

School District 12 Update

January 4, 2022

*From the Desk of
Dr. Mary Henderson*



[2021-22 School Year Calendar](#)

Special Board of Education Meeting: Friday, January 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

Regular monthly Board of Education Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Next SMART Day: Wednesday, January 12, 2022

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

DuPage County Health Department [Data Dashboard](#)

Dear Roselle D12 Families,

Please see below for information on COVID-19 testing, extracurriculars and a special board meeting.

Special Board of Education Meeting

The Board of Education will be holding a special board meeting on Friday, January 7 at 6 p.m. This meeting will be conducted virtually via Zoom and will be live-streamed with a link emailed to all families approximately 15 minutes prior. Because this meeting will be conducted via Zoom, public comments may be submitted via this [link](#) and will be read aloud during the meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is for the board to take action on the solar project that has been discussed at several board meetings. There will also be a brief COVID update for any updated guidance or directives we receive this week.

COVID-19 Metrics and Updated CDC Guidance

Yesterday the superintendents of DuPage County met with the health department. As of yesterday, the current positivity rate in DuPage County is 15.32% with 1,032 cases per 100,000 people. The health department has significant concerns with decreased availability of hospital and ICU beds in the county.

Currently, 31% of 5-11 year olds in the county are fully vaccinated with 41% having received at least one dose. Testing remains difficult to find with lag times significantly higher than what we had previously experienced.

The CDC guidance released just before Christmas that shortens isolation and quarantine time does not yet apply to schools. We have been told that updated guidance for schools is "imminent," but do not have a timeline for when we will receive it or what it will include.

COVID-19 Testing

In December, the Board of Education approved a contract with Northshore Clinical Lab to perform on-site COVID-19 testing. One of the benefits of participating in school-based testing is that schools and nursing homes have the highest priority for the lab and our tests are processed more quickly than other types of testing sites.

This **optional** testing program is available to our staff and students and will **begin the week of January 10**. Our testing is available for the following:

1. Weekly screening
2. On-demand testing for special circumstances (returning from travel, student develops a symptom during the school day, etc)
3. Test to stay: If your child is identified as a close contact **at school**, your child may remain in school if they test on Days 1, 3, 5, and 7 using our on-site testing.

Northshore Clinical Labs staff will perform the weekly screening tests. Our D12 health office staff will perform on demand and test to stay. All of our tests will be PCR tests and will be using a cheek swab as opposed to a nasal swab.

Important Facts to Know:

1. No student will be tested without parent consent and registration through the Northshore Clinical Labs parent portal.
2. There is **no cost** to families for testing. Parents are required to provide insurance information; however, deductibles, co-pays, etc. will not apply. Families who are uninsured may also participate in testing.
3. Registration through Northshore Clinical Labs is very quick and easy and can be accessed through this [link](#). Parents will provide basic information including an email address in order to receive test results. You will need to upload a picture of your driver's license or state issue identification card as well as your insurance card. The process takes less than five minutes. As you fill out the form, you will select if you are giving consent for weekly screening, on demand, and/or test to stay (you may select one, two or all three). Please note that you must register each of your children individually.
4. Test results are provided in 24-48 hours to both the school and the parent. Additionally, if a test is positive for COVID-19, parents will receive a phone call from Northshore Clinical.

Testing, particularly for unvaccinated individuals, can play an important role in minimizing outbreaks in our schools. Please consider this for your child as we work collectively to keep all students learning in school.

Extracurricular Activities

The K-8 Lake Park feeders met yesterday and have decided to pause all extracurricular activities (games, practices, meetings) through Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. As I have shared, our priority is keeping students in school. In sports and activities, positive cases lead to entire teams/group quarantined, keeping them out of school for ten days. We will be meeting again Wednesday the 12th and make a decision for after MLK Day. Our plan is to extend the season rather than simply cancelling games.

As we return to school in the midst of this surge, proper masking will be essential to keeping our students in school. Please review and reinforce with your child and send extra masks each day.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Henderson, Superintendent

