



Antioch CCSD 34 Families,

Since the implementation of the adaptive pause (a strategy that allows for movement into any level of remote learning to prevent disease transmission during a pandemic) on our return to in-person learning phase-in plan on October 26, we have been closely monitoring state, county, and local health data and working with the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) to make decisions. In a call with the Executive Director of the LCHD this morning, he shared additional data with the Lake County Superintendents and offered insight into the health and safety climate we currently find ourselves in. **In short, our metrics continue to trend in a direction that is placing our entire community at significant risk.** Specifically, our current situation in the county was described by a health expert as, “hyper substantial community transmission.”

In the paragraphs and graphics that follow, I will explain in detail what I know to be our current reality. **We know that this is an incredibly difficult time for our students, staff, and families.** We appreciate all that has been done, sacrificed, and committed in order to make the best of an unquestionably challenging circumstance. We want nothing more than to open our classrooms and welcome back our educators and learners. With that said, currently, the science, the data, and the trends do not support that it is safe to do so, at this time.

Tonight, we are announcing that our adaptive pause is extended until at least Monday, November 30. In studying the data very closely, it just does not appear that the metrics we have committed to use in making our decisions will indicate any possible return until after Thanksgiving Break, at the earliest. **If the data described below does not support a recommendation by the Lake County Health Department for hybrid learning at Thanksgiving, the adaptive pause would likely be extended through Winter Break.** The data is not currently tracking in a way that would allow us to transition back in the next couple of weeks and we want to be transparent, forthcoming, and proactive in giving families and our staff time to plan.

We continue to prepare for an eventual reignition of our return to in-person learning process and the schedule, logistics, and communication that would come along with that. **Unfortunately, the pandemic and localized data suggests that we continue to implement and focus on remote learning for the time being.** We continue to hear feedback regarding remote learning and regularly meet to discuss changes, adaptations, and alterations to that plan. We know this is not ideal for all of our learners, but we will continue to evaluate and adjust as necessary.

At the same time, we will continue to work to identify and provide resources and supports to our students and families. Through the lens of academic, social emotional, and supervision needs, we are working to problem-solve and mitigate concerns as they arise. We thank you for your partnership in this.

Here is the data:

As of the most recent data posted on the Illinois Department of Public Health’s Regional COVID-19 Resurgence Criteria dashboard, **Region 9 (Lake and McHenry Counties) has a 7-day rolling average positivity rate of 11.1%.** Nine of the past ten days have seen increases in this number and it is the tenth consecutive day above the 8% threshold used by IDPH (the World Health Organization uses a 5% threshold). Specifically, Lake County’s 7-day rolling average positivity rate is 9.8%.

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

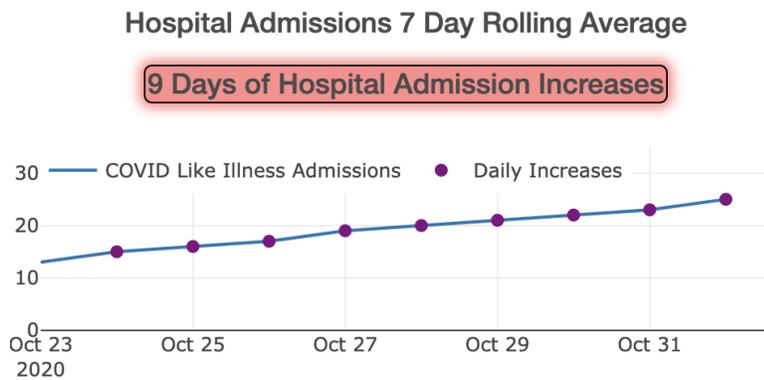
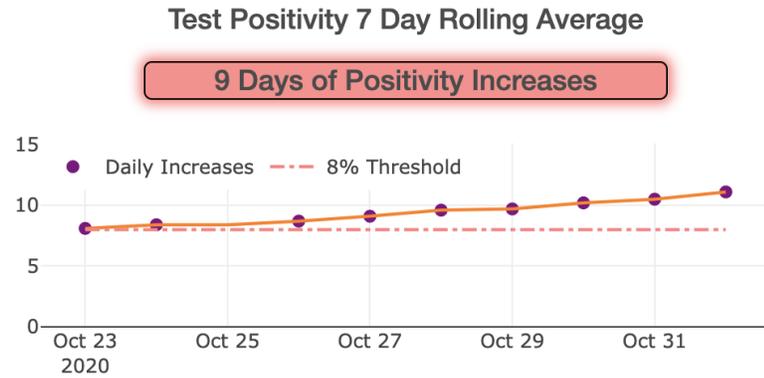
Antioch Upper Grade School

