

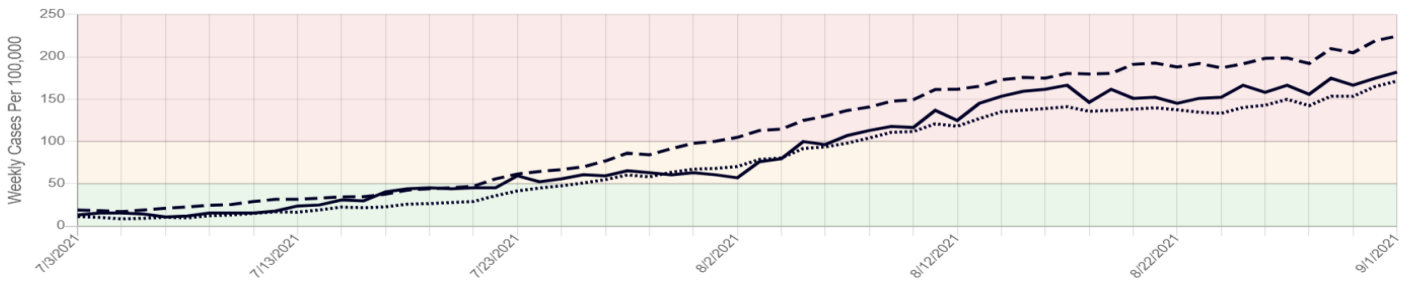


September 2, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents & Guardians –

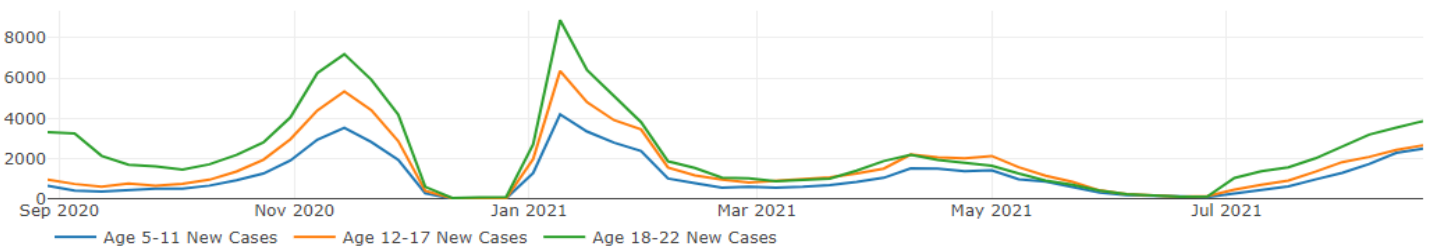
Labor Day weekend is almost here! Have fun but please follow the three W's. Remember, community transmission remains high. The rise of COVID positives have been in vaccinated and unvaccinated adults and kids, highlighting there is heightened risk of people getting sick and/or spreading the virus to others. According to the chart below, our three zip codes show 182 positive COVID cases per 100,000 people yesterday, which is the highest daily rate experienced since we were on the downside of the last Spring wave. With the state still climbing at 225 cases per 100,000 on 09/01/2021, we need to be prepared for new state mitigations.

Weekly New Case Rate per 100,000 population (Hover over the line to see the rate for a specific day) (Solid - Selected Zip Codes; Dashed - Illinois; Dotted - Regional)



With a large number of new cases being K-6 grade students, we need to be prepared for the Governor to take the kind of actions necessary to reverse the trend, including the possibility of the Governor forcing an Adaptive Pause. For those new to the District, an Adaptive Pause is when we close schools down to in-person learning and all students learn remotely until the transmission decreases. If an Adaptive Pause is called by the Governor, we would revert back to the remote style education that we conducted last year during the November-January Adaptive Pause. According to the chart below from IDPH, cases of students ages 5-11 (blue line) are trending up close to where they were on November 16, 2020 when the Governor called for the last Adaptive Pause.

