



September 17, 2020

Board Members:

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

Township High School District 211 remains committed to continuing to offer additional in-person instructional and extracurricular opportunities for all students. These opportunities are based upon 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.). Over the past three months, the information from these organizations has been updated as needed to ensure that safe and productive opportunities are available for all students. The Hybrid and Remote scenarios presented at the July 2020 Board of Education meeting for the 2020-2021 school year remain in place as core schedules for students and staff until a Traditional scenario is possible. Even as guidance, metrics and regulations change from week to week, the students and staff have been able to maintain consistency in the daily schedule as more in-person opportunities continue to be offered.

**Current Opportunities for In-Person Experiences**

The following opportunities are encouraged for all students to connect to teachers, counselors, administrators and other school personnel. These in-person engagements also allow students to transition to following the key safety protocols of wellness screening, wearing a mask, maintaining six-foot distancing, and sanitization and disinfecting practices. The afternoon appointments and many activities are also available remotely for families who so choose.

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| June – July  | In-Person Summer Athletic and Band Camps (prior to school beginning)   |
| August 10    | I.H.S.A. Athletics: Boys & Girls Golf and Cross Country, Girls Tennis, Girls Swimming & Diving   |
| August 24    | In-Person Afternoon Appointments: English Learners, Business Education, Applied Technology, Family & Consumer Sciences and Alternative Learning Academy School |
| August 31    | Additional In-Person Afternoon Appointments: Science, Music, Art, Wellness and Afterschool Activities  |
| September 8  | Additional In-Person Afternoon Appointments: English, Math, Social Studies and World Language  |
| September 14 | I.H.S.A. Contact Days for all sports through October   |

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

The I.D.P.H. has worked in partnership with the I.S.B.E. and the I.H.S.A. over the past three months. In a time when updating plans is a necessity because additional information is available, the partnership between these three organizations has led to consistent information once a change in expectation is implemented. *Adaptive Pause and Metrics: Interim School Guidance for Local Health Departments* is the most recent I.D.P.H. guidance and was available for school officials on August 18. This new guidance was similar in expectations for safety procedures as publicized in the August 12 guidelines - including remaining six-feet apart, wearing masks, remaining home when exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom, hand sanitizing, general disinfecting procedures and limits of 50 people in any area. New information was issued surrounding five specific metrics with a focus on the level of community transmission within suburban Cook County. Weekly New Cases per 100,000 and Test Positivity are considered key metrics for indicating transmission levels.

- 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  $\leq 20\%$

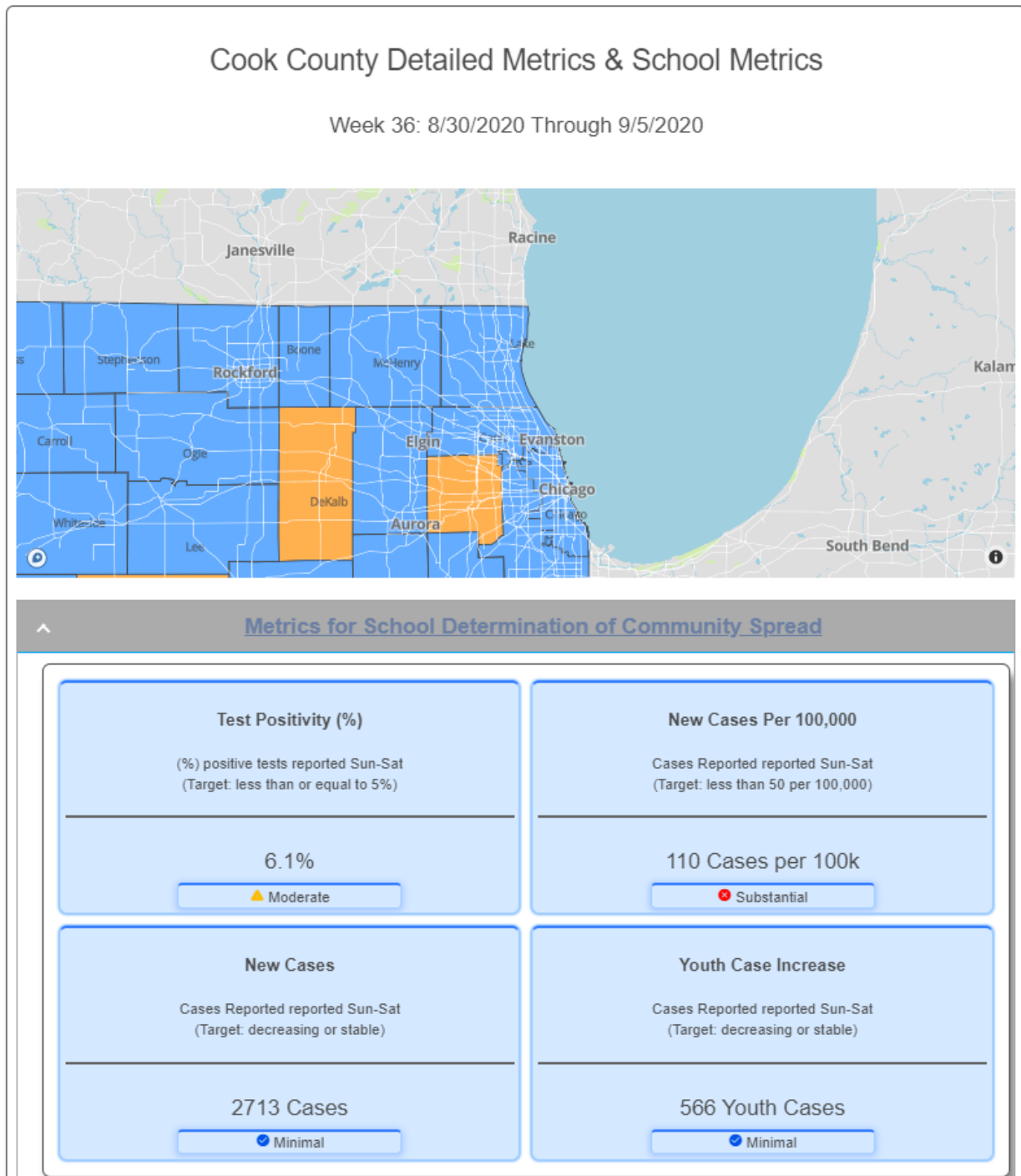
Substantial Transmission: Case number increases for 2 weeks, by  $> 20\%$  each week

