



October 19, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

Due to a 34% increase in new DuPage County COVID-19 cases (119 per 100,000) as well as 40% increase in cases of those under the age of 20, DuPage County has moved itself into the “Substantial Community Transmission” category.

<https://www.dupagehealth.org/DocumentCenter/View/3541/COVID-19-Return-to-School-Framework-8-28>

It is important to note that DuPage County holds itself to a higher standard than IDPH. The DCHD guidance document for schools is designed to alert schools and communities of changes in County numbers. Although DuPage County COVID-19 cases have increased, the county has not yet met IDPH's threshold to move DuPage County into the Warning Level.

<http://dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=DuPage>. If the trend is not reversed, DuPage will join the 34 other counties currently on the warning list.

Center Cass 66 will consider IDPH, DCHD, local (Darien/Woodridge/Downers), and school metrics in making the decision on when to move a cohort, school, or district into a full remote model. School metrics include cases at school, number of cases in a cohort, timing of cases, location of contraction, absenteeism, ability to staff, and ability to meet ever changing IDPH guidelines. A move to a full remote environment would be made in partnership with the Health Department. With numbers increasing throughout the state, the Governor could also mandate schools to move fully remote at any time.

DuPage County moving into the highest transmission category is significant. It should be a strong reminder to all residents to follow the 3 W's at all times and to see a doctor immediately at the first sign of a symptom. Family members should also quarantine at first sign of symptom. If DuPage county exceeds IDPH thresholds, DuPage will move to the Warning Level, which is of greater significance, knowing that State thresholds are set higher than DCHD thresholds. The last and most important factor is our local community and school data. D66 students went 3 weeks of school without a positive COVID-19 case, since then, 7 positive cases in 6 weeks, and unfortunately, a new case at Prairieview this morning, making 8 in total.

To date, of our 7 student cases, none of them can be traced back to the school. There is no question that students are safe inside District 66 schools and the likelihood of transmission is extremely low when students are masked and distanced, however, if community COVID-19 numbers rise, mathematically, our students have a greater chance of contracting COVID-19 regardless of our environment. Even though kids are masked and distanced, we know that at least one of the 8 students were inside a D66 school unknowingly positive and asymptomatic at the time before starting their quarantine.

We all must do our part if we want to keep our students from contracting and spreading COVID-19, as well as keep our doors open for in-person learning. We greatly appreciate everyone adapting their practices to keep kids safe. Everyone has made sacrifices to open our doors to in-person learning this year, and we must continue those sacrifices if we want to remain open to in-person learning. As cases rise in the County and in our 3 Communities, school numbers will dictate our ability to stay open, and right now, they are trending the wrong way.

D66 believes in providing families with an in-person learning experience and we will do our best to continue to provide a successful in-person and remote model, as long as it is safe. Attached is the low transmission letter from today's positive case at Prairieview.

Sincerely –

Dr. Wise
Superintendent of Schools



October 19, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

We were notified today that a student at Prairieview tested positive for COVID-19. Although masked and distanced, this asymptomatic student was inside the school building. This marks the 8th positive case from the 2020-2021 school year.

Below is a joint letter from DuPage County Health Department and Local School Districts when a low risk case is identified. No one in the school met the definition of close contact.

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