



Palos School District 118

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

Dear Palos 118 Families,

This week, I'm pleased to report eligible Group 1a Palos 118 employees began receiving COVID-19 vaccinations. I'm optimistic that all district employees will be eligible to receive vaccinations in the coming weeks. Staff vaccinations will further reduce the possibility of transmission of the virus in our schools but will not result in any significant changes to our safety procedures. Families should anticipate all of our COVID-19 protocols to remain in effect through the rest of the school year, including precautionary quarantines. I know quarantines are a hardship for many families, but they will remain one of the most important and effective tools we have to combat the spread of the virus in our schools.

On Tuesday, many public school districts opened their doors for in-person instruction for the first time this school year. I wish my colleagues and their school communities all the best as they adjust to new safety procedures while welcoming their students and staff back to classrooms. I am pleased to say that several school districts turned to us for advice on how to reopen schools, and others have implemented our model after seeing our successes. No plan is without challenges, and all plans require modifications along the way, but I could not be prouder of what we have accomplished since reopening schools in October.

Registration for 2021-2020 School Year

Since returning from winter break, we have received several inquiries regarding registration for the 2021-2022 school year. The school district has targeted March 5th for opening registration for all grade levels, including kindergarten. More information will be provided to families as this date approaches. We are looking at modifying our current practices to allow families to upload registration documents from home for convenience and to comply with our safety procedures to limit visitors to our schools.

February 5th Calendar Update

Friday, February 5th, is scheduled to be a half-day of student attendance as teachers will be conferencing with parents in the afternoon. Unfortunately, the school district is unable to overcome logistical challenges associated with implementing a half-day with this year's modified schedule. As a result, all Palos 118 students will learn from home that day. Teachers will be assigning asynchronous work for the morning of February 5th via Seesaw and Schoology. Principals will be sending out more information shortly. Teachers will be reaching out to parents soon should your child be recommended for a conference. As always, you can contact your building principals if you have any questions. We appreciate your continued flexibility.

This week's metrics:

- **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
- **Outbreaks of confirmed COVID-19 cases in schools**
We are unaware of any reported outbreaks in area schools. Source: ISC-4 and media reports.
- **Confirmed Community Spread**
Test Positivity is "substantial." New Cases per 100,000 is "substantial." New Cases are "minimal." Youth Case Increase is "minimal." The 7-day rolling positivity rate is $\leq 8\%$. The 14-day rolling positivity rate is $\leq 8\%$. Source: IDPH and Northwestern University
- **Directive from IDPH, CCDPH, ISBE, or the Governor's Office**
There have been no new directives this week.
- **District 118 Staffing**
If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, visit the [employment page](#) of our website to see if you qualify and to fill out an online application.
- **COVID Dashboard Statistics**
You can view our updated COVID Dashboard by visiting our website. www.palos118.org.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony M. Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools