



November 16, 2020

Dear Center Cass Parents and Guardians –

We were notified this weekend that a D66 part-time support staff member at Ide tested positive for COVID-19 (case 26). We were also notified that a student at Prairieview (case 27) and a student at Lakeview (case 28) tested positive. Although we do not have any evidence of transmission inside the school, and no cohort has had more than 1 case at a time (except a classroom at PV where the adult and student cases were unrelated but within the same week), it is apparent that community transmission is increasing. No one inside D66 met the definition of close contact for the cases above.

There is no COVID-19 outbreak inside our schools, however, the sustained increase of positive cases over the last couple weeks indicates that the longer we stay in, the greater the risk of transmission inside our schools. The positivity rate for our three zip codes hit 16% on Friday and remains 16%, which is double the 8% threshold IDPH sets for substantial spread.

In my communication with you last Wednesday, I was hoping that school cases would subside but they have increased, therefore, we are going to start our pause a bit earlier. During my weekly call with the DuPage County Health Department this afternoon, they shared that all indicators point to the need for schools to transition back into full remote learning, as this is the second week in a row that every school indicators was red for the County (substantial possible spread). Although the County is not the best representation of our District, our internal monthly data supports the transition as well, with D66 reporting 6 cases in September, 5 cases in October, and 17 cases thus far in November.

Thus, **I am recommending that we start the transition into the Adaptive Pause a bit early**. Below is the transition schedule to full remote learning.

- **Lakeview students' last day of in-person learning will be Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Prairieview students' last day of in-person learning will be Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**
- **Ide students' last day of in-person learning will remain Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>**

Providing a few days' notice gives time for everyone to plan. Also, the staggered transition allows for our older students who handle remote learning the best and demographically have the highest case counts, to transition out of in-person learning first, while our youngest learners who have a more difficult time with remote learning and have the lowest case counts, to transition out of in-person learning last. The majority of our older students can also be home alone. In addition, we took into account each buildings potential future cases, staffing ability this week, and weekly schedule. Support teams will help each school transition out of in-person learning and into full remote learning. Additional necessary information will be shared with you by your building Principal.

We appreciate your partnership and flexibility as we transition into remote learning for all of our students.

Sincerely –

Andrew S. Wise, Ph.D.  
Superintendent



November 16, 2020

Dear Center Cass Families –

We were notified this weekend that a D66 part-time support staff member at Ide tested positive for COVID-19 (case 26). We were also notified that a student at Prairieview (case 27) and a student at Lakeview (case 28) tested positive. No one inside D66 met the definition of close contact for the cases above.

Below is a joint letter from DuPage Health Department and Local School Districts when a low risk case is 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](http://www.dupagehealth.org/covid19)). Thank you for your cooperation.

DuPage County Health Department and Superintendent Wise