



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CRUSADER COMEBACK 2020



We are grateful for your questions (shared to: ehscovid19questions@edgewoodhs.org or to the President's or Principal's email accounts). We're in a pandemic! Nothing is certain! We're constantly adjusting to changing conditions inside school and in the wider community.

Your Questions and our Answers are here! We'll update once-twice weekly
(depending on the volume and frequency of questions we receive):

Tuesday, September 22

Pandemic-related Questions & Answers:

1. Dane County stated that for school to open for high school that the average daily test county must be below 19 cases per day for FOUR consecutive weeks. Why is Edgewood not using THAT metric?
2. Why are we following the now-defunct and arbitrary Dane County order?

As you can see from the two previous questions, our community is divided and shares strong opinions about what metric to use, why to use it, how to use it, and when to use it.

Public Health Madison Dane County is using the modeling of the Harvard Global Health Institute which has been the established model for states and nations to track COVID cases and rates of infection, as well as other variables related to pandemic management. Local public health agencies are the most informed and updated resources for public health crises.

The PHMDC Order is still in effect, with the exception of the provision related to school closure. There are also specific requirements for policies, procedures and postings with which the school must comply.

3. Could you point me to what tool/website you are using to track the percent positives? I see so many different numbers online. I want to have the same view that you do on these numbers.
4. I wasn't clear if your standard is a 5% or less report for each day, and therefore one day of a number above 5% will resent the count, even if other days have registered in the 2-3% range. Also, do you use the number that they initially report each day, or do you use the adjusted numbers as they go back in time to update testing percentages? If you go back in time, how long do you wait for the numbers to adjust?

We are using the Public Health Madison Dane County [COVID-19 data snapshot](#). This snapshot is updated every Thursday evening, and we are also looking at the daily and 7-day average positivity rate trends on the same website, [linked here](#).

5. Is a 5% positive rate a realistic measure when the UW students are now back in Dane County? Is anyone else using that as a measure to go back to school? Where did that measure come from?

That measure is from the Public Health Madison Dane County tools, shared above. This was the threshold the Board agreed to follow.

6. Will we receive regular communications about your assessment of the data? Or will communications only come as these standards are met?
7. Is there a date for when we go back to school?

We are watching the data every day, looking at daily cases and trends, as the links above lay out. Our plan is to send out email responses and post them on our website twice per week, answering the questions posed to the board and administration via email and voicemail.

8. My children still do not have their open mods replaced with study halls nor have they received any training on the requisite measures and rules for in-person instruction. At this point I am beginning to question Edgewood's commitment to in-person instruction.

We are finalizing groupings for when in-person instruction begins, along with a communication plan to inform students and parents of the new schedule, when it takes effect. Because the in-person schedule expands the cycle, with two meetings for each cycle day (with half the school meeting each of the two days), it will look very different from the current schedule. We will share the in-person schedule along with directions about how to use it when we have confirmed the first day of in-person instruction, based on the data. We will hold an orientation day for all students, in socially distanced small groups and in masks, to learn safety protocols and routines to transition between virtual and in-person instruction (9th graders and transfer students in the morning and upperclassmen in the afternoon). We will share the logistics for the orientation day when the date for in-person learning is confirmed.

9. If the numbers EHS is using do not allow for in-person classes to reopen, will this impact fall sports? Will they have to close as well? I hope there are not two standards for education and for sports. The Crusader Comeback pledge asks all families not to travel. Does this mean athletes traveling to their sporting events for Edgewood's season will not be allowed at in-person classes for two weeks after their last outing?

EHS athletics and extracurricular activities are designed to comply with federal, state and local guidance, orders, and best practices, as well as the Crusader Covenant.

The nature of "travel" relevant to our athletes and other participants in EHS extracurricular is not the type of "travel" that is anticipated by Edgewood, CDC, or PHMDC travel guidance. Extracurricular travel is transportation to and from extracurricular events, maintaining a contact-traceable bubble. The travel to which Edgewood, CDC and PHMDC refer is recreational travel, generally overnight stays out of area, whether in or out of state.

School-related Questions & Answers:

10. I am curious: why are the breaks between classes still only five minutes for virtual learning?

Though we're in a virtual instructional model, the state Department of Public Instruction has mandatory minutes of instruction for the school year. We can't extend passing time without losing instructional minutes. However, we have worked as a faculty to incorporate breaks into classes, and we encourage you and your child to let teachers and counselors know if those breaks would be helpful.

11. My daughter is finding herself overwhelmed with work, after long hours on the screen. How can you help?

We are working across the school to reduce, if not eliminate homework (except for during asynchronous time). Math teachers and Advanced Placement teachers have the need to assign some reading/problem solving outside of class, but if your child has a significant load of work, please have him or her contact her teacher(s) and counselor to problem solve. We know that school at home is work!

12. Once we return to hybrid learning, it was stated that the 6-day cycle will take 12 days to complete. Does this mean that less material will be covered during the year? How will the expectations change for the kids choosing to stay completely virtual?
13. What will happen with students like mine who will not return to school for in-person learning this year? Will the teachers continue to offer synchronous learning for them?

Instruction in virtual and hybrid models looks different than traditional school when all students and teachers are present together. Colleges and universities know that -- instruction is different on their campuses too. Content coverage, relationship-building, connecting, and pacing of instruction are all modified whether we're virtual or in-person, half the school at a time.

When the in-person instructional model begins, all students will be assigned to a group of students to "attend" school with -- for the students who remain virtual, they'll "attend" virtually with a consistent group of students every other day. Teachers will repeat their lessons twice.

On the day that students are not "attending" school with their group (whether in person or virtual), they'll be doing asynchronous class work at home to deepen their content knowledge of the course's topics.

14. If some faculty continue remotely, will you need supervisors in their classrooms to help manage the in-person class?

We have hired and are training surrogates to support students in classrooms for the teachers who can't be in person. The surrogates will be trained in classroom management, student support, and technology problem solving.

15. I see that parent-teacher conferences are coming up. Will there be in-person and virtual options for those conferences?

For the first conferences of the year, scheduled for October 8-9, we will plan for all virtual meetings with teachers. More information on how to sign up for conferences will be shared in Inside Edge Sunday and by email next week.