



November 12, 2021

Dear Center Cass Parents & Guardians –

For the first time in a long time, I saw several students with Band-Aids on their upper arms. We hope those Band-Aids signify that we are one step closer to COVID becoming an endemic. For students at Ide and Prairieview, the vaccines couldn't come at a better time.

The last two weeks have been the worst two weeks in terms of positive case counts since the pandemic started. Every school has experienced at least one positive case over the last two weeks, with some grade levels experiencing multiple cases. In total, we had 17 student cases in District in that two-week time frame and 2 adult cases. Due to the increased case counts at Ide and Prairieview, the school in conjunction with the PTO decided to postpone Movie Night. We will monitor cases and reschedule Movie Night when cases decrease at D66. For now, COVID transmission remains high for students ages 5-12 throughout the county and state.

District 66 respects your vaccination choice. COVID vaccination is not required to attend school. With that said, the more students that are vaccinated, the less likelihood of sickness and spread. In addition, the healthier we get as a District, the greater the chance of returning to an environment which is more social, including increased events and activities for kids. For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the CDC Child Vaccination Page at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/children-teens.html>

If you have an appointment at the District 99 Feeder School clinic on November 21st, you will have the same time slot again on December 12th for your child's second dose. You will also receive an email or text early next week asking for confirmation of the November 21st appointment. **If you still plan to be at the appointment, please confirm.** If you are unable to attend or have been able to secure an earlier appointment elsewhere, please cancel. This will free up appointment slots for others who would like to schedule. Once current appointment holders confirm or cancel, and after we have determined the number of slots that have opened up, we will let families know of any availability right away. Families will once again have the opportunity to set an appointment for the upcoming vaccine clinic to fill any cancelled spots. We are also considering the possibility of adding another clinic if the demand exists.

In addition, if you plan to travel or gather in the near future, please be careful. There is no official travel guidance from D66 at this time, except please stay out of hot zones and adhere to the 3 W's. If we do not reverse the rising case trend, we will need to increase mitigations, increase social distancing, institute additional screening, and return to stricter procedures for movement within the building.

With more students being vaccinated, and more adults and students being cognizant of recent case counts, I am hopeful that we can turn the final corner on COVID-19 spread and reach a point where cases are much less frequent.

Last, but most importantly, a huge thank you to all our Veterans for their sacrifices while protecting our freedoms. We hold our Veterans in the highest regards and appreciate their service. Have a safe and restful weekend.

Sincerely –

Dr. Wise - Superintendent of Schools