

# *In-person Instruction Update*

March 9, 2021

*From the Desk of  
Dr. Mary Henderson*



[2020-21 School Year Calendar](#)

[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

**Next SMART Day: Wednesday, March 10**

**Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m.**

Illinois Department of Public Health [Trend Data](#)

DuPage County Health Department [Data Dashboard](#)

[2020-21 Remote Learning Newsletters](#)

[2020-21 In-person Learning Newsletters](#)

## *Weekly DuPage County COVID-19 Metrics for Schools*

This week DuPage County remains at the substantial level of transmission, though we are anticipating moving into the moderate level next week. Out of the four metrics monitored weekly, three are at the minimal level while one remains at the substantial level, though continued improvement has been seen for several consecutive weeks. This is great news, though there is still improvement needed, and it is critical that we remain vigilant with wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, and quarantining/isolating when there has been exposure, symptoms, and/or positive cases. **Important Note: The metrics are always for the week prior to posting.**

Since returning to school in January, we have had seven positive cases of COVID-19 with zero cases transmitted at school.

## *Updated CDC Guidance*

Yesterday the CDC released updated guidance for adults who have been fully vaccinated. It is important to remember that we are bound to follow IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) guidelines. Often these two agencies align, but there are times when IDPH has not followed loosened restrictions recommended by the CDC.

The CDC guidance allows for some loosened restrictions for adults who are fully vaccinated. **It does not change any of the requirements of wearing masks. It also does not change any of the guidance on travel, and we are not changing any of our expectations for quarantine after travel for adults or students.**

## *Planning for the 2021-22 School Year*

We have been waiting for updated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education on what will be required of schools next year. We are in the preliminary planning stages and will continue to provide updates at each Board of Education meeting and via my newsletter each month. Please stay tuned!

Also, registration for the 2021-22 school year will be sent to all D12 families in the next few weeks. Families must register their children by the end of the current school year in order to continue to receive district communication throughout the summer. Please note that fees for the 2021-22 school year do not need to be paid at the time of registration.

## *COVID-19 reminders*

Has someone in your household been tested for COVID-19 due to symptoms? ***If so, all students in the household must remain home.*** Please contact your school health office if you are unsure whether or not to send your student(s) to school.

Also, please confer with the school office when you are considering travel. Depending on the location, even day trips may require quarantine, particularly when the travel is to areas with high positivity rates.

## *Extra Masks; Recess/Breaks*

Please remember to send extra masks in your student's backpack each day. It's not unusual for students to need to change their mask partway through the day.

Students go outside for mask breaks and recess when the actual/feels like temp is above 10 degrees. Please plan accordingly!

At this time last year, we had no idea that we were days away from our worlds turning upside down and education innovating in ways that never seemed possible. I continue to be so inspired and grateful for the educators and support staff in our district who have never wavered in their commitment to our kids and community. I am also grateful to our families who have supported, encouraged, and walked

side by side with us as we planned for the best model possible for this school year. Our Board of Education has approved plans, made decisions, and provided tremendous support and appreciation for the work that we do. Finally, our school and district administrators have been behind the scenes working to remove the obstacles and barriers to keep all of us moving forward. There is much to be proud of in D12, and I hope you can find to reflect on how far we have come and how a culture of care for others has held us together in a time of crisis.

It is wonderful to see the signs of spring and look forward to spending more time outdoors!

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

