



November 19, 2020

Antioch CCSD 34 Families,

Beginning tomorrow, Friday, November 20, 2020, the entire state of Illinois will be placed under Tier 3 Mitigation, per Governor’s Order. This comes as significant health metrics locally and across the state continue to rise at an alarming rate. While Tier 3 mitigation measures do not specifically state what decisions school districts are to make regarding learning models, the virtual learning recommendation issued by the Lake County Health Department on October 20, 2020 is still in effect. As you know, in response to the communication by the Health Department back in October, we implemented an adaptive pause (a strategy that allows for movement into any level of remote learning to prevent disease transmission during a pandemic) that went into effect on October 26, 2020.

On November 4, 2020, we extended that adaptive pause based on a series of health metrics that were not indicating any reduction in community transmission risk of COVID-19; rather, all metrics were headed in the wrong direction. The extension of our pause was announced to be through November 29. Since then, we have continued to monitor the metrics that we have committed to use in our decision-making.

Today, we are announcing that our adaptive pause will be extended until at least January 4, 2021.

Since my communication on November 4, 2020, the following shows the changes in the various metrics we have been tracking in Antioch CCSD 34:

- Region 9 Positivity Rate (7-day rolling average)
  - November 1 – 11.1%
  - **November 16 – 15.7%**
- Region 9 COVID-like Hospitalization Rate (7-day rolling average)
  - November 1 – 25 admissions per day
  - **November 16 – 46 admissions per day**
- Lake County Incidence Rate (cases/100,000 residents/day) (7-day rolling average)
  - November 1 – 39.6/100,000
  - **November 15 – 84.3/100,000**
- Weekly Incidence Rate (cases/100,000 residences/week) – daily incidence rate multiplied by 7
  - November 1 – 277.2/100,000
  - **November 15 – 590.1/100,000**
    - As indicated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making, a 7-day incidence rate of greater than 200/100,000 individuals places us in the “highest risk of transmission in schools.”

**Antioch School District 34**

964 Spafford Street  
Antioch, IL 60002  
847-838-8401

**Mary Kay McNeill Early Learning Center**

817 N. Main Street  
Antioch, IL 60002  
847-838-8901

**Hillcrest Elementary School**

433 E. Depot Street  
Antioch, IL 60002  
847-838-8001

**Oakland Elementary School**

818 E. Grass Lake Road  
Lake Villa, IL 60046  
847-838-8601

**W.C. Petty Elementary School**

850 Highview Drive  
Antioch, IL 60002  
847-838-8101

**Antioch Upper Grade School**

800 Highview Drive  
Antioch, IL 60002  
847-838-8301

As we get closer to January 4, 2021, we will continue to monitor data, explore best-practice, seek the advice of experts, and make the best and right decisions for us. There is a lot of angst and concern regarding what our reality will be following next week's holiday and the holidays that close out our calendar year. State Superintendent Dr. Carmen Ayala stated in a message on November 17, "School leaders may want to consider additional creative safety measures in light of the upcoming holidays. School leaders may consider a pivot to remote learning for two weeks after the winter break -- long enough for students and staff who may have unknowingly contracted COVID-19 during the holiday to quarantine and avoid inadvertently bringing the virus into the classroom." This will be something we closely monitor heading toward the end of the year. In the coming weeks, we hope everyone stays safe, well, and healthy. **Please continue to follow the 3 Ws of washing hands, watching distance, and wearing a mask.**

Note: Our lunch program will continue during the adaptive pause. Please reference communication from our Food Service Department regarding specifics.

Please know that we sincerely and dearly want our students and staff back on our busses, in our classrooms, reading in our libraries, and playing on our playgrounds. Given that our first priority is and always will be student and staff safety and wellness, a return to in-person learning is just not prudent at this time. When it is determined to be appropriate, we commit to being ready. As discussed, at Tuesday's Board of Education meeting, we are preparing in earnest.

Right now, our team is finalizing our Logistics and Operations Plan, inclusive of our hybrid learning model and schedule. We aim to be prepared for a return to in-person learning as soon as the data and Lake County Health Department indicate that it is safe and feasible to do so. We continue to collaborate with local districts and our health professionals in our planning and decision-making.

As we move through November and into December, this time of year is one in which we are reminded to be explicit about our gratitude. I am profoundly grateful for our students, staff, families, and you. This pandemic has not been easy on anyone. For that, I am deeply sorry. While there does not seem to be any right answers or decisions, I hope you know that I strive to make the best ones. With hope, gratitude, and grace, we are working together to protect, care for, and serve one another. For that, I am thankful...

Respectfully,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard  
Superintendent

