



Palos School District 118

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

Dear Palos 118 Families,

We have officially completed three days of in-person instruction! I can barely express the joy of seeing students in classrooms again and have never been so happy to see our bus yard empty. I want to give a huge shout-out to every single Palos 118 staff member for going above and beyond to prepare schools this week to reopen and implementing our in-person safety plan. I want to thank our teachers who are doing an amazing job acclimating students to new school day routines while providing high-quality instruction in modified classroom environments. Lastly, our students have been phenomenal wearing their masks and practicing safety procedures. It will take some time for it all to become routine, but so far, they are doing a great job.

I also want to extend my thanks to our Palos 118 families for completing their daily symptom check self-certification forms, patiently waiting in long car rider lines, and helping us keep our staff and students safe. We all need to do our part to ensure the virus doesn't enter our schools. This week, we had a few instances where safety procedures were not followed. One person not following our safety procedures can result in the need to quarantine multiple students and staff. In order for schools to remain open, safety procedures must be followed. If you have any doubt about sending your student to school, contact the school nurse for assistance in making that very important determination.

Please remember to continue to:

- **Complete morning symptom checks INCLUDING TAKING TEMPERATURES;**
- **Keep symptomatic children at home until symptoms resolve;**
- **Keep asymptomatic children at home if a household member is symptomatic and;**
- **KEEP SYMPTOMATIC AND ASYMPTOMATIC CHILDREN HOME IF A HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL YOUR CHILD HAS COME INTO CLOSE CONTACT WITH IS AWAITING A COVID-19 TEST RESULT OR HAS A COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST RESULT.**

I cannot stress that last bullet enough. Under no circumstance should a child be sent to school when a household member is awaiting a test result or has a positive test result. Failure to follow our safety plan will result in exclusion from in-person learning.

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 conduct in-person instruction. Source: Governor's Office and IDPH
2. **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**
There have been no reported outbreaks in area schools. Source: ISC-4 and news reports
3. **Confirmed Community Spread**
There is no confirmed widespread transmission of COVID-19 in our school community. Test Positivity is "moderate." New Cases Per 100,000 is "moderate." New Cases are "minimal." Youth Case Increase is "minimal." The 7-day and 14-day rolling positivity rates are both $\leq 8\%$. source: idph and northwestern university
4. **Directives from IDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**
There have been no new directives or guidance issued this week. Source: IDPH, ISBE, Governor's Office

5. **District 118 Staffing**

The school district is seeking short-term and long-term substitutes. The Board of Education recently raised daily substitute teacher and school nurse rates to \$150/day. Please call 448-4800 if you are interested in becoming a substitute.

The school district is in the process of developing a COVID-19 Dashboard that will be available starting next week on our website.

Please continue to anticipate quarantines and do not panic if there is a confirmed case in your child's school. If a child or classroom is quarantined, it means our safety procedures are working. The identification of positive cases and subsequent quarantine of those individuals and potentially their close contacts will severely limit the potential for transmission in our schools. Quarantines may present logistical challenges for families; however, they are absolutely necessary in order to keep our schools open.

It looks like it is going to be a beautiful fall weekend, and I'm sure many will be venturing outside the house. Please do not let your guard down when in public or with individuals not residing in your household. Remember to wear your facemask, keep your distance, wash/sanitize your hands frequently, and don't touch your face.

As a reminder, there is no school on Monday. Have a safe weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools