

AUGUST. District 27J made the announcement to delay the initial start date of Aug. 13, to give teachers and students time to prepare for hybrid teaching. Instead, from Aug. 18-28, grade levels were assigned specific days and then broken up into smaller cohorts for students to attend for four hours. Virtual-only students attended through Google Meet links. Students spent the time in Advisory in virtual class meetings receiving general information to start school in September.



SEPTEMBER. The first official class day for students was Sept. 1, and was a virtual day. Students and staff logged into Zooms and Google Meets from homes. The next two days were in-person days. Cohort A came in Wednesday morning and Cohort B students that afternoon. On Thursday, Cohort C arrived in the morning and Cohort D in the afternoon. When students like Ava French '24 were not in class, they completed asynchronous work. All virtual students attended on whatever day their teacher specified.

NOVEMBER. Right before Thanksgiving Break, the high school sent out a dialer and email stating that the school would be moving to a full remote setting because there were not enough staff to cover classes due to quarantines of potential exposures to Covid-19. This continued until Jan. 13, when students attended once a week in their designated cohorts.

SCHOOL



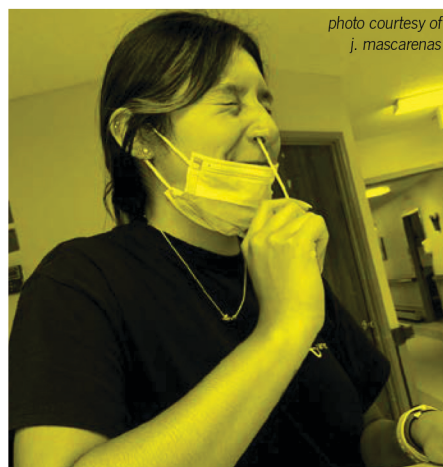
APRIL. With staff being vaccinated and Covid numbers dropping, the high school combined cohorts so students could attend two days a week. Students who were virtual all year like Shannon Brake '22 continued school from home but attended all week online.



ALAN JOHNSON '21. Employees at Arby's restaurant had to wear masks and were not able to take them off until the end of their shift. Johnson and the crew had to wear gloves at all times and wash their hands every hour. The lobby doors were open for takeout orders and glass panels were put up to protect the employees from customers.

"Asking customers to put on a mask when they came inside was hard because some people would get real upset. We had less people on a shift because of restrictions, so when we were busy, it was tough," Johnson said.

JOBS



JULISA MASCARENAS '21. Employees like Mascarenas who worked as a certified nurse assistant for Abamere had to wear a mask and gloves at all times while taking care of residents. They also had to take a Covid-19 test each week. They had to swab themselves and then the test was sent out. They would be notified the next day of results.

"Everything about getting tested is really uncomfortable. It feels weird but you get used to it. I would rather get tested weekly and make sure we aren't spreading Covid to any of the residents."

JULISA MASCARENAS '21

LEVEL RED: SEVERE RISK

On Nov. 18, Adams County moved to Level Red where the Stay at Home order went into effect. Indoor dining had to close in restaurants and only takeout or curbside delivery could occur. The high school moved all classes and activities to virtual only.

LEVEL ORANGE: HIGH RISK

A few days after New Year's on Jan. 4, Adams County was moved to Level Orange. Residents were strongly advised to stay at home. There could be no more than 10 people from two households allowed to gather. Restaurants could open up to 25% capacity with mask mandates. The high school could move back to hybrid learning on Jan. 13.

LEVEL YELLOW: CONCERN

When residents woke up on Feb. 6, they saw that Adams County moved to Level Yellow. Residents were advised to stay home. Restaurants and businesses moved to 50% capacity with mask mandates.

LEVEL BLUE: CAUTION

On April 13, Adams County moved to Level Blue. There were no regulations on capacity so all restaurants and businesses opened to full capacity with social distancing rules. Gatherings outdoors did not require masks.

LEVEL GREEN: PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORS.

Adams County moved to Level Green at the end of the school year on May 16. There were no regulations on restaurants, gyms or businesses. No masks had to be worn inside of establishments unless by choice.

STAGES

COVID-19 DIAL. Counties like Adams County could use a statewide dial framework as a model to implement their own regulations for residents to follow to control the spread of Covid-19. The dial helped counties know when certain things could open up and close down when Covid-19 cases began to rise or decline.

According to Tri-County Health Department, the dial was determined by: new cases (how much the virus is circulating in a county), percent positivity (whether there is sufficient Covid-19 testing to capture the level of virus transmission) and impact on hospitalizations (whether hospitalizations are increasing, stable, or declining).



TRAVEL

CELESTE TARI '22. Travel was not recommended for a majority of the year, but it did start to open up around the time Tari and her family traveled to Disney World in Florida from April 14-19. People had to wear masks while sitting on the plane. The middle seats were open during this time.

