



September 23, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents & Guardians –

We have a full day of development planned for faculty and staff tomorrow. As a reminder there is no student attendance for District 66 students. BACC will run as normal.

New guidance was released yesterday from [IDPH](#) and [ISBE](#). The great news for all of us at District 66 is that 95% of the new guidance are mitigations we already have in place or rules we have been following. The other 5% are items that can help us keep kids in school or items that don't pertain to us. Below are two new items from IDPH and ISBE.

1. Anyone with a COVID symptom will be sent home regardless of vaccination status (currently in place). The symptomatic individual should be tested immediately. If the PCR test result is positive, the symptomatic individual must serve out the remainder of their quarantine. However, if the PCR result is negative for COVID, the symptomatic individual will be allowed to return to school after they are fever free for 24 hours and free of diarrhea and vomiting for 48 hours. Please note that alternative diagnosis via a doctor's note is no longer listed as a recommended pathway to stay in school. Any individual with COVID like symptoms must produce a negative PCR test to return to the school setting (item 45, p. 19-20).
2. For those parents with more than one student in school, when one of your students was symptomatic and sent home, the other students in the household who were not ill had to quarantine for 10-14 days as well, regardless of whether they had symptoms. IDPH now says that if the ill household member is tested within 24 hours of first sign of symptoms, the other siblings do not need to be sent home from school (unless there is a high suspicion the ill household member has COVID). If the test result from an ill household member is negative, the sibling can remain in school. If the result is positive, the sibling needs to quarantine (item 46, p.20).

Remember, COVID like symptoms include fever of 100.4 F or greater, moderate to severe headache, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell, body aches, cough, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue from unknown cause, or sore throat. Health conditions no longer considered COVID like symptoms include runny nose, congestion, and stomach ache.

We are getting closer to putting this phase of the pandemic behind us. Below are four great signs:

- Pfizer announced data showing their vaccine to be safe and effective for students ages 5-11. The FDA is expected to approve Pfizer's application in the near future and vaccines for students ages 5-11 should be available late October to early November. We will keep you informed of any clinics being conducted.
- New guidance from ISBE and IDPH support new ways to keep kids in school, instead of making them remote.
- The positivity rate for our three zip codes when we started school was 7%, and this week it has hovered around 3.5%, returning us to a much more manageable level of transmission. Student cases in the 5-14 range dropped significantly this week in DuPage County.
- D66 has not received any new reports of positive cases this week! Our last case was from the weekend.

Fall is in the air, which means football and homecoming! The Lakeview Marching Spartans will perform at the DGSHS Homecoming parade tomorrow, September 24 @ 3:15, prior to the DGSHS Homecoming game at 6:30 pm. Come out and support the Lakeview Marching Spartans and all the former D66 students attending DGSHS for Friday's festivities.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Have a safe and restful weekend. - Dr. Wise