



October 15, 2020

Board Members:

**RE: 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR UPDATE**

Township High School District 211 remains committed to continuing to offer in-person instructional and extracurricular opportunities for all students. While continuing to work with the most recent information from the Illinois State Board of Education (I.S.B.E.), Illinois Department of Public Health (I.D.P.H) and the Illinois High School Association (I.H.S.A.), District 211 remains on target for a Hybrid Scenario start as early as October 26, 2020.

**I.D.P.H. Health Metrics for School Determination of Community Spread of COVID-19**

The I.D.P.H. health school metrics determination of community spread of COVID-19 continues to focus on the five metrics listed below. Ideally, health metrics should remain in the minimal and moderate range. Should a “substantial” designation for a metric occur, the Cook County Department of Public Health will be contacted for an evaluation of the specific metrics in relationship to the in-person plan and the specific areas of District 211.

- 1. Weekly New Case Rate per 100,000 People:** Calculated as a rate =  $[\text{County case count for 7 days}] / [\text{County population}] \times 100,000$

Minimal Transmission: Case count is fewer than 10 or the rate is  $\leq 50$  cases per 100,000 people  
Moderate Transmission: Case rate is  $> 50$  cases per 100,000 people or  $\leq 100$  cases per 100,000  
Substantial Transmission: Case rate is  $> 100$  cases per 100,000 people

- 2. Test Positivity:** Weekly test positivity =  $[\text{County positive tests for 7 days}] / [\text{County total tests for same 7 days}] \times 100$

Minimal Transmission: Test positivity is  $\leq 5\%$   
Moderate Transmission: Test positivity is  $> 5\%$  and  $\leq 8\%$   
Substantial Transmission: Test positivity is  $> 8\%$

- 3. Weekly Count of New Cases Increase:** The total count of new cases reported during the 7 days is measured for the change from week to week for two consecutive weeks

Minimal Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 5\%$  each week and  $\leq 10\%$   
Moderate Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 10\%$  each week and  $\leq 20\%$   
Substantial Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 20\%$  each week

- 4. Weekly Count of New Youth Cases Increase:** The total count of new cases that are under 20 years old, reported during the 7 days is measured for the change from week to week for two consecutive weeks

Minimal Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 5\%$  each week and  $\leq 10\%$   
Moderate Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 10\%$  each week and  $\leq 20\%$   
Substantial Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 20\%$  each week

- 5. County Transmission:** I.D.P.H. designates a county as blue (overall stable metrics) or orange (warning signs of increased transmission) based on new cases, number of deaths, test positivity, tests performed, emergency department visits, hospital admissions, cluster of cases, ICU beds available (<https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countymetrics?county=Cook>)

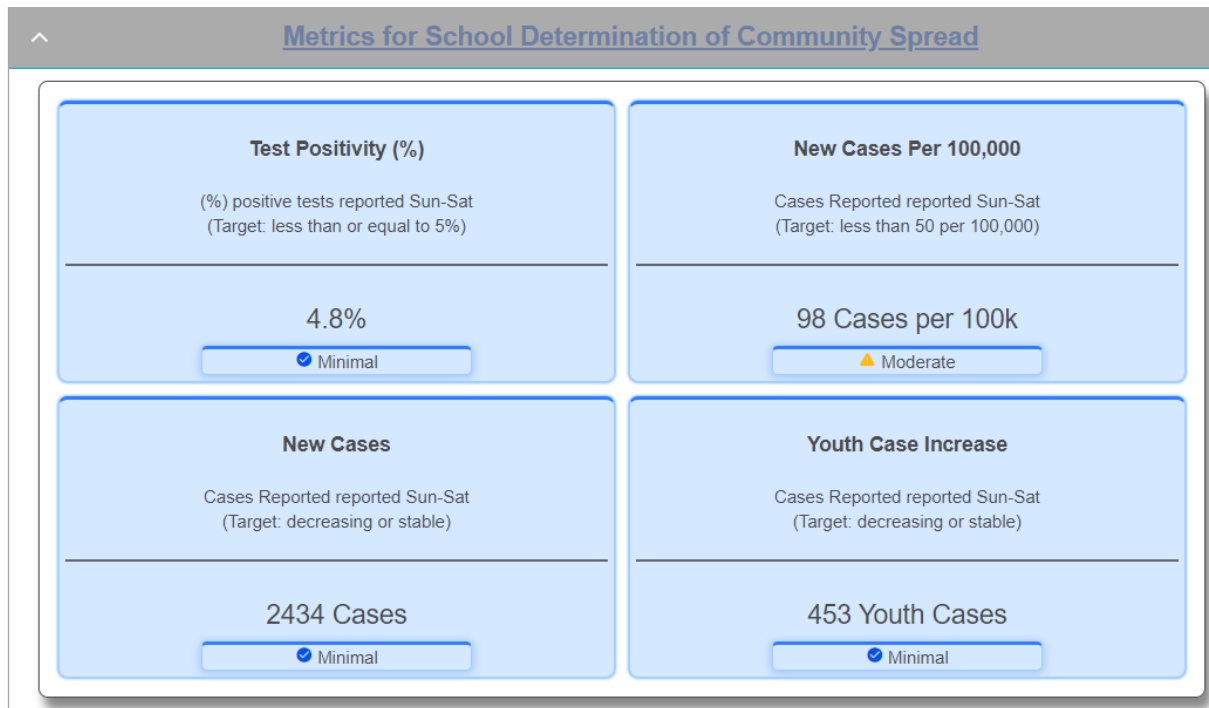
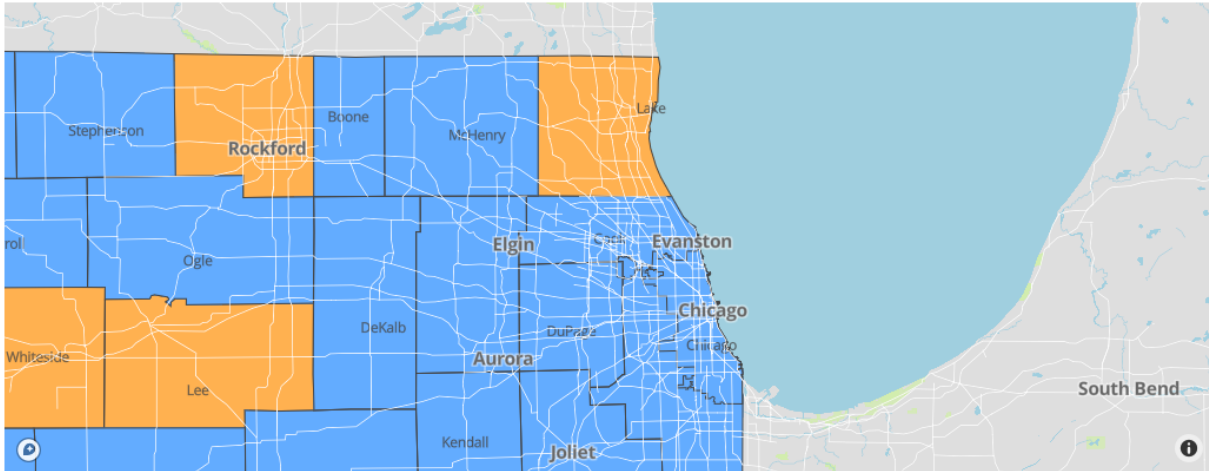
Minimal Transmission: Alert for one metric but remained blue at any point in last 4 weeks  
Moderate Transmission: Transitioned to orange once in last 4 weeks  
Substantial Transmission: Remained orange for 2 or more consecutive weeks

These metrics, the *Adaptive Pause and Metrics: Interim School Guidance for Local Health Departments*, time series information and a user-friendly dashboard are available at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=Cook>.

Current I.D.P.H. Suburban Cook County School Metrics Dashboard as of October 9, 2020:

# Cook County Detailed Metrics & School Metrics

Week 40: 9/27/2020 Through 10/3/2020



As early as October 26, the schools may open in a Hybrid Scenario. Once the Hybrid Scenario is in place, District 211 will work in partnership with the Cook County Department of Public Health (C.C.D.P.H) to implement mitigation strategies should school outbreaks related to in-school transmission occur. Mitigations may include, but are not limited to, multiple individual quarantines; classroom, bus rider or team quarantines; canceling non-essential events; or temporary in-person school closure.

## Four-Week Health Metric Data for Suburban Cook County

<b>Metric Published Date</b>	<b>1. New Case Rate</b>	<b>2. Test Positivity</b>	<b>3. New Case Increase</b>	<b>4. New Youth Cases</b>	<b>5. County Transmission</b>
10/9/2020	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Blue
10/2/2020	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Blue
9/25/2020	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Blue
9/18/2020	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Blue

### **District 211 Operational Metrics to Maintain In-Person Opportunities**

Coupled with the health metrics described above are operational metrics that must remain at a reasonable threshold to maintain in-person operations: personal protective equipment available, sanitation and disinfecting supplies available, licensed personnel available, non-licensed personnel available and consistent implementation of safety protocols to limit quarantine numbers caused by in-school transmission (remaining six-feet apart, wearing masks, remaining home when exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom, hand sanitizing, and systems limiting 50 people in any area). The operational metrics continue to remain at a reasonable threshold to continue having students in school and move to the planned in-person, morning Hybrid Scenario for additional students as early as October 26.

### **Next Steps**

The phase-in of current in-person opportunities for students has allowed for District 211 schools to remain open and healthy. The following steps prioritize student groups per the I.S.B.E. guidance:

- Continue I.S.B.E. prioritization of specific special education populations through mid-October.
- Continue direct family outreach to families of English learners to increase Academic Support, and activity and athletic participation.
- Continue individual connections to students who are at-risk of academic failure due to school disengagement.
- Extended outreach for current in-person athletic, activity and Academic Support to connect students to school personnel and to assist students in the implementation of school safety protocols.
- Monitor I.D.P.H. Health Metrics for School Determination and District 211 Operational Metrics for trends to implement a Hybrid Scenario as soon as the week of October 26. Communicate with the C.C.D.P.H. if I.D.P.H. Health Metrics for School Determination do not consistently remain in the minimal and moderate transmission range. Discuss with the C.C.D.P.H. the transmission risk for in-person learning in schools when District 211 safety protocols are in place.
- Communicate with all stakeholders the week of October 12 an update for a potential plan to the Hybrid Scenario, including team assignment for in-person attendees.
- Communicate potential additional in-person options for students who are English learners and students with Individualized Education Programs or 504 Plans.

- Continue classroom teacher preparation for instructional implementation of teaching with some students in-person every other week and other students consistently remote.
- Offer freshman and other students unfamiliar with their high school in-person appointments for the week of October 19 to ride the bus, practice entering the school and walk through their classroom schedule in preparation for the Hybrid scenario.

**Upcoming School Dates**

October 16 I.S.B.E.-approved Institute Day for 2020-2021 school year

October 26 Targeted Hybrid Scenario Start

October 27 State SAT Testing for Assigned Seniors (remote classes for all other students to allow for facilities to meet state-testing requirements)

October 29 PSAT/NMSQT - Optional Test for Juniors (Hybrid scenario as planned)

November 3 No School – Election Day

November 25 No School – Non-Attendance Day

November 26-27 No School – Thanksgiving

December 18 I.S.B.E.-approved Institute Day for 2020-2021 school year

This plan is based on the current I.S.B.E. and I.D.P.H. information and is subject to modification based on updated guidance. A return to a Traditional Scenario would require, at a minimum starting point, the release of the 50-person limitation, removal of six-foot distancing within the classroom, and evaluation of transmission rates per the I.S.B.E. and I.D.P.H.

Lisa Small  
Superintendent