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

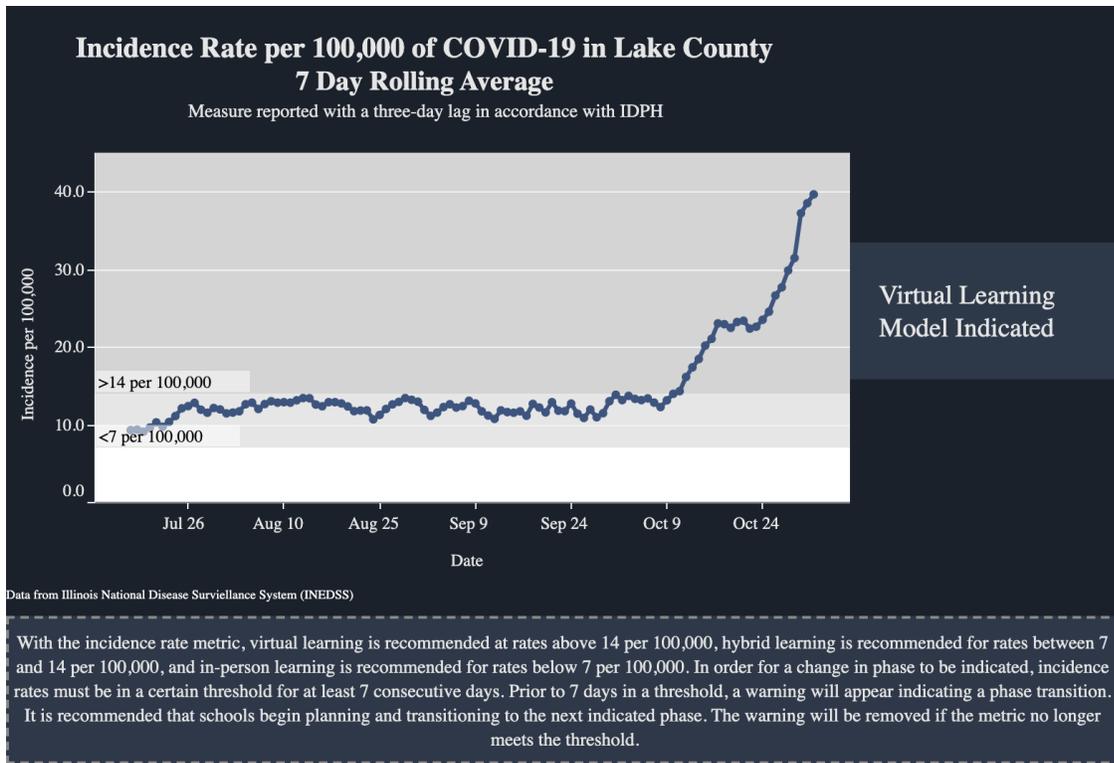
www.antioch34.com

The other metric being closely monitored on the IDPH dashboard is COVID-like illness hospitalizations. As of today's posted data, **Region 9 has a 7-day rolling average COVID-like illness hospitalization rate of 25 per day.** This number has more than tripled in the last month.

Here are the dashboards that show the above:



Locally, the Lake County Health Department has been closely tracking the incidence rate (cases/100,000 residents) on its [School Decision Dashboard](#). As of the latest data in the system, **the incidence rate in Lake County was 39.6/100,000 on November 1.** This number has been rapidly increasing since October 9. In order for the Lake County Health Department to change their learning model recommendation to hybrid, the county would have to see seven consecutive days below 14/100,000 persons. As this number is a 7-day rolling average, even if the increase plateaus and then begins to decline, it will be some time before this happens.



The Lake County Health Department reports the incidence rate as a 7-day rolling average of incidence per day. On the other hand, IDPH reports them as a 7-day rolling average of incidence per week. To equate the two, one can multiply the LCHD daily average by seven to get to the per week number. In doing so to the 39.6/100,000 reported on November 1, that **7-day rolling average incidence rate equates to 277.2/100,000 persons per week. This number is extremely significant. As indicated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making, an incidence rate of greater than 200/100,000 individuals places us in the “highest risk of transmission in school.”**

Indicators	Lowest risk of transmission in schools	Lower risk of transmission in schools	Moderate risk of transmission in schools	Higher risk of transmission in schools	Highest risk of transmission in schools
Core Indicators					
Number of new cases per 100,000 persons within the last 14 days*	<5	5 to <20	20 to <50	50 to ≤ 200	>200
Percentage of RT-PCR tests that are positive during the last 14 days**	<3%	3% to <5%	5% to <8%	8% to ≤ 10%	>10%

At this point, the data, trend lines, and science do not support in-person learning. We take student, staff, and community health and safety very seriously. **The decision to extend our adaptive**

pause is not one that we take lightly or came to easily; however, it is one that we believe is in the best interest of our entire learning community, at this time.

We will continue our aggressive preparation for a return to our phased-in plan and, at the same time, we will continue to ensure our delivery of remote learning is the best it can be. In the meantime, please help us continue to mitigate transmission risk in our community. **It is imperative that we are all practicing the 3 W's: wash hands, watch your distance, and wear a mask.**

Serving this community is a great responsibility and honor. I am grateful for your partnership and trust. In this decision, I am being as transparent and honest as I can with the data we are looking at and the reality we are facing. **If there is anything that in the data, science, or trends that would prompt us to re-evaluate this decision or extend this adaptive pause, we absolutely will do so.** With that said, we want to give everyone an accurate picture of where we are so that we may all plan accordingly.

Please stay well, healthy, and safe,

Dr. Bradford Hubbard
Superintendent