- 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 September 14, 2020:



Health metrics should remain in the minimal and moderate range for four consecutive weeks for consideration of a hybrid rollout. The four-week timeline matches the I.D.P.H. timeline for county transmission. Should a transition to hybrid instruction be planned, but a “substantial” designation for a metric occurs, the Cook County Department of Public Health will be contacted for an evaluation of the specific metric in relationship to the in-person plan.

**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>
9/11/20	Substantial	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Blue - Moderate
9/04/20	Moderate	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Blue - Moderate
8/28/20	Substantial	Moderate	Minimal	Minimal	Orange - Moderate
8/21/20	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.

**A. Personal Protective Equipment Availability**

Masks, gowns, gloves and visors are used by staff in varying situations for the protection of both students and staff.

**B. Sanitation and Disinfecting Supply Availability**

Proper cleaning and disinfecting of our facilities require both the supplies and personnel to maintain the safety of both students and staff. Also, the ability for the students and staff to sanitize hands through hand washing or hand sanitizing must be present.

**C. Licensed Personnel Availability**

Teachers, counselors, social workers, psychologists, support services, nurses and administrators must be available on-site or qualified substitutes must be available for in-person supervision in the classroom when licensed personnel are working remotely or absent from work.

**D. Non-Licensed Personnel Availability**

Personnel from the employee groups of teacher assistants, student supervisors, food service, transportation, clerical, technology, and custodial and maintenance must be available for work. Some groups must be on-site in order for students to have in-person opportunities. Substitutes are typically available for some of these employee groups, but on a limited basis because of school-specific training required for the job.

**E. Consistent Implementation of Safety Protocols to Limit Quarantine Numbers**

Remaining six-feet apart, wearing masks, remaining home when exhibiting any COVID-19 symptom, hand sanitizing and systems limiting 50 people in any area must be implemented consistently by all to decrease the likeliness of large group quarantines.

All operational metrics must remain at a viable level for schools to remain open for in-person opportunities. Currently, all operational metrics are viable.

### **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:

- Prioritization of specific special education populations during the morning sessions starting the week of September 21 and continuing phase-in through mid-October.
- Continued direct family outreach to families of English learners to increase Academic Support, and activity and athletic participation.
- 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 to the school safety protocols.
- Per the I.D.P.H. and I.S.B.E., six-foot spacing between desks in classrooms is needed. At a full 50% model, all classrooms and common areas cannot attain this safety protocol. In order to facilitate a Hybrid scenario with these newer requirements, a true count of potential in-person students is needed. By the beginning of October, families will be asked to commit to remaining remote until the end of the semester or reserve a seat for in-person classes during the Hybrid scenario. This survey will allow the number of students to be assessed for maximum class capacity and to evaluate if every other week, in-person rotation at 50% for the Hybrid scenario is feasible. If not feasible, a model less than 50% will need to be implemented.
- Monitor I.D.P.H. Health Metrics for School Determination and District 211 Operational Metrics for trends to continue to a Hybrid scenario as soon as the week of October 26.
- Communicate again with all stakeholders an update for potential plan two weeks prior to Hybrid scenario.
- Communicate with the Cook County Department of Public Health (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.

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 Transitional scenario with no restrictions would require, at a minimum starting point, the release of the 50-person limitation, six-foot distancing, and evaluation of transmission rates per the I.S.B.E. and I.D.P.H.

Lisa Small  
Superintendent