Weekly Cases Reported By Onset Date



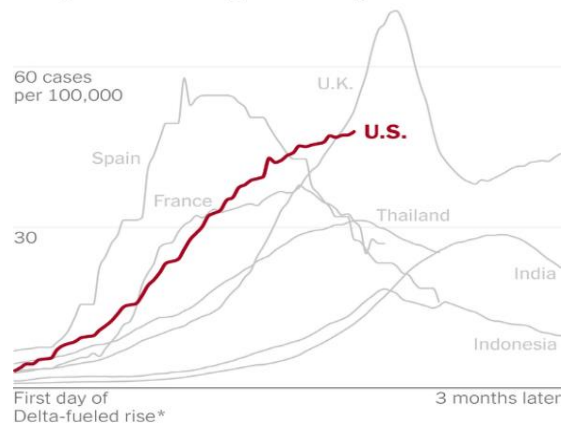
I don't think the Governor will call an Adaptive Pause at this time, however, please know that if cases continue to trend up in our youth, it is a real possibility. All of us in D66 want nothing more than to have our students healthy, in-school, and learning in-person, so we will continue to do our part in reducing the risk of transmission at school. With that said, when community transmission is high, students and adults will come into contact with COVID outside of school. This week we had three positive cases at Ide and two positive cases at Lakeview. At this time, all D66 cases have been isolated and without nexus to any other cohort of kids; meaning, the mitigation strategies of mask wearing, distancing, vaccination, sanitization/disinfection, hand washing, increased ventilation, self-certification, cohorting when possible, contact tracing, COVID screening for high risk school extra-curricular and activities, testing of close contacts/symptomatic adults/students, parents keeping



kids home when sick, as well as parents keeping kids home when they suspect they are a close contact, **is absolutely working!**

As you have been reading and seeing on the news, several other school districts across the state are struggling to keep kids in school due to the variant. You are all doing such an amazing job of following protocols. Thank you, thank you, thank you! September could be a little bumpy, but if the variant tracks in the US, like it has in other countries (see [chart](#) from New York Times 9.1.21) we could see the peak this month and then trend back down. With boosters beginning to roll out this month and vaccinations for kids before Winter, there are brighter days ahead!

Length of Covid surges fueled by the Delta variant



Aside from COVID, below are a few other District and Community updates in which you may find of interest.

- Last Friday night, Downers Grove South High School (the high school in which over 90% of D66 graduates attend) celebrated the return of football! All D66 students get in free to the home football games as long as they are accompanied and supervised by an adult. If there is no adult with the student, they will not be allowed into the stadium. Masks must be worn indoors; however, no masks are required at this time for outdoor stadium seating as long as students maintain at least 3 feet of distance from each other.
- Also on the radar is “Darien 9/11 Remembers”. Many D66 students have participated in the [Darien Dash 5k](#) or [9/11 Remembrance Activities](#). There will also be a 9/11 ceremony at Lakeview on September 8, 2021 at 2:45 pm, as well as activities in all three schools on September 11, 2021.
- Team 66 always puts the **fun** in fundraising. They would like to thank everyone who has donated time, talent, or funds during the 2020-2021 school year, and those who donated funds during registration. Team 66 is always looking for parents and community members to assist the organization in their quest to ensure District 66 students have the opportunities and experiences to help them grow and develop into our future leaders. Please reach out to team66@ccsd66.org if you're interested in volunteering or sponsoring one of their events!
- Screening for students in extra-curricular and higher risk activities has been a success. We will begin screening students in other higher risk activities in the weeks to come, including band and chorus. Screening helps identify any non-symptomatic students, and combined with other mitigations, reduces risk of others unknowingly contracting and spreading the virus. The screening is a PCR nasal swab with results usually coming to us the day after the screening. If you have not completed the consent to test form, please complete the permission form found [here](#).
- September is a month of significance, not only for Labor Day and Patriots Day, but also for Hispanic Heritage Month, Suicide Prevention Week, Rosh Hasanah, Constitution Day, Grandparent’s Day, Yon Kippur, the Autumn Equinox, and so many other amazing awareness events or celebrations.

We appreciate your partnership and student’s positive attitudes through year two of the pandemic. Wishing you a fantastic Friday and a safe 3-day weekend!

Sincerely - Dr. Wise - Superintendent of Schools