



Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163

242 South Orchard Drive
Park Forest, Illinois 60466
Phone: (708) 668-9427
www.sd163.com

Caletha White Ed. D.
Superintendent

September 16, 2021

Dear District 163 Families,

Thank you for your partnership as we return to in-person learning this fall. We are excited about reconnecting with you and our students during the 2021-22 school year. In early August I shared our detailed Reopening Guide and reopening protocols: masking, distancing, healthy habits, cleaning and ventilation, and monitoring student and staff health. I am writing to share important updates regarding our COVID-19 procedures.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) continue to provide updated guidance as a result of Illinois Executive Orders, positivity rates, and vaccination information. We are following the guidance closely and will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases. We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment.

When a positive case is reported our Principals, nursing staff and custodial teams immediately respond by following our emergency response procedures. This is what will happen:

- School nurse will call parents of positive student and any close contacts (anyone less than 6 feet not masked) and offer on-site BinaxNow rapid COVID testing
- If the close contact tests negative we are following the IDPH test to stay protocol (test again on day 3, 5 and 7)
- If the close contact tests positive, quarantine is required for the student and any siblings
- If two positive cases are reported for any individual classroom (that are not household related) IDPH requires a 10-14 day quarantine depending upon the circumstances of each case
- We will recommend that you contact your healthcare provider
- A letter will be sent home to the parent of the positive student and to the parents of other students in the classroom/cluster of classrooms
- Letters sent to families will vary:
 - Positive student quarantine letter
 - Sibling/household member quarantine letter
 - Class quarantine letter

21st Century Primary Center
240 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490
Fax (708) 747-0261

Algonquin Pre-K Center
170 Algonquin
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200
Fax (708) 503-2267

**Barack Obama School of
Leadership and Stem**
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100
Fax (708) 283-2358

Blackhawk Primary Center
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500
Fax (708) 481-0917

Mohawk Primary Center
301 Mohawk
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300
Fax (708) 748-9738

**Michelle Obama School of
Technology and the Arts**
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600
Fax (708) 503-2297

“Intelligence plus character, that is the true goal of education.” Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

- Information letter to parents that a positive case has been reported in your child's PK-3rd grade class or 4th – 8th grade cluster of classrooms
- Quarantined students will receive communication from the Principal for a remote education plan to sustain academic learning activities on-line at home; parents are required to collaborate with the Principal and agree to the remote learning goals

All District 163 non-vaccinated staff are tested for COVID weekly and are offered testing more frequently upon request or when a positive case is reported. We consistently reach out and partner with local health providers to offer COVID vaccination clinics on site.

I know that we all have the same goal, keep our students and staff safe and healthy while sustaining in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. The ISBE has resolved that all schools will remain open for in person learning. Thank you for working with us to ensure the health of our school community.

Please continue to assist us by ensuring that you have checked your child's health each morning before they leave your home and if they have any symptoms please keep him/her at home and inform the school secretary promptly.

We provide ongoing updates regarding COVID-19 positivity rates and District 163 positive cases on our website. Please visit www.sd163.com and select the COVID Updates tab for information. A letter is attached with important details from our District Nurse, Brenda Porter.

Let's all continue to work together to promptly identify and minimize the spread of COVID-19! Wear our masks, wash our hands frequently, watch our distance, and get vaccinated when eligible. If you have any questions, please contact your child's Principal, Dr. Regina Nottke, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (rnottke@sd163.com), Nurse Porter (bporter@sd163.com), or my office. Thank you for your partnership!

Sincerely,

Dr. Caletha White

Caletha White, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
#elevatingexcellence