



March 25, 2022

Greetings everyone!

Our COVID-19 numbers remain low and we are moving into Spring Break with continued optimism that our current trend will continue. Students and staff will return to school on Monday, April 4th, for the final push to the end of the school year. We have a lot of hard work and fun activities planned and I am looking forward to finishing the 4th Quarter on a high note.

COVID-19 Metrics

As of today, we have 9 active COVID-19 cases between students and staff members in our 5 schools and district office. In addition, we have 0 outbreaks at this time. You can find our district and school metrics anytime by following [this link](#). Please make sure to keep your child home from school if they are ill and also notify your building nurse if your child does test positive for COVID-19.

***NEW* COVID-19 Notification Letters**

The COVID-19 notification guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health has been updated, so we will adjust our current process. Because of the low transmission level, the recommendation is to rely on our public dashboard for case data. Future notifications will be provided as recommended by the health department. The link to the District 161 dashboard is located in the section above and it is updated daily for your review. We will stop sending the school-wide COVID-19 letters on Friday, March 25th. If our case numbers begin to rise in the future, the district-wide chart will return.

***UPDATED* Community SHIELD Testing Information**

There will be no community SHIELD testing this Saturday at PJHS. Testing will return on Saturday, April 2nd and if you have traveled out of state, that is a good opportunity to be tested for COVID-19. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Public Health Travel Guidance

For domestic and international travel, students may return to school the next day after returning, but it is recommended that people take a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after returning home and self-monitor for symptoms for a full 10 days. Being up to date on your vaccines and COVID-19 testing before and after travel, are straightforward ways to stay healthy.

***UPDATED* Kindergarten Roundup**

A kindergarten roundup event has been scheduled on Wednesday, April 20th from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at each elementary school. Parents will be able to submit registration and residency paperwork, tour the school, and meet the current kindergarten team. You will receive additional information from your school principal on this opportunity.

Summer Academy Information

The D161 Summer Academy program will begin on June 6, 2022 and end on July 19, 2022. Registration is now open for Summer Academy. Please review the [Summer Academy Newsletter](#) and complete the registration form below. The program will provide free learning opportunities for pre-K-7th-grade students. Registration is due by Friday, May 6, 2022. Please contact summeracademy@sd161.org if you have any questions.

- Registration Forms: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

Employment Opportunities

Interested in becoming a part of the D161 team? We are currently seeking individuals to fill positions for Summer Academy and for the 2022-23 school year. To view our open positions and/or apply for a position, please click [here](#). To find out more about what D161 has to offer, click [here](#). If you have any questions about the process to becoming a licensed substitute teacher, please contact our Human Resources department.

I hope all of you enjoy the time off next week and if you need anything in the meantime, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent