

SCSBA Conference
Face-to-Face Instruction in a COVID World
February 19, 2021

Anderson School District One

- 10,000 Students, 669 Teachers, 14 Schools, Career Center (Shared with Anderson 2), Adult Ed.
- Summer Survey: 16% of families wanted virtual instruction (13% currently virtual) (approximately 300 net students moved from virtual instruction to F2F instruction since Aug. 25)
- Teachers completed survey if they had concerns with returning to F2F instruction - all were allowed to teach virtually or accommodations were implemented (total # = 15)
- Elementary returned to 5 days per week F2F instruction on August 25 (3 days staggered start)
- Secondary returned to 5 days a week F2F instruction on September 17 (Hybrid since Aug.25)
- Elementary teachers dedicated to either F2F OR virtual instruction
- Secondary teachers teach F2F and virtual synchronously (receive a stipend per student)
- Current elementary F2F class size: 17-26 (Average 22)
- Current secondary F2F class size: 17-33 (Average 24)
- Typical classroom size: 800 square feet
- 39% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 4 Title I Schools (Elementary)

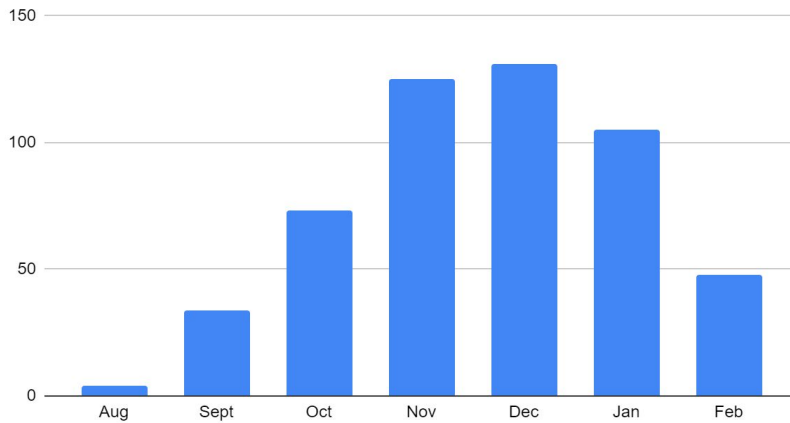
Student Stats (August 25 - February 9)

- Positive tests = 461
- “Confirmed” cases of students contracting virus at school = 4
- Quarantine (this does **not** include positive cases) = 2438
- Serious illness (requiring hospitalization) = 1

Staff (August 25 - February 9)

- Positive tests = 178
- “Confirmed” cases of staff who contracted the virus at school = 0
- Cumulative number of staff who had to quarantine at home = 111 (of the 111 employees who quarantined at home 21 eventually tested positive.
- Cumulative number of staff who quarantined at work due to exposure in the workplace = 163 (of the 163 employees who self-quarantined at work, 0 employees contracted the virus).
- Serious illnesses due to Covid-19 (requiring hospitalization) = 1

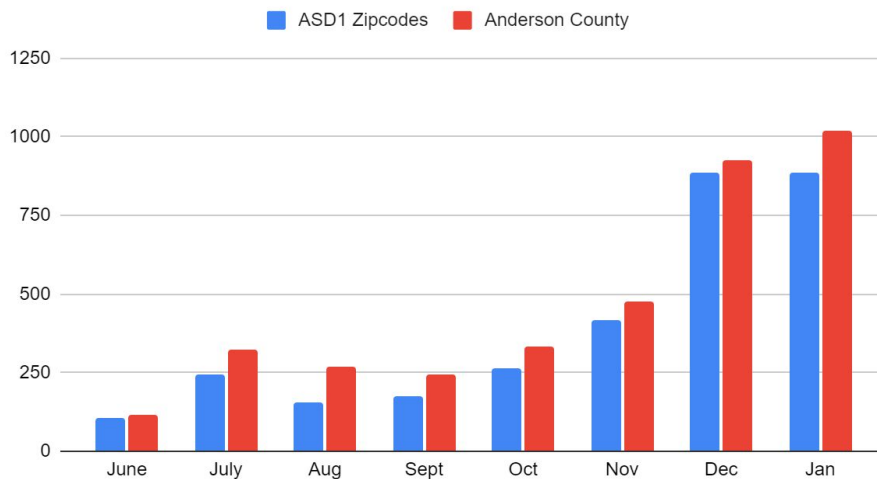
ASD1 Positive Cases (Staff & Students)



Stats (as of February 9, 2021)

