

November 10, 2020

Dear Families,

As many of you know, Central District Health released a category change for Valley County, moving the county to Category 3 or "red." I'd like to offer some additional information on what that means and how it will impact our district.

Last night, the McCall-Donnelly School Board met for its regular November meeting and the Board reviewed guidance from Central District Health that was released in October. The guidance "supports schools operating with some level of in-person learning despite the Category 3 designation." Our MD Board supported that guidance, allowing schools to continue a hybrid model of in-person learning after analyzing local conditions but with a few changes that are outlined below.

Here is what it means and how it will impact the McCall-Donnelly School District:

- All extra-curricular activities are temporarily suspended until Valley County returns to Category 2.
- Facility use by outside organizations is suspended.
- Safety measures remain in place, including all mitigation strategies.

We are exercising the highest level of caution as we manage in-person instruction. Here are some of the strategies and solutions we are using:

- 100% of McCall-Donnelly HVAC systems are being retrofitted to reduce particulates through a targeted ion solution. The estimated completion date is November 13<sup>th</sup>. For the schools that have already been retrofitted, the system is working!
- McCall-Donnelly HVAC systems already have CO2 monitoring in place. This draws in fresh air when CO2 levels are detected, which functions to exchange air within schools throughout the day.
- Face coverings and masks are required, per our pandemic operational plans.
- 6' physical distancing is maintained, per our pandemic operational plans.
- Schools and classrooms are sanitized throughout the day.

Thank you for your efforts to keep our community safe! We know that this involves sacrifices. We cannot wait to get past this pandemic and return to normal! Your sacrifices and commitment to the community are making a difference. With a collective community effort, we can return to Category 2 soon! Please see the "Frequently Asked Question" on page 2 for more detail.

Respectfully,

Jim Foudy  
Superintendent  
McCall-Donnelly School District

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **When are Category changes updated?**

Central District Health updates categories every Monday.

### **How is Category 3 determined?**

For Valley County Category 3 is defined as a case rate of 30.0 or greater. This is an average daily number of cases over a 14-day period, **per 100,000 people**. You're thinking, "Valley County doesn't have 100,000 people; not even close." You're right! We have 11,392 people living in Valley County, so we have to scale down the numbers for our local population.

When we do that, a 14-day average positive daily case rate of 3.4 or higher moves Valley County into Category 3. That's 47.6 cases within 14 days.

### **How many cases did Valley County have when we moved to Category 3?**

Valley County moved to Category 3 on 11/9/20 with an average daily case rate of 37.62 per 100,000 people. With a population of 11,392, that translates to 60 new cases in 14 days. Of the 60 cases, 6 are students or staff of McCall-Donnelly schools.

### **Is there COVID-19 transmission within McCall-Donnelly Schools?**

According to Central District Health, through contact tracing there is currently no pattern of spread within the school district.

### **How does the "targeted ion solution" work with the HVAC system?**

Every classroom, gymnasium, cafeteria, and space has a dedicated HVAC system and filter. The ion solution charges particulates effectively creating a "snowball effect" in which particulates cluster and drop to the floor or get trapped in the filter, instead of remaining suspended in air.

### **How often is the HVAC system running and filtering the air during a school day?**

Our HVAC systems are set to run and filter the air 100% of the time during a school day. Heating elements come on, as needed.

### **If an individual tests positive or is regarded as being positive, what happens next?**

Contact tracing begins. This is a series of interviews and phone calls to determine who may have been within 6 feet of the individual for 15 minutes or more. If the individual is in school at the time, they leave and quarantine at home. The district will assist the family in establishing a timeline and a plan for return to school.