

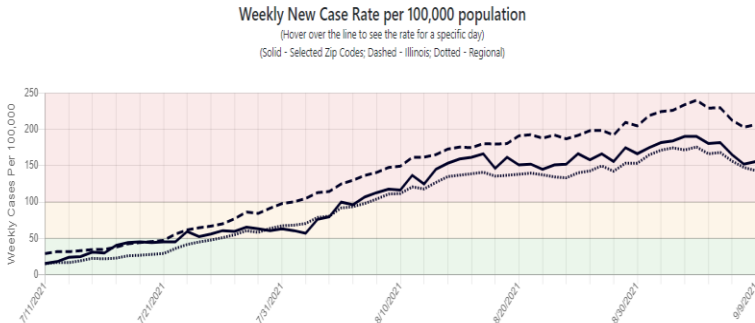


September 10, 2021

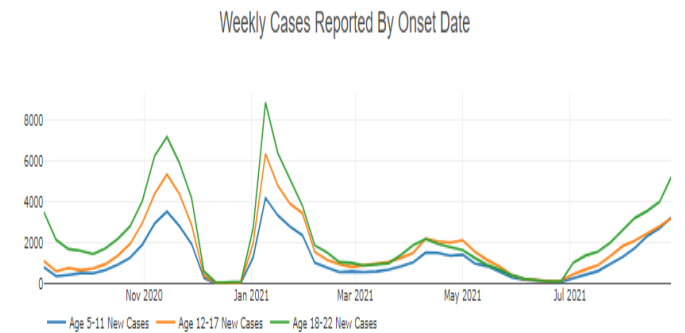
Dear Center Cass Parents & Guardians –

We had a fantastic week of school in District 66! We greatly appreciate your conscientiousness and adherence to the CDC guidelines over Labor Day weekend. It is absolutely helping keep kids safe. Last Thursday, the cases in our three zip codes were still climbing, but over the last 8 days, it appears that we may have peaked and could start a downward trend back to lower community transmission. For those who have ever hiked a large mountain, you know the anguish

of thinking you have reached the summit, only to find that it was a “false summit” and the real summit is still ahead, because you just couldn’t see the real summit from your vantage point on the climb up. We need to stay vigilant to avoid the “false summit” of the Delta variant. Although we might be approaching the peak as a state and region when looking at all ages, IDPH [data](#) shows youth cases have not peaked.



Reversing the youth trend is critical if we want to keep kids in school, and avoid the Governor calling for an Adaptive Pause. To date, we have had 14 positive cases reported to us from district families or employees. Each of the 14 cases has been unrelated without connection to any other case (unless it was a family situation). The cases have generally come from different cohorts of students and can be traced back to community transmission. There is no evidence of school transmission.



We do not have school transmission because students and employees have done a great job following mitigations at school, and parents have kept students home at the first sign of symptoms or possible exposure. In order to keep kids safe at school, we ask that parents please keep your student home with a fever (100.4 or higher); new onset of headache; shortness of breath; cough; sore throat; vomiting; diarrhea; new loss of sense of taste or smell; fatigue from unknown cause; muscle or body aches from unknown cause. **If your child experiences one of these symptoms, medical evaluation and/or covid testing is required for them to return to school. If you have more than one child in the district, the siblings also need to stay home, even though they might be asymptomatic, until the child with symptoms is cleared to return to school.** If you are unsure, please contact Nurse Baek at jbaek@ccsd66.org or 630-783-5161 to clarify.

We appreciate your cooperation as we continue mitigations this year, as well as adding new ones, such as the screening procedures for our extracurricular and higher risk activities at Lakeview. We are also excited to hear that DuPage County plans to roll out the IDPH and ISBE recommended Test to Stay program. Although we have not seen the parameters DuPage County Health Department will put on the program, the program should allow D66 nurses to test close contacts, and if we can prove the student is COVID free after consecutive tests on Day 1, 3, 5 and 7, they can remain in school, avoiding the 10-14 day quarantine. 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, please complete the form found [here](#).

Aside from COVID, D66 is about to embark on a Strategic Planning process. As a result of the process, the district will solidify a multi-year year plan, highlighting our mission, vision, values, goals, and indicators of success for education, environment, and other areas essential to the success of our district. More information in the weeks to come.

We hope you have a safe 9/11 Remembrance weekend. Dr. Wise - Superintendent of Schools