"Disney was extremely organized during Covid and their protocols were very effective. What was different was that you always had to wear a mask unless you were standing in place and eating or drinking. You did have to wear a mask on every single ride, but I didn't mind because I got used to it. On the rides everyone was socially distanced as well. They were only at 25% capacity and they weren't busy at all," Tari said.

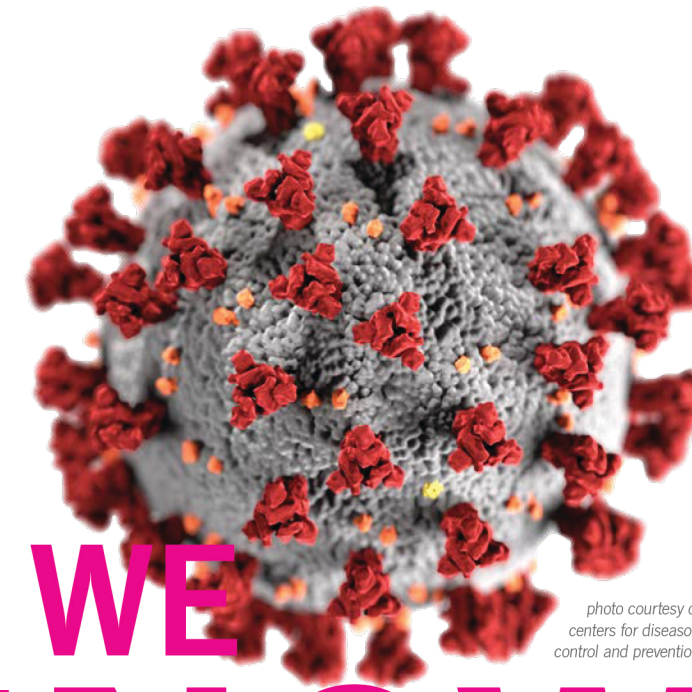


photo courtesy of
centers for disease
control and prevention

THIS IS HOW WE LIVE NOW

Coronavirus impacts
daily lives, routines
for high school

stories by j. bishop, p. gangon, c. kanger,
t. quarles, j. ripko, m. ruser & z. stanley
design by j. bishop

COVID-19

TESTING POSITIVE. When Holly Poole's '22 mother started feeling flu-like symptoms, she decided to get tested for Covid. After she tested positive, they decided to get the rest of the family tested. Poole knew that no matter what the results were, she would have to quarantine. She and her sister had no symptoms at the time, so it came to a surprise that they tested positive.

"The night after I tested positive for Covid I started to get the chills and had a mild fever. The next morning I felt very sick and had a bad cough mixed with the chills. After 24 hours, the majority of my symptoms fizzled out and I just felt weak for the following week," Poole said. "To this day any time that I physically exert myself my chest feels very tight and congested. I have never felt that way before I got Covid. Something that will be interesting to tell my kids someday is that I tested positive for Covid-19 on my 17th birthday."

BEING QUARANTINED. When an individual may have been in contact with someone who tested positive for Covid-19, they had to go into quarantine for 10 days. For Quarter 1, 2 and 3, if anyone was in the same room as someone who tested positive, even if they social distanced, they would get notified that they had to quarantine.

"There were people who were quarantined multiple times. On one side, I got to stay home and be with my family. On the other, it made school difficult and you really couldn't do anything," Gillian Dinges '23 said.

JOHNSON AND JOHNSON. When the restrictions were lifted on teenagers getting vaccinations, Isabella Chiovitti-Shifty '21 decided to get vaccinated. The area she went to get vaccinated only had Johnson and Johnson, so she got that.

"Immediately after I felt a bit dizzy and my arm hurt, but then I was fine for about six hours. Then I was hit with a high fever, severe nausea and I was shaking like crazy," Chiovitti-Shifty said.

MODERNA. Madison Ruser '21 got the Moderna shot on April 15, and her second dose three weeks later on May 5. Working as a certified nurse assistant for Abamere, which was a transitional care and rehabilitation center, Ruser got the vaccine so she was able to do things at her job, along with travel.

"After my first shot, I only had a sore arm. After my second shot, I had chills, body aches, a headache and a sore arm again. I want to be able to travel and do my job."

MADISON RUSER '21



VACCINES

PFIZER. On Feb. 15, District 27J members could get their first vaccine shot. Kathy Gustad, English teacher, got her first dose of Pfizer, and her second dose would be three weeks later.

"After the first dose of the vaccine I felt a little bit light headed and was tired for most of the day. My arm hurt for a couple of days after the shot; it felt like being sore after an intense workout. My reaction to the second dose was slightly more intense, as I was more tired, but my arm hurt less. I only felt ill for less than a day. It was totally worth it, though, to do my part to help keep my community safe," Gustad said.