



Palos School District 118

8800 W. 119th St. | Palos Park, IL 60464 | 708-448-4800 | www.palos118.org

Dear Palos 118 Families,

Please forgive me for the short message this week or if I have not been able to respond yet to your email or call. My attention has been devoted to finalizing a draft plan to begin transitioning students back into classrooms, which I will be presenting to the Board of Education on Monday. In the meantime, I want to thank our parents and teachers for working together to provide remote learning to our students to ensure a continuity of educational services until such time as we reopen our schools for in-person instruction. Regardless of the instructional model we implement, the partnership between school and community is essential for student success.

Opening schools in the midst of a pandemic is a highly charged topic of debate in our community and communities across our country. I know that emotions run high. I do ask, however, that conversations and debate around this issue remain civil and respectful of differing opinions. None of us created this pandemic. All of us want our children back in school. Personal attacks of any kind do nothing to further our common cause. Let us be role models for our children as we respectfully share our opinions and discuss our disagreements. We are in this together.

This week's metrics:

1. **A return to Phase 3 of the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan**

Suburban Cook County remains in Phase 4, which allows schools to resume in-person instruction.

Source: Governor's Office and IDPH

2. **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**

60 of 66 south suburban school districts have decided against in-person instruction to begin the school year. Schools are beginning to announce plans to transition students back to classrooms. Source: ISC-4 and news reports.

3. **Confirmed community spread of the virus**

There is no confirmed widespread transmission of COVID-19 in Palos Park. IDPH has not updated its "Metrics for School Determination of Community Spread" so I will not report on those stats this week.

4. **Directives from IDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**

There was no new guidance last week. Source: IDPH

5. **District 118 Staffing**

The school district continues to work diligently to address our vacancies. We have the following external vacancies as of today.

- Daily substitute teachers – Many of our daily substitute teachers are current parents of D118 students. We believe a return to in-person instruction will increase our substitute pool but not necessarily solve our sub shortage. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, [please click here.](#)
- Paraprofessionals – We are interviewing candidates now.

I will send additional communication early next week. Thank you for your patience and partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools