

Wednesday, November 11, 2020

Dear District 33 Families,

From the beginning of the school year, the priority of District administration and the members of the Board of Education has been the safe return of our students and staff back into our buildings as soon as possible. We understand the many attempts to make this vision a reality has resulted in frustration and hardships for many of our students, families and staff. Please know that the well-being of our students, families and staff is always at the forefront of our decision making while using the information and guidance available to us.

Today, the Illinois Department of Public Health released [guidance](#) outlining new recommendations intended to decrease the positivity rate, which include work from home if possible, participate in essential activities only, and limit travel and gatherings.

This guidance, in addition to the impact of positive cases of COVID-19 on our community, has forced us to make a tough decision. Over the past five days, the number of District 33 staff unable to report to work due to COVID-19 related reasons is creating shortages that no longer allow us to support the next group of students moving to in-person learning. Therefore, in an abundance of caution, we will move into an [Adaptive Pause](#) (full D33 Online Learning Academy) for all students as shown below:

- Monday, November 16 will continue to be an independent (asynchronous) learning day for students
- Tuesday, November 17 students who are currently attending in-person will move to the full D33 Online Learning Academy 5 days a week
- All other students will continue with the D33 Online Learning Academy and not return to buildings for Partial In-Person learning
- Parent/Teacher conferences will be held virtually

As stated in last week's communication, decisions are made in collaboration with local health officials, and in conformity with ISBE/IDPH Joint Guidance. The CDC's guidance also encourages schools to self-assess implementation of key mitigation strategies as part of the decision-making process.

One of District 33's key mitigation strategies is to move into an [Adaptive Pause](#) (Full Online Learning Academy) when one or more D33 Operational Targets are unable to be achieved:

D33 Building Operational Targets

All 4 D33 Operational Targets must be YES to operate in-person	
Yes	Less than 5 confirmed COVID-19 cases in a particular classroom over 14 days.
No	Quarantining of staff does not prevent in-person learning at a building or in a classroom (lack of staff to provide in-person instruction)
Yes	Adequate PPE are available for staff

Yes	Adequate deep cleaning and sanitizing supplies are in stock
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In addition, these key mitigation strategies might also necessitate an Adaptive Pause:

- The DuPage County Health Department is concerned that spread is happening within a D33 classroom or school (based on district data related to illness)
- The Governor moves the State, Region or County to Phase 3 and declares schools closed
- Unforeseen circumstances or a combination of factors arise that may create an unsafe school environment

This is not a decision that we take lightly and understand the disappointment that our staff, students and families will feel as a result.

Please be aware that currently these increased numbers do not indicate transmission within our schools but have been linked to activity in the community. We have put numerous safety measures in place to minimize transmission within our school community, and will continue to monitor our district data and provide weekly updates on the status of this decision.

I continue to urge you to please help us minimize the spread in our community by wearing a face covering, following physical distancing guidelines and washing your hands frequently so that we can return to in-person learning in the near future. It is vital for all of us to work together for the benefit of our students and community. Should you have questions or concerns regarding this new situation, please feel free to contact your building principal or Gloria Trejo, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, by email at trejog@wego33.org.

Sincerely,

Kristina Davis, Ed.S.

Superintendent