- South Carolina infection rate: 13%
- Anderson County infection rate since Aug. 25: 8% (total county positives/county population)
- District infection rate since Aug. 25: 6.2% (total school positives/#F2F students & staff)

Positive Cases ASD1 Zipcodes vs Anderson County



Protocols

<https://www.anderson1.org/cms/lib/SC01000609/Centricity/Domain/1/Return%20to%20School%20Protocols.pdf>

- (Secondary) Masks worn at all times, teacher-determined mask breaks, desk shields for each student
- (Elementary) Masks worn during transition and when not behind desk shield
- Temperature checks in the AM for all students and staff (not effective for virus mitigation but makes people feel safer)

- (Elementary) Cohort students in groups of 3-4
- (Middle) Cohort as possible
- Sanitize desks/high-touch surfaces regularly (Biotab spray bottle or “fogger”)
- Wash hands regularly / use hand sanitizer
- PE classes able to participate using SCHL sports standards
- Limit cafeteria number to 50% (Mix of schools using classrooms/cafeteria)
- Prepackaged meals for those eating in cafeteria/classroom
- Elementary dismissal time moved from 2:45 to 2:00 to assist buses
- Secondary start and dismissal time moved back to assist buses
- No outside guests for lunch
- Close water fountains except the no-touch kind
- Limit volunteers in building
- Limit mass gatherings (holding areas before and after school)
- No sharing of Center/manipulatives unless disinfected

Protocols Removed

- ~~72 hour quarantine on all paper products/books~~
- ~~Students not checking out library books~~
- ~~(Elementary) Classroom book selections~~
- ~~Playground equipment closed (Cohort on Playground)~~
- ~~Do not allow shared equipment (like balls) in PE~~
- No Club meetings (Clubs may now meet with social distancing and mask wearing protocols in place)
- No celebratory food items (Individual, pre-packaged items are now permitted)

Other Notes

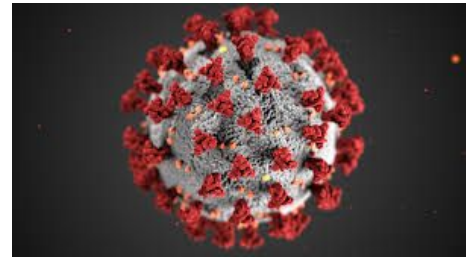
- Middle and high school students who are quarantined are able to log into their respective classes virtually because of synchronous instruction.
- Desk shields and masks (Secondary) cut down on the number of quarantines (reduces close contact from 6 to 3 feet)
- Substitute shortage has been problematic
- Synchronous instruction in secondary is hard (everyone is a first year teacher again)
- As the county cases have increased, the district cases have increased accordingly
- Weekly communication to parents/staff from superintendent regarding numbers, protocol changes, etc.
- Compliance with protocols has been exceptional
- Very supportive Board - allows district to make decisions but holds them accountable
- Health and Safety Taskforce formed to provide information to the superintendent on protocols and/or courses of action. The members include pediatricians, an epidemiologist, an infectious disease specialist and members of DHEC, Prisma Hospital System, AnMed Hospital System, Anderson County Emergency Management and Anderson School District One representatives.

Contact Info.: Robbie Binnicker, Superintendent: binnickr@apps.anderson1.org, (C) (864) 844-2328

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Anderson School District One
Nancy Upton - Board Chair
Robbie Binnicker - Superintendent



