successfully preventing COVID-19 infections and deaths. Your leadership and partnership are important in this effort. We share your commitment to ensuring the health and well-being of your community's residents and we thank you for all that you are doing to help protect Minnesotans.

Sincerely,
Jan Malcolm Commissioner of Health



Veteran's Day Statement from AFL/CIO President, Richard Trumka

This Veterans Day, we honor those who served by not just displaying important symbols, but by being active participants in the American democracy that so many have sacrificed to protect. Patriotism is more than waving the Stars and Stripes; it's about casting a vote, helping our communities, exercising our rights and protecting the Constitution.

As we prepare to write the next chapter in America's history, let us never forget our veterans, and the more than 1 million active union members, who have protected and served our country. The labor movement honors all those who wore the uniform of the United States, and we thank you for your service.

History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”

-U.S. Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

Besides the First World War ending, the Women's suffrage movement was in full swing, prohibition was established, and the Chicago “Black” Sox game-fixing scandal was developing. Meanwhile, the world's most severe pandemic was raging, which was called the Spanish flu, but originated in Kansas. In contrast with 2020's pandemic, children, not older people, were the common victims. Rural America was especially hit hard. In order to reduce the child death toll, healthy children were handed over to the neighboring farm family that had not been infected. Graveyards that contain only children's gravestones can still be found randomly placed between farm fields in rural Minnesota.



Covid-19 Data Examination Team

A group of stakeholders representing several different segments of the District had their second meeting on Thursday, 11/12. This group has the task of evaluating data sets available from the County, State, and possibly other sources in order to determine which sets should be considered as the most valid for making District decisions. Participating in the group are various levels of District administration, parents, school board members, community members, county and state health officials, Val Holthus, AHEM President, and Verna Wong, AHEM member and Anoka Hennepin Teachers of Color Coalition Co-Chair.

New executive order addresses prep time, workload.

Gov. Tim Walz has signed Executive Order 20-94, which makes technical adjustments to the Safe Learning Plan outlined in Executive Order 20-82.

To reflect this change and provide further guidance, the Minnesota Department of Education updated the 2020-21 Planning Guidance for Minnesota Public Schools and the Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 School Year.

The order provides some much-needed relief for the excessive workload demands placed on teachers during this pandemic. The order explicitly states:

*Teachers are stretched too thin. We must relieve pressures on schools and educators to allow for capacity and resources to focus on students' learning needs. **District and charter schools should implement teaching and learning environments that do not require teachers to provide instruction simultaneously to students who are in person and those that are learning remotely. [Emphasis added.]***

The order attempts to address this concern by stating:

[S]chool districts and charter schools are strongly encouraged to consult with their local bargaining unit to create a teaching and learning environment that allows teachers to provide asynchronous instruction to students who are in-person and students who are learning remotely. School districts and charter schools may consider other models of hybrid learning schedules that allow teachers to most effectively meet the needs of students both in person and remotely.

The order also provides for an additional 30 minutes per day of preparation time for teachers during the instructional day.

Executive Order 20-94 requires that the instructional day include 30 minutes per day to allow reasonable teacher preparation time for any teacher providing distance or hybrid instruction (whether as part of the school's model, or because they have at least one student that has opted into distance learning). This does not increase the length of the instructional day reported, rather directs how 30 minutes per day are used by teachers. Teachers are not expected to provide instruction during these 30 minutes. The 30 minutes is in addition to any preparation time which the teacher is entitled to in their collective bargaining agreement in compliance Minnesota Statutes Section 122A.50.

PD News

Professional development resources
for Education Minnesota members



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NEW LearnUpon courses
Education Minnesota is adding new courses to our online learning platform LearnUpon on a regular basis.

Am Latest offerings: an LGBTQ+ introductory training.

p Improve your professional practice, earn CEU credits for relicensure and build your union understanding and from the comfort of your home.

English learner conference

Register now for the seventh annual Minnesota English Learner Education Conference.

[MELEd 2020](#)

Nov. 20-21

Online sessions

Hosted by MinneTESOL and the Minnesota Department of Education. CEUs and scholarships available.

AFT online PD resources

AFT's Share My Lesson has dozens of new professional development webinars -- available now, for free -- to help educators navigate this new learning landscape.

Topics include: Educator health and wellness

- Distance and hybrid learning models
- Social emotional learning
- Engagement strategies

Find links to these webinars and more on the [Share My Lesson website](#).

NEA online PD webinars

The NEA is regularly hosting webinars to help educators navigate this new, stressful environment and connect with students. Here is the next live session:

[Fighting Privatization in a Time of Crisis](#) 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19



The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Expires on December 31 establishes two separate and temporary paid leave laws, which run from April 1 – Dec. 31: the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. These laws provide emergency paid sick leave and some partially paid parental leave protections to eligible employees who need to provide care to their children because of school and child care closures.

Contact Employee Services to access these programs.

Retirement Congratulations !

Scott Birkliid, Anoka High School

Danette Dempsey, McKinley Elementary

Doug Dye, McKinley Elementary

Patty Halsey, Anoka-Hennepin Technical High School

Ann Phillippi, Anoka Middle School – Washington

Cheryl Rademacher, Educational Service Center

Mary Schantzen, Rum River Elementary

Karen Sherga, Coon Rapids High School

Pam Schwandt, Roosevelt Middle School

Kristy Silverdahl, Andover High School

It's Friday the 13th!

Why is this date so unlucky?

One theory is Hammurabi's ancient code of 282 laws of justice (1810 BC) doesn't contain a 13th law.

Another theory is according to the Christian faith, there were 13 guests attending the Last Supper, which was held on Maundy Thursday. The 13 guests included Jesus, and Judas (his betrayer) and 11 other disciples. The next day, on Good Friday, was the day of Jesus' crucifixion.

Since there were 13 guests at the Last Supper, having 13 guests at the table was considered a bad omen, and so the unlucky 13 carried over to other fears of 13, such as buildings without a 13th floor.

The Fear of the number 13 is called triskaidekaphobia.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- American Education Week – Nov. 16-20
- AHEM Representative Assembly – Mon., Nov. 16, 4:45 pm, Virtual
- School Board Work Session – Mon., Nov. 16, 5:30 pm, ESC
- School Board Meeting – Mon., Nov. 23, 6:30 pm, SEC
- No School, Conference Conversion Day – Wed., Nov. 25
- District Closed, Thurs. and Fri., Nov. 26 – 27
- End of Trimester 1, Fri., Dec. 4
- No Students, Staff Planning and Grading Day, Mon., Dec. 7

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