

Community Unit School District #7

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Last week the county health department came out with a strong recommendation that schools should close and go to remote learning as soon as possible. This recommendation was done with no input from any of the county school districts. At the time that Julie Pryde, CU Public Health Director, pushed out her press release and held a press conference about this very recommendation, Champaign County had the lowest positivity rate in Region 6, was not in the high risk category and at this time no surrounding county is looking at this type of action for schools to follow; that is to go remote for an extended period of time.

I will restate my thought from my last message on how things could change by the minute depending on the functionality of the guidance from any state or local office. At this time Unit 7 Schools will continue with in-person learning Monday, November 23 and November 24th.

We will continue with in-person learning after Thanksgiving break; we will do this until we get shut down with a mandate not a recommendation.

I apologize for any and all the confusion this has caused; since March, school districts and boards of education have been asked to prepare for all possible scenarios and so no matter what the circumstance, parents and caregivers are being asked to do the same thing. This change in direction is a perfect example and I can't promise it won't change again but I have always believed that we can control our environment in the schools with safety measures in place and it is always going to be better to have your child in our buildings getting in-person instruction from Unit 7 educators.

I understand if people are concerned and would rather follow the health department recommendation but if we can provide a safe environment, which I believe we have, I still believe this is the best place for children to learn, therefore we will remain open for business for in-person learning at this time and the foreseeable future .

Thank you for your time and understanding during these challenging circumstances.



Andrew Larson, Unit 7 Superintendent

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