

# Health and Safety Updates

February 2022



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# District Goals

1. **Assure for safety of our students and staff with In-Person Instruction**
  - a. Tracking Covid incidence (county and school to inform the educational design and mitigations
  - b. Well Being and Mental Health
  - c. Mitigation strategies
2. **Follow Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), DuPage County Health Department (DCHD), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois law, policy and guidance**
  - a. Policy adherence
3. **Strive for building independence and autonomy will assuring for the first two goals**
  - a. Return to normal evidence as allowed

# Covid Incidence

## 1. **August 19th to September 2, 2021**

- a. 1 Peacock student, 2 Franzen students, 5 Benson students
- b. 0 (zero) District 10 staff

## 2. **September 3rd to October 8th**

- a. 7 Peacock students, 6 Franzen students, 3 Benson students
- b. 1 staff, Benson
- c. Adaptive Pause in 6th grade 9/16 thru 9/21 for 4 days of Remote Instruction

## 3. **October 9th- November 5th**

- a. 2 Peacock students, 1 Franzen student, 1 Benson student
- b. 2 staff, Peacock

# Covid Incidence

1. **November 6th - December 2nd**
  - a. 4 Peacock students, 4 Franzen students, 2 Benson students
  - b. 1 staff, Benson
2. **December 3rd - January 13th**
  - a. Students: 46 Benson, 40 Franzen, 39 Peacock
  - b. Staff: 4 Peacock, 4 Franzen, 1 Benson, 3 District Office
  - c. How many cases from Dec 3rd up to last day before break December? **18**
  - d. How many cases were over break and only saw school after quarantine ended? **79**
  - e. How many cases came back after Winter Break and then became quarantined? **29**
3. **January 14th - February 4th**
  - a. Students: 28 Benson, 26 Franzen, 25 Peacock
  - b. Staff: 7 Peacock, 7 Franzen, 1 Benson, 5 District Office

# Covid Incidence

## Observations

- **236** cases since December 3rd
- Prior total for the year **41** cases or about 10 a month
- The prior 4 week totals: 30, 18, 18, 9 (last week)

# Original Plan and Advocacy

## Summer 2021:

- We would look at metrics for lesser mask usage (Phased) after Labor Day with low incidence
  - Mask usage would be phased from:
    - **Universal:** all students at all times, indoors
    - **Situational:** all students in specific situations such as class passing, an assembly, or small group instruction
    - **Recommended but not Required:** student (family) choice
- The metrics and thresholds needed to be defined
- And, lesser mask usage would only occur in grades after students (via their parents) had the choice to vaccinate
- Student and staff safety was and remains a top goal
- The Governor's EO mandated Universal in schools

# Original Plan and Advocacy

**December Challenge:** Mitigation strategies keep us safe but are also restrictive. Now that parents had the chance for their child to be vaccinated. What is next? The Governor's Executive Order requires masking. How do we move towards less masking?

- What are the local metrics to move to less masking as a mitigation strategy?
- What defines local and are the metrics based on children and/or adults?

**December 2021, Recommendation:** As a Board, we advocate to DCHD, IDPH, ISBE and the Governor to define clear metric guidance in relation to following mitigation strategies including masking. We also reaffirm our desire that local governing Boards have the authority to evaluate local data in regards to clear metric guidance. This is not indicating we are not adhering to the Governor's Executive Order but rather advocating for a clear data driven path for mitigation strategy implementation.

**January 2022, Recommendation:** This is on hold. The incidence in D10 Schools and Itasca is too high to consider advocacy on altering current IDPH guidance.



