



Dear Red Caboose School Age Families:

Due to current coronavirus infection rates in Madison and Dane County, as a precaution, the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) decided yesterday to close all childcare sites, including our Red Caboose site at Lapham Elementary School, for the two weeks after Thanksgiving break. We expect to reopen Monday, December 14.

According to MMSD, this very difficult decision comes after careful consideration of current COVID-19 rates as well as review of Public Health Madison & Dane County's recommendation of avoiding gatherings and traveling for Thanksgiving. With some still planning to gather or travel for the Thanksgiving holiday, MMSD was not confident that childcare programs within MMSD facilities could safely reopen and operate following the extended holiday weekend.

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:

<http://publichealthmdc.com/coronavirus>

Staff worked with students yesterday to ensure everyone took home the instructional materials they need to learn virtually from home, including their Chromebook. MMSD teachers are being notified that students attending the Red Caboose program will be transitioning to virtual learning from home until December 14.

We want to ensure all students have access to nutritious meals they would otherwise receive in childcare. You can find an [adjusted meal delivery schedule here](#). 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 MMSD and local health officials to assess conditions in order to make decisions about any future closures. We remain committed to informing you of those decisions as far in advance as possible.

We wish you a safe and restful holiday and strongly encourage you to follow guidance from Public Health Madison & Dane County as you celebrate the season of gratitude.

Sincerely,

Jason Anderson
Executive Director

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