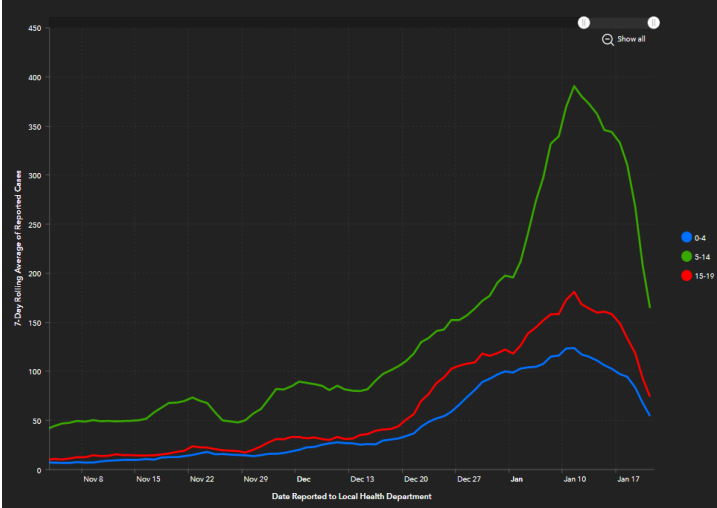




January 24, 2022

Dear Center Cass Families -

Although the pandemic has not officially been moved to an endemic, there were several signs of optimism last week through the weekend.

- A) IDPH and DCHD are loosening reporting requirements. For the first time since the start of the pandemic, District 66 is no longer required to report cases or close contacts to the County or State Health Department.
- B) The Omicron spike has passed (evidenced by the 7-day rolling average chart from DCHD from last Friday). With DCHD no longer requiring schools to report positive cases, I am not sure how representative future graphs from DCHD will be; thus, you will not be receiving the graph to the right in future communications.
- 
- C) IDPH and DCHD no longer require school districts to send parent notification letters on close contacts or positive cases (unless there is an outbreak). As a result, District 66 will no longer be sending notifications of positive cases or close contacts. Instead, District 66 has created a COVID dashboard that will be updated every 24 hours with new cases, at which school, and at which grade levels. **Please continue to report positive cases to the school nurse** so we can maintain safety and an accurate dashboard. You may refer to the [Dashboard](#) anytime at the bottom of the District 66 [COVID page](#) under Other Resources.
- D) Renowned medical experts and institutions ([Harvard](#), President's [COVID Task Force](#), and [Yale](#) to name a few) shared that we could be moving into a new phase, one where the virus weakens and loses its grip on societal practices; **however**, they also shared that we should continue mitigations until the infectious disease experts and medical community believe it is safe. Therefore, for now, District 66 will continue to follow guidance from CDC, IDPH, and DCHD.
- E) As a public school, we are required to follow the guidance and mandates from the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois-DuPage Departments of Public Health, and the Governor's Office. Although there have been challenges to the Governor's mask mandates and IDPH quarantine mandates, District 66 is required to follow the State mandates currently in place, unless the Illinois Supreme Court (not a lower court) overrules the guidance.

Thanks for your cooperation this morning. Everyone showed great patience. The weather delayed busses and drop offs a few minutes, but everyone arrived safely and we had a great start to the week. Stay warm!

Sincerely -

Dr. Wise
Superintendent of Schools