Demographics

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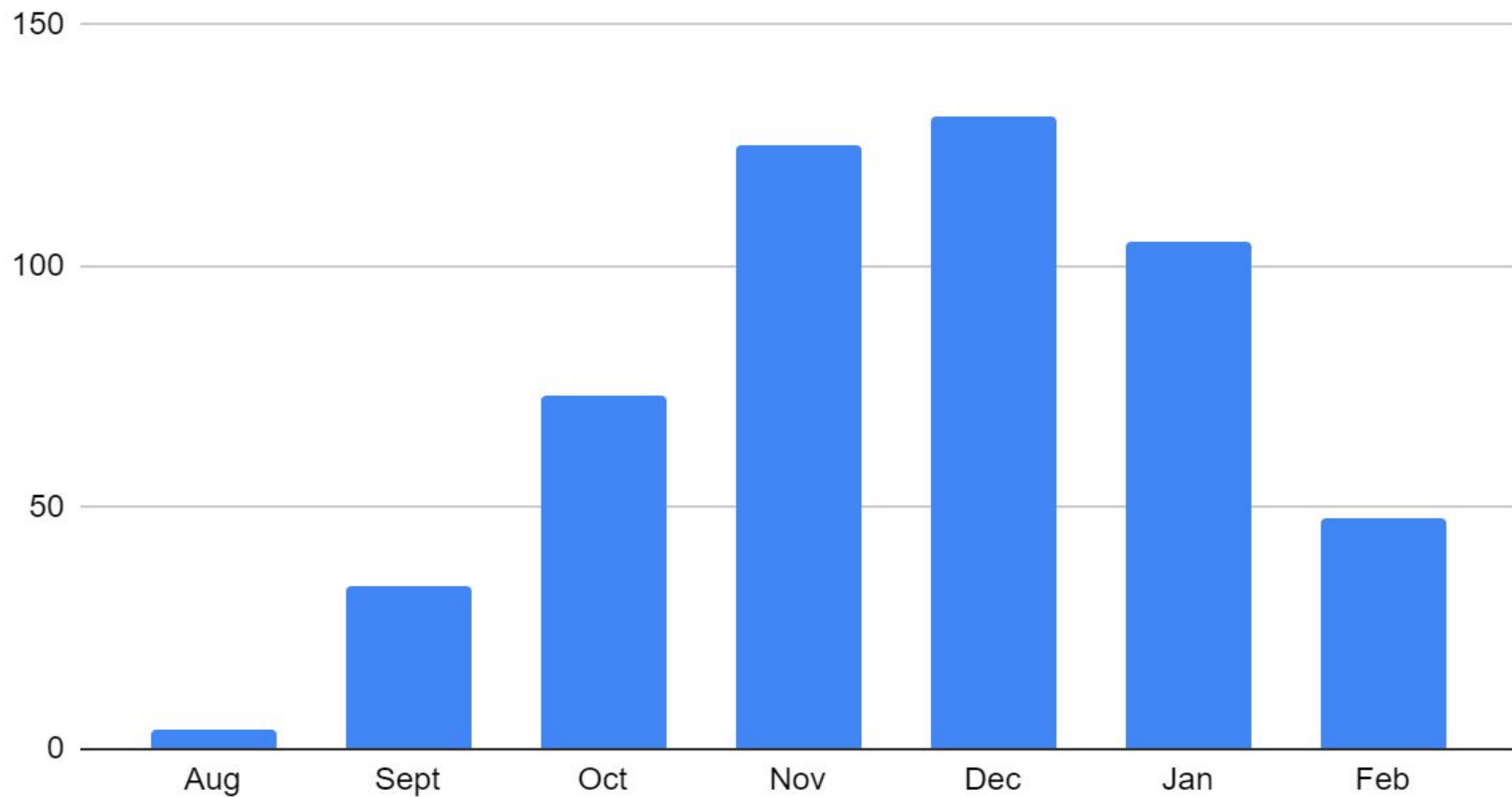