# Next Steps with Masking Mitigation

## February:

- Had slight decrease in the last 2 weeks displaying lower incidence
- A pending court case that may give the authority back to local school boards on mask usage. With that authority we still need to make reasonable decisions.
- Students (families) have had the choice to be vaccinated
  - Pre-K is anticipated to be approved within the next month
- Need to research and develop health metrics that protect staff and student safety for all to evaluate
  - Have researched Barrington Plan (which won't start until the Board has the authority to do so)
  - Have discussed with DCHD and other districts
- Do some work internally to evaluate with teachers and staff

# Updated IDPH and DCHD Guidance

**November DCHD Guidance:**

**<https://www.dupagehealth.org/595/Schools-and-Daycares>**

**[IDPH Guidance](#)**

# Mitigation Strategies

1. Promoting Vaccination
2. Consistent and Correct Mask Use
3. Physical Distancing
4. Screening Testing
5. Ventilation
6. Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette
7. Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested
8. Contact Tracing in Combination with Isolation and Quarantine
9. Cleaning and Disinfecting

## District 10 FAQ

1. Simplified return from travel
2. 90 Day clarification
3. Esser Finance usage

# Promoting Vaccinations (1)

- [Governor's Order #87](#) requires vaccination or weekly testing (PCR) for all school employees. Vaccination and/or testing is effective September 5th, 2021
- D10 and Itasca Park District have hosted vaccination clinics
- Itasca Park District hosted a clinic on January 24th. Area districts and LPHS families received the invite
- Vaccinations are recommended by IDPH but not required by D10
- The authority of a parent to make that decision for their child is respected
- **Parent Volunteers and chaperones are required to be vaccinated or provide a negative screen test by the Friday before volunteering.** Parents may utilize District screen testing services, if they register.

# Consistent and Correct Mask Use (2)

- Mask use on recess is optional in general (some actually choose to mask)
- However, it is required for all students in Day 6-10 return protocol

# Alternative Masking Plans

## What are the key elements of our plan:

1. Staff and Student Safety
2. Not to go against an EO or IDPH guidance in relation to that
3. Students (families) had the choice to receive a vaccination
4. The mask usage would be graduated based on context and guidance
5. The mask usage would be responsive to local health metrics:
  - a. School Incidence
  - b. [Community transmission rates and incidence](#)
  - c. County metrics and trends as applicable
  - d. Are these the right metrics for you?
6. Thresholds??

# What can we learn about Barrington's Plan that may inform us?

1. The plan would not start until local school board's are recognized to implement
2. They also wanted students to have the chance to be vaccinated
3. Phased Masking Approach
4. Student Vaccination Rate was a secondary factor, although encouraged and not required, their vaccination rate is very high and this gave them comfort on the thresholds they set
5. Also building transmission rates, and hospitalizations are relevant
6. Their metrics focus on building positivity rate

# My Initial Thoughts on Plans

1. School and District incidence as a metric
2. School and District transmission rates (in a classroom)
3. [Community Rates Itasca](#)
4. Thresholds need to be evaluated and set
5. Not student vaccination rates (encourage, but not require, only use that status when needed)
6. Longer time periods - 15 days than 5
7. Situational is relevant to student spacing and instructional class sizes
  - a. Specific student health conditions
  - b. Classroom space, science labs
8. Phased Masking Categories are good: Universal, Situational and Recommended
9. Situational needs to look at learning spaces and designs more



# And, Other Considerations

1. A phased in approach to start with grade-levels per school (mitigates health risk and impact on teachers). And demonstrated success to move forward.
2. Two good weeks on school incidence isn't far removed from our highest 5 week incidence and aside from health considerations this was really hard for educators to work through.
3. No bullying of mask choices one way or another.
4. If parents want their student to wear a mask "Recommended but not Required". The teachers will have little ability to monitor and redirect a student to wear their mask if they choose not too and parent wants them to (vegetables and fruit in lunch).
5. Student quarantine rates may increase and we are following that, this may impact access to in-person instruction and staffing continuity.
6. Community context counts for plans.
7. Our timelines should be responsive to court cases and addressing metrics, thresholds and safety.
8. We need to communicate out to our families.

