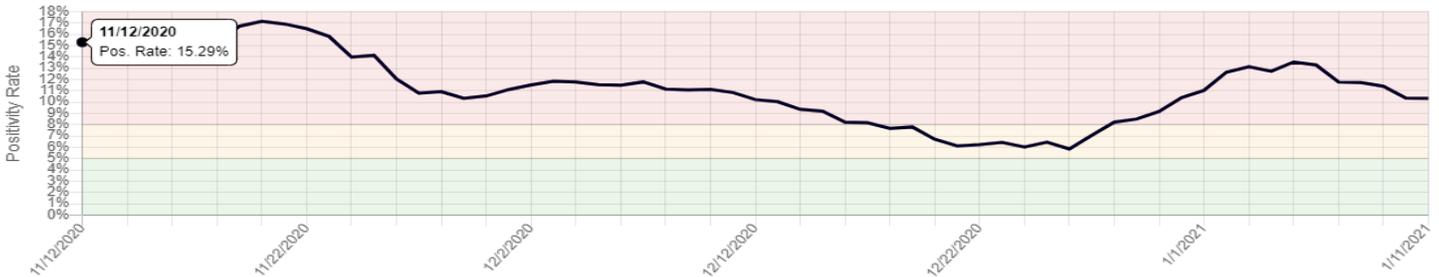




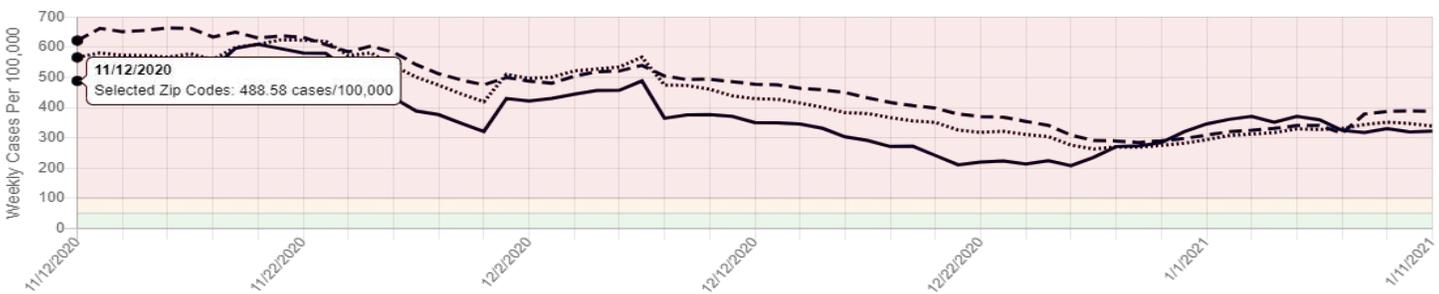
January 13, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

Although we are still in the warning zone, we are trending the right direction. Since my last communication on January 6, 2021, COVID new cases numbers and positivity for our zip code have been decreasing. As of today, here is where our three zip codes stand in terms of positivity rates (<http://covid-dashboard.fsm.northwestern.edu/>):



As of today, here is where our three zip codes stand in terms of new case counts:



The positivity rate from our three zip codes on January 6, 2021 was at 13.54% and over the last week, the rate has dropped to 10.32%. Also, our three zip codes (solid line on bottom) are back to tracking below the state (dash lines on top) and county (dotted lines in the middle). The new case count for our zip codes on January 6, 2021 was 370 cases per 100,000, and has dropped to 322 cases per 100,000. The drop in positivity and new case counts is great news; however, we remain in the warning zone for transmission. The Health Department prefers the positivity rate be under 8% and the new case count under 100 per 100,000 before returning to in-person learning, but the return to in-person learning is ultimately a local district decision.

In terms of school data, we only received two confirmed student or employee cases since Winter Break (letter attached). Taking all the information we have into account, combined with improving conditions, we are going to move forward with our return to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Preliminary numbers from our parent survey show that 85% of students from Ide, 80% of students from Prairieview, and 75% of the students from Lakeview have selected to return to in-person learning. Students who have selected the remote option will receive delivery the same way they received instruction in the fall when we were in-person learning. We appreciate the support of our remote learning families as we make the transition back to in-person learning. The percentages above are very similar to the percentages from the fall, allowing us to transition back to in-person learning without large scale structural or systemic change. Be on the lookout for a communication from your principals regarding details of Tuesday, January 19, 2021 and beyond.

Although the return to in-person learning is exciting for all of us, safety remains our top priority. If numbers rise dramatically, a return to an Adaptive Pause would be likely, therefore, it is imperative that we get back to making the 3W's a top priority. We need to be more vigilant than ever if we are going to keep our students in-person learning. Let's be extra cognizant next week and beyond, knowing community transmission remains high, so we can ensure that students and employees can return to in-person learning and remain safe in the process. Appreciate your partnership and support!

Dr. Wise - Superintendent of Schools



January 13, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

Over Winter Break we were notified that an employee at Lakeview (case 42) and a student at Ide (case 43) tested positive for COVID-19. Below is a joint letter from DuPage Health Department and D66 when low risk cases are identified.

*At this time, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) are closely monitoring COVID-19 in Illinois to assess exposures and the level of risk to individuals who may have been exposed. Based on the information known and guidance from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), this has been determined to be a **low-risk exposure**. For persons without illness in the category of low-risk contacts (e.g., being in the same indoor environment [e.g., a classroom, a hospital waiting room] as a person with COVID-19 for a prolonged period of time but not meeting the definition of close contact), **there is currently no movement restriction beyond social distancing recommendations**. Although your risk of COVID-19 from this exposure is considered to be low, in the setting of a pandemic with widespread community transmission in Illinois, you are asked to **self-monitor** for the following symptoms:*

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Muscle pain
- Chills
- Headache
- Repeated shaking with chills
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

If you develop fever and or cough or shortness of breath within 14 days of this exposure, please do the following:

- Stay home while ill (self-isolation). Practice social distancing by avoiding public places and gatherings.
- Contact your health care provider to determine if medical evaluation is needed. Since COVID-19 illness is mild in 81% of persons, you may not need to be seen or tested. Please do NOT show up at your provider's office or the Emergency Department without calling ahead.
- Do not travel on commercial conveyances, such as airplanes, trains, subways, and buses, until you are no longer symptomatic.

Actions to help prevent widespread COVID-19 illness have been implemented nationally, and we encourage Illinoisans to continue to monitor and take steps to protect their health. Some actions you can take to help keep you healthy, reduce exposures to COVID-19, and to slow the spread of the disease include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Plan ahead for situations such as closure of schools, daycares, workplaces, and other public locations.

If you have additional questions regarding COVID-19 and this exposure, please contact the DuPage County Health Department at (630) 221-7030. More information is available at the following websites: CDC: (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>); IDPH: (<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/diseases-a-z-list/coronavirus>); and DCHD: (www.dupagehealth.org/covid19). Thank you for your cooperation.

DuPage County Health Department and Superintendent Wise