

Dear Parents and Caregivers of Students Receiving In-Person Services,

This communication is specific to parents and caregivers of children receiving any form of in-person special education or related services. Due to current coronavirus infection rates in Madison and Dane County, as a precaution, the District is closing all MSCR Cares childcare sites for the two weeks after Thanksgiving break and rear opening on December 14. Because of the limited number of students, our ability to compartmentalize/physically separate and use medical grade personal protective equipment (PPE), this closure will **not** impact students with disabilities who receive in-person special education services. Our highest priority is maintaining the health and safety of our students, staff and community. While I respect any decision you make regarding travel and/or gathering with loved ones, I ask you to seriously consider the recent guidance from Public Health regarding a safe return to school.

Public Health Holiday Gathering Recommendation:

If you attend any kind of gathering this Thanksgiving, you should stay home for 14 days after the event and monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms. If you are not able to quarantine before or after an event, then do not attend. Given the current spread of the virus in our communities, we urge everyone to not gather for Thanksgiving this year and to celebrate virtually instead. If you are going to gather no matter what, then we urge you to follow as many precautions as possible to slow the spread of COVID-19. Through our individual actions, we can protect our health care systems this holiday season. For more information and data about COVID-19, visit [Public Health Madison & Dane County's website](#).

Our goal is to ensure each student with a disability has access to a free appropriate public education and abiding by the Public Health recommendations we will minimize virus spread and subsequent closures/quarantining periods. If you decide to voluntarily self quarantine your children, please inform school staff so appropriate instructional/materials arrangements can be made.

We want to ensure all students have access to nutritious meals they would otherwise receive in childcare. Here is [this week's adjusted meal delivery schedule](#). Next week, the [normal food delivery schedule](#) will resume.

Since the outset of this pandemic, the health and safety of our students, staff and families have been at the center of our decision making. Looking ahead, we will continue to work with local health officials to assess conditions in order to make decisions about any future closures. We will continue to work hard to inform you of those decisions as far in advance as possible.

I wish you a safe and restful holiday and at the same time strongly encourage you to follow [guidance from Public Health Madison & Dane County](#) in celebrating this season of gratitude.

Sincerely,

John Harper, Ph.D, Executive Director, Student Services