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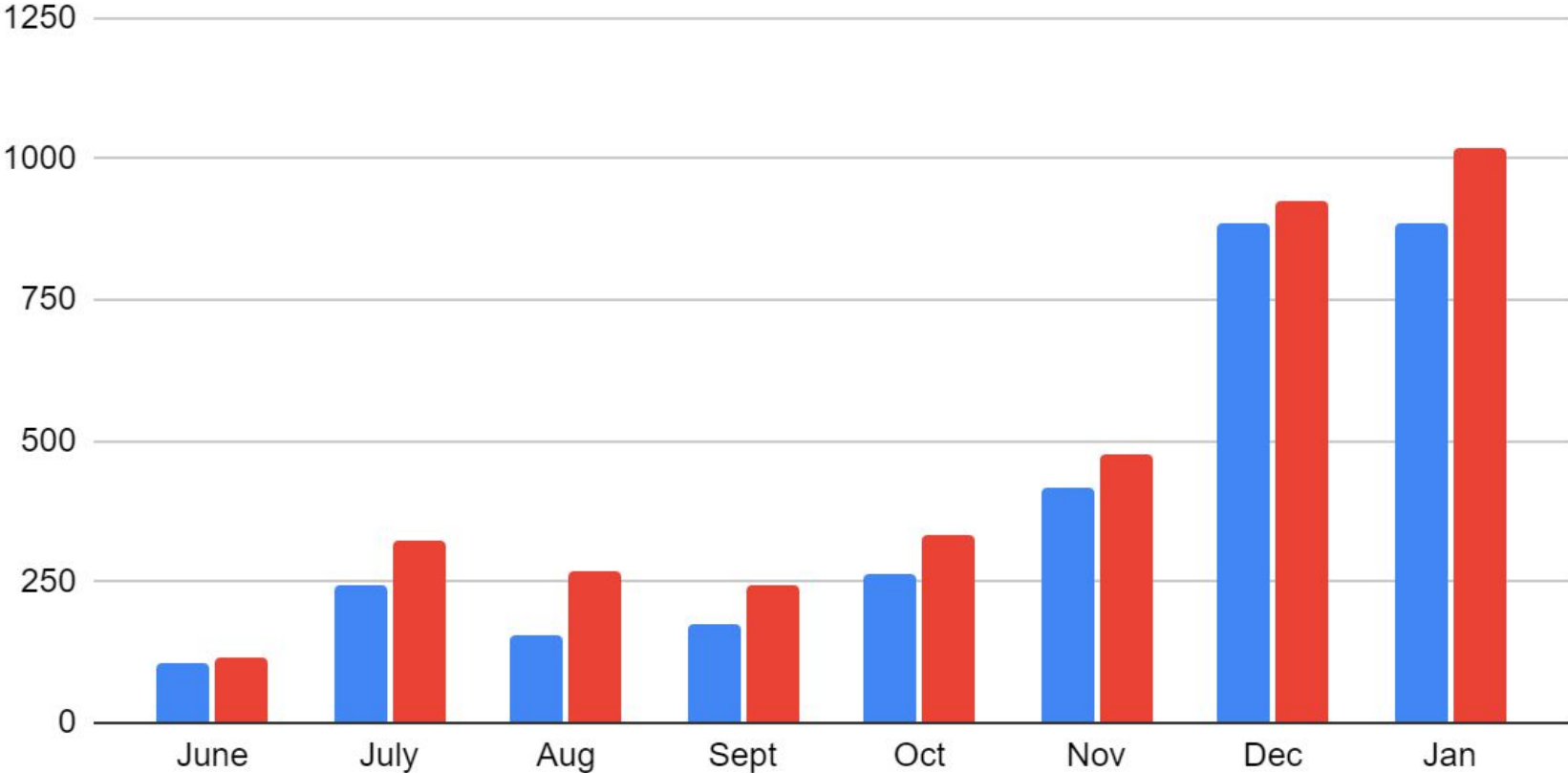
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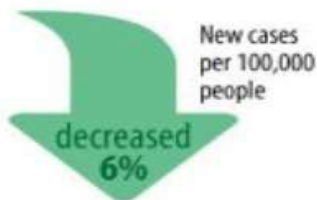
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Kansas implemented a mask mandate on July 3; some counties opted out*

Counties with a mask mandate[†]



Counties without a mask mandate[†]



CDC recommends everyone age 2 years and older wear masks in public

* Change in rate of infections July 3–9 vs. August 17–23

[†] Mandated counties (n=24); nonmandated counties (n=81)

CDC.GOV

bit.ly/MMWR112020b





MMWR

Wear a mask consistently and correctly. We can open
more safely

Wear TWO?

K-12 schools can have in-person learning with limited in-school COVID-19 spread

17 K-12 schools in rural Wisconsin opened and implemented measures to limit spread:

-  Used masks
-  Established groups of 11-20 students
-  Staff maintained 6 feet of distance, if possible
-  Quarantined after exposures

* Weekly incidence of 34 to 1,189 per 100,000 persons in the community; 7-40% positive COVID-19 tests

Teachers reported more than 92% of students used masks



During 13 weeks of in-person learning

7 of 4,876 students and

0 of 654 staff

are known to have gotten COVID-19 at school

No spread is known to have occurred to or from staff in school despite some times with high community spread*

K-12 schools can have in-person learning with limited in-school COVID-19 spread

- School-attributable COVID-19 case rates were compared with rates in the community.
- During the study period, widespread community transmission was observed,
- Masking was required for all students and staff, reported student mask-wearing was high (>92%).
- Case rates among students and staff were lower 3,453 cases per 100,000 than were those in the county overall (5,466 per 100,000).
- Among the 191 cases identified in students and staff members, one in 20 cases among students linked to in-school transmission; no infections among staff members were found to have been acquired at school.
- With proper mitigation strategies, K-12 schools might be capable of opening for in-person learning with minimal in-school transmission of SARS-CoV-2.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7004e3.htm>



South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
Healthy People. **Healthy Communities.**

Compared with children who tested negative for the virus that causes COVID-19, children who tested positive, were

More likely to have...

 Weddings	 Parties
 Playdates	 Funerals

*In the 2 weeks before the positive test



Attended child care or
school in person



Data and Policy to Guide Opening Schools Safely to Limit the Spread of SARS-CoV-2 Infection

- In JAMA, the CDC team reported, “a preponderance of available evidence” from the fall semester indicates that in-person schooling is safe as long as everyone wears a mask and follows social distancing guidelines.

Questions?



Contact Information

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