# Court Cases

- Allen and Austin (2) cases on Governor's authority regarding mask use and vaccination of employees
- Court findings as of February 4, 2022 have not been released

# Physical Distancing (3)

- New return (5 day) procedure calls for 6ft at lunch with masks off
- This is health guidance to protect the safety of all and is temporary
- The schools are nuanced in their solutions as they depend on lunch space and student count
- How does this impact unmasking to specific physical space?
- The dignity of students is protected as we practice creative and flexible designs to meet guidance

# Screen Testing (4)

- IDPH Guidance supports routine and ongoing screen testing for athletics that are indoors
- It is recommended by IDPH in relation to travel
- Northshore **Parent letter**
- Student screening have started
- Screening has expanded to staff, parent volunteers (chaperones and IPTO parent volunteers) and adult community partners: Itasca Park District, St. Lukes

# Screen Testing (4)

- Provides parents an extra level of safety now and in the future (with lesser mask usage)
- Not Test to Stay
- For proximity exposure, symptoms, travel
- Will help with quarantine in relation to testing and siblings
- Offered to IPTO parent lunch volunteers and WIBA coaches
- Recommended for all students returning off extensive travel
- Recommended for all students with family proximity exposures

# Staying Home When Sick and Getting Tested (7)

- Please keep your student home if they are sick. Call the school when in doubt to discuss
- Please keep your child home if they are exposed to a sick family member who is getting tested and confirm family members are negative first before the student returns to school
- Please share Covid test results with your child's school
- If your child is vaccinated and asymptomatic they may come to school regardless of exposure
- They should still screen test off travel and proximity
- Day 6-10 quarantine impacts some athletics and some music

# What have we learned from an earlier return from quarantine policy?

1. The choice has been used by about 12 students
2. Some families have chosen to hold their students out during part or all of this time
3. Sometimes communication from parents to school with return review needs to improve
4. Snacks, we are working through
5. Lunches have gone very well and a variety of contexts have been used in different settings
  - a. Principal's office has been a favorite
  - b. We are not exclusionary as a district, and are staff demonstrates a high level of professionalism to set that culture
6. No complaints from students or parents on implementation of this new guidance
7. Teachers feel it is working

# Contact Tracing

- If other guidelines are met, this is discontinued for outside activities
- Vaccination status of the student is relevant here



# Opportunities to Return to Normal

(mask wearing is not the sole measure of this)

1. D10 Concerts are returning with smaller family audiences with multiple performances
2. Sports will happen at the school district league level with some mitigation:
  - a. Only home spectators, home cheerleaders
  - b. Although other additional activities are being evaluated
  - c. Screen testing recommended
3. Dances are supported (inside)
4. Schools are hosting parent tour events routinely
5. Chaperones and volunteers are being used
6. IPTO events may be planned, 2 parent volunteers maximum per room
7. School Lunches started in January
8. The charge: “Identify what you need to make that activity happen and safely”

# Opportunities to Return to Normal

(mask wearing is not the sole measure of this)

1. Small group instruction and intervention are increasing
2. We have started small “family school access events” after school
3. Itasca Park District’s partnership for WIBA has started
4. Daily Certification opt out has been initiated
5. Small Group instruction is more prevalent
6. Field Trips are being planned
7. Other prior plans on masking still exist for when the Governor’s Order is lifted
8. Return of School Lunch
9. Extracurricular pauses ended and athletic games are being evaluated
10. New IDPH guidance is implemented within a week
11. Court case findings will be reviewed and discussed with BOE
12. Franzen PE, Ice Skating, Cheer Clinic, Athletic Outings

# Next Steps

1. Continue to monitor Covid Incidence Rate
2. Implement and continue to evaluate mitigation strategies
3. Continue to communicate routinely
4. Monitor court case results on evaluate their impact with BOE consultation
5. Continue to seek opportunities for increased independence and autonomy as data and guidance support it

# Questions/Comments

