



January 7, 2022

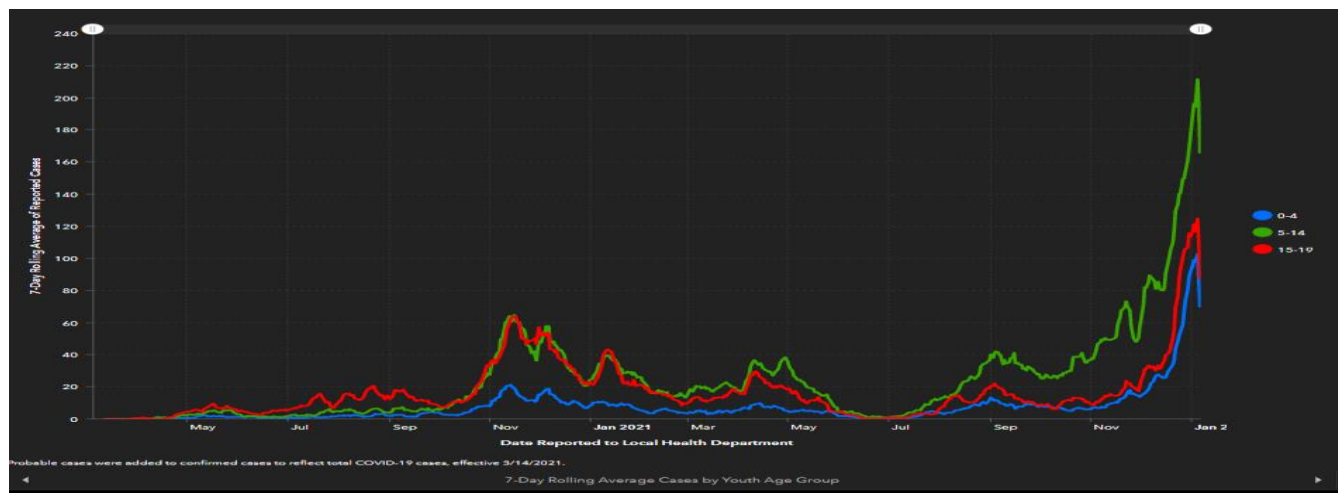
Dear Center Cass Families -

Thank you for your partnership accomplishing our first week of learning after winter break. Below is an update.

- We had approximately 85% of students and employees in person teaching and learning today. Of the other 15%, approximately 10% were COVID related of some sort (positive, quarantining, concern over COVID, seeing a doctor, waiting on a test result) and the other 5% were a mix of reasons non related to COVID.
- The vast majority of the positive cases came from contact with the virus over break. In total we had 51 cases from the start of winter break through today. The cases were split evenly between schools with approximately 17 cases per building. Every grade level had a student impacted by COVID which kept them out for all of, or part of, the first week in school. The majority of the 51 have returned or get to return next week.
- IDPH is recommending boosters for ages 12-15 and has shortened the recommendation from six months to five months between initial vaccination and recommended booster.
- The CDC updated their rules for quarantine yesterday found [here](#). It appears that IDPH and DCHD will support the recommendation. Most notably, the guidance states, “students, teachers, and staff who came into close contact with someone with COVID-19 and are in one of the following groups do not need to quarantine:
 1. People who are ages 18 and older and have received all [recommended vaccine doses](#), including [boosters](#) and [additional primary shots](#) for some immunocompromised people.
 2. People who are ages 5–17 years and completed the [primary series](#) of COVID-19 vaccines.
 3. People who had confirmed COVID-19 within the last 90 days (tested positive using a [viral test](#)).”
- The CDC also updated their quarantine guidance for schools as follows, “people who are asked to [quarantine](#) should take the following steps:
 - Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after their last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of exposure is considered day 0. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around others at home, if possible. **(A memo was released from IDPH today informing schools official guidance is coming soon, however as of today, we do not know if IDPH and DCHD will adopt the 5-day quarantine guidelines for all students and staff).**
 - For 10 days after their last close contact to someone with COVID-19, watch for fever (100.4°F or greater), cough, shortness of breath, or other [COVID-19 symptoms](#).
 - If they develop symptoms, [get tested](#) immediately and isolate until they receive their test results. If they test positive, follow [isolation](#) recommendations.
 - If they do not develop symptoms, [get tested](#) at least 5 days after they last had close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - If they test negative, they can leave home, but continue to wear a [well-fitting mask](#) when around others at home and in public until 10 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19.
 - If they test positive, they should isolate for at least 5 days from the date of their positive test (if they do not have symptoms). If they do develop [COVID-19 symptoms](#), isolate for at least 5 days from the date their symptoms began (the date the symptoms started is day 0). Follow recommendations in the [isolation](#) section.



- If they are unable to get a test 5 days after their last close contact with someone with COVID-19, they can leave their home after day 5 if they have been without [COVID-19 symptoms](#) throughout the 5-day period. Wear a [well-fitting mask](#) for 10 days after the date of last close contact when around others at home and in public.
- Avoid people who are [immunocompromised or at high risk for severe disease](#), and nursing homes and other high-risk settings, until after at least 10 days.
- COVID transmission last week reached its highest level in DuPage County since the pandemic started. The seven-day average for student cases (green line ages 5-14) peaked and is trending back down, along with the 0-4 population (blue line) and 15-19 population (red line).

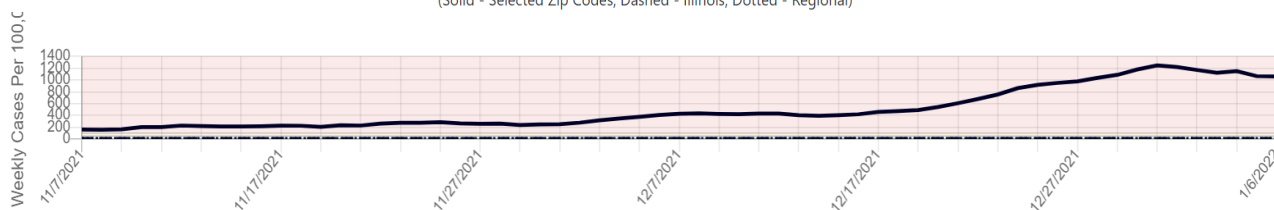


- COVID transmission for all ages within our three zip codes also peaked last week and is starting to trend down.

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)



Rolling Average Number of COVID Cases Per Day

(Hover over the line to see the number of cases for a specific day)



We certainly haven't put the surge completely behind us, but all indications for our zip codes and county is that we are trending in the right direction. Stay warm and have a great weekend!

Sincerely – Dr. Wise