



September 17, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents & Guardians –

We had a fantastic week of school in District 66!

As you might be aware, IDPH and ISBE support an educational model with layered mitigations. One of the mitigations is a program called Test to Stay. DCHD does not support the program, but since IDPH and ISBE do, DCHD will allow it.

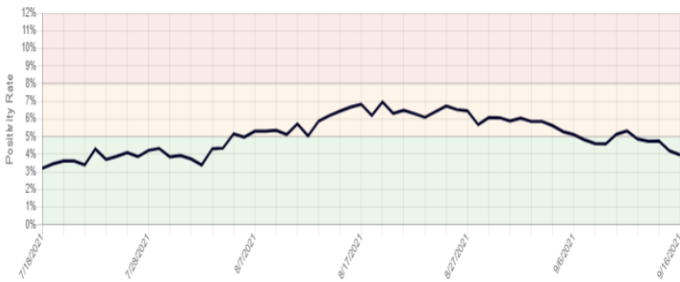
At this week’s D66 Board of Education meeting, the D66 Board of Education approved the Test to Stay program on a limited basis. The program will begin on Monday, September 19 for any school close contact. Details are as follows:

- A) Eligible participants are determined by the school district. The IDPH & DCHD have the final say on an eligible student.
- B) Eligible participants are defined as asymptomatic students who were within 3 feet of a positive case in the school setting when properly fitted masks are worn. A student who is a close contact outside the school setting is not eligible.

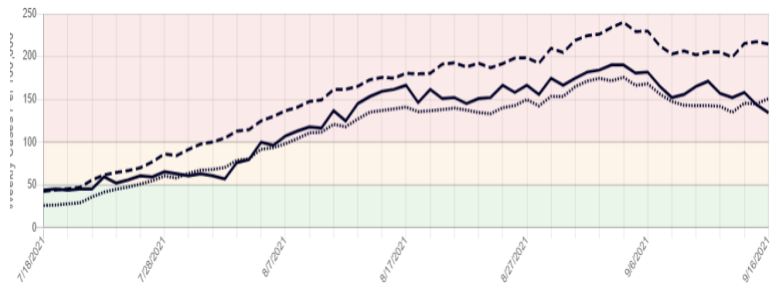
C) Parents

- will sign a form stating that the eligible student will be tested by school personnel on Day 1,3,5, and 7 of the exposure. As long as the student test results remain negative, the student may stay in school. Students are not allowed to use outside screening for the Test to Stay Program.
- will sign the consent to test form found [here for Lakeview](#), [here for Prairieview](#), and [here for Ide](#). The screening is a PCR nasal or cheek swab with results usually coming to us the day after the screening.
- agree that their student will wear a well fitted mask and distance outside of school hours during the testing window. Failure to do so will revert back to the 10-14 day quarantine.
- agree to take their child's temp every morning before school and record their child as symptom free on [this](#) form.
- agree that during the 7 day testing period, students are not allowed to participate mask free in afterschool activities.
- can always opt to take the full quarantine instead of participating in the Test to Stay program.

Rolling Average 7-Day COVID Positivity Rate
(Hover over the line to see the rate for a specific day)



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)



While Test to Stay will help keep some kids in school, it only applies to school related close contacts, and the most effective way to avoid students being sick and missing school is to follow the 3 W’s and consider vaccination. Although transmission in our three zip codes shows a slow steady decrease (see charts), community transmission according to the DCHD Dashboard ([here](#)) remains high. While community transmission is high, we will screen students in high risk activities. As community transmission decreases, so will our screening.

Since the start of school, we have had a total of 16 cases. Just a reminder, there is no school for students next Friday, September 24 due to Teachers Institute. Wishing you a safe and restful weekend.

Sincerely – Dr. Wise