

Health and Safety Updates

January 2022



Health and Safety Updates

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3. Safety and School Design, Advocacy
4. IDPH DCHD Guidance
5. Mitigation Strategies
6. Opportunities to Return to Normal Evidence
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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**

Observations

- > This last month **137** cases
- > Prior total for the year **41** cases
- > **54** Total for 2020-2021 school year

Safety and School Design

1. We want to protect In-Person Instruction
2. Staffing challenges are significant
3. We are doing everything we can to continue in-person instruction
 - a. Ratios and instruction may be impacted
4. Mitigation Strategies
 - a. Pause Extracurriculars and now resumed
 - b. Started new IDPH Guidance
 - c. This is a big lift in the midst of our incidence
 - d. We support a families choice regarding vaccination
 - e. We also support the safety of all staff and students

Next Steps: Advocacy - December 2021 Slide

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.

Updated IDPH and DCHD Guidance

November DCHD Guidance: <https://www.dupagehealth.org/595/Schools-and-Daycares>

IDPH Guidance

Guidance

1. Do we evaluate all research? No. The Health Professionals evaluate the medical and scientific research. Scientific Research: Peer reviewed, some is contradictory and changes over time.
2. District Goal is to follow CDC, IDPH and DCHD guidance through this process.
3. How do we make decisions? We have affirmed this prior point for almost 2 years and we look for opportunities to return to normal.
4. News and Social Media
5. Intuitive Experience: "I know someone who was vaccinated and contracted Covid".
6. Guidance and Mitigation are important, especially now.

New Guidance Hi-Lights

- Day “0” is the onset of symptoms regardless of vaccination status or the day of testing for asymptomatic individuals. *Symptomatic students should be screen tested by Day 1 if they have Covid symptoms..* Students should not be sent to school with symptoms, especially now, given the high incidence of Covid. As always please communicate and review this with school personnel if your child becomes ill.
- Days 0-5 are quarantine days at home. In addition to routine assignments from teachers, additional academic support is provided for quarantine students. Please review [Additional Educational Supports - Student Quarantine](#)

New Guidance Hi-Lights

- **Day 5, with school administration and/or school nurse, parents must review via phone their students' eligibility to return before actually returning to school for Days 6-10.** The following IDPH and CDC recommendations must be met:
 - a. Students must have no fever (and be off fever reducing medication).
 - b. Students symptoms must be minimal and improving from earlier in the quarantine period.
 - c. Confirm lunch assignment: students under the earlier return protocol may have different lunch assignments to protect 6ft spacing as the guidance recommends. This may include removal to an alternative setting or different arrangements in the classroom if spacing and class size support that.
 - d. Returning students (for Days 6-10) are not eligible to take their mask off at recess (outdoors) and will need to receive outdoor mask breaks differently.
 - e. Students who have returned in Days 6-10 are not eligible to participate in before and/or after school athletic or music practices.
 - f. Returning students must follow mask wearing guidance. Students who fail to adhere to guidance during this time period will be sent home for Days 6-10 to quarantine at home.
 - g. Parents may continue to quarantine their child at home if they choose to.

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

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 is hosting another soon, 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

Court Cases

- Allen and Austin (2) cases on Governor's authority regarding mask use and vaccination of employees
- Court findings may come soon, possibly this week
- They may affirm a local Board's authority to make those decisions based on data
- May impact districts who are plaintiffs in this case with mask use
- Cases are likely to go to the Illinois appellate court (7 days decision, possible)
- I would recommend we:
 - Continue our mitigation strategies with masking pending appellate courts findings
 - Evaluate internally with staff safety
 - Potentially recommend to BOE a new policy with masks as recommended but not required
 - Based on data and guidance thresholds from experts that the BOE reviews and approves

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
- 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 has started
- Screening is expanding 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 now too
- 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. 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

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 starting to be used
6. IPTO events may be planned , 2 parent volunteers maximum per room
7. School Lunches will start 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

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

