



## PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #535

400 E Silverspoon Avenue - Granville, IL 61326  
(815)882-2800 x 5

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September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear PC #535 Families & Community:

With our priority of providing and maintaining in person learning for all students, we want to provide resources and support to families to help students return to school as soon as possible. In most cases, the quickest return to school for a student in isolation is taking a COVID test, getting a negative result, and providing the documentation to the school. We understand that appointments for testing take time and lines for testing are only getting longer, which only delays a student's return.

We have reached out to several contacts and continue to pursue ways for us to directly test in our schools as a service to students whose parents/guardians consent for testing. For students with siblings, this negative result would also allow all of those siblings to return faster as well. Though services and supplies are currently delayed due to high demand, we hope to have testing in our schools for those who want it in the near future. (And, a huge thanks to the District's only school nurse, Mrs. Main, for all her efforts and work throughout this pandemic!)

Please see the following for updates and reminders:

### **COVID Response**

Among the four schools, 1 student at PCPS and 2 students at PCHS were reported as testing positive for COVID this week. From those 3 cases, 4 students were identified as close contacts. If a mask optional policy was allowed at this time and the District had adopted it, there would have been 29 additional students identified as close contacts.

As a reminder, we encourage all parents/guardians to regularly visit the [PC #535 COVID Response & Information](#) page on the District website, which includes updated data on cases and quarantines.

### **Reminder: Remote Learning**

Please remember that remote learning is provided to all students who are required to isolate or quarantine according to the IDPH Exclusion Guidance. Students at PCJH and PCHS are required to log on for live instruction according to the daily bell schedule if they are not ill (Please contact the school office if a student is ill and not able to participate in remote learning). Students at PCPS and PCES are required to meet expectations as communicated between the teacher and parents/guardians.

### **Reminder: Emergency Contacts**

At some point last year, the District's texting service was changed to only send messages to primary contacts on TeacherEase. We have learned that many families would like emergency contacts to receive the text notifications, so we recently established an opt-in method for including these contacts. If you have an emergency contact or anyone else who would like to receive District alerts, please use the following link to submit their information: [District Message Opt-In](#)

**Reminder: SHIELD Consent Form**

PC #535 is currently working to establish SHIELD testing in all of its schools. The purpose of this testing is to (1) provide a way for students to more quickly return to school through testing, (2) help identify asymptomatic individuals to reduce transmissions, and (3) provide for weekly testing for any staff member who needs it. We are still working on the logistics and waiting for more direction from SHIELD, but we are now collecting consent forms for any student or staff member wanting to opt in to the program. We will release more information in the next few weeks and allow for students and staff to be opted in at a later time, but collecting consent now will help us better plan for logistics. Please review and submit the following form for your student to participate in testing: [Consent Form](#) (Please contact your child's school if you need a printed copy of this form.)

Thank you for your continued support of all students and their learning at PC #535, and have a great weekend!

Sincerely,



Dr. Clayton J. Theisinger  
*Superintendent*