



# **PRAIRIE GROVE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 46**

3223 IL Route 176, Crystal Lake IL 60014-2199  
Phone 815.459.3023 Fax 815.356.0519 [www.dist46.org](http://www.dist46.org)

December 30, 2021

Dear PG46 Families,

## **Return to school on January 3, 2022**

We hope you have enjoyed winter break and the holidays. As we approach our return in the new year, the District looks forward to welcoming staff and students back into the schools on Monday, January 3rd. We remain committed to the layered mitigation strategies that have proven effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 at school and has allowed us to keep in-person learning available every day. We appreciate your partnership with these mitigation strategies and wanted to provide a few reminders and updates prior to January 3rd.

**If your student has a positive COVID-19 test during the winter break,** then they need to stay home and away from others (isolate) for 10 days. The day their symptoms start is day zero. Count 10 days after that, and on the 11th day they are not contagious anymore and can return to school or other activities. If your child is still in their 10 day isolation period when we return to school on January 3rd, they will need to stay home.

Please email any positive test results to [healthrecords@dist46.org](mailto:healthrecords@dist46.org). Once your child is positive for COVID-19 they do not have to do any other COVID testing or quarantining for 90 days so it is important that we keep a record of all positive tests. Please include in the email the date that your student's symptoms started and what symptoms they have (example: fever, cough, headache, etc). Anyone who lives with or has been exposed to the student who has COVID-19 needs to be isolated for 14 days unless they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19. (See below)

**If your student has been exposed to someone who has COVID-19 over the break,** and they are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 (they have two doses of COVID-19 vaccine and it has been at least two weeks since the second dose) they do not have to be isolated. A COVID-19 test is recommended if any symptoms arise.

If they are not fully vaccinated, they need to be isolated for 14 days. This means they should stay home and avoid contact with others. The last day they were exposed to the person is day zero. Then count 14 days, and on day 15 they can return to school and other activities outside the home. If the person with COVID-19 lives in the same home as the student it is important to keep them separate because the person with COVID-19 is contagious for 10 days. If it is still within the 14 days of isolation when we come back from break, your student will need to stay home.





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### Isolation and Quarantine

Earlier this week, the CDC released new guidelines reducing the time needed for isolation and quarantine for those who test positive for and/or are deemed a close contact to a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. Illinois School Districts must wait for IDPH to adopt the CDC recommendations before we can implement them, but we are hopeful it will happen sooner rather than later as we remain committed to keeping as many students in school learning as possible. We will notify families if/when the District is able to implement the new guidelines.

### Test to Stay Program & SHIELD Testing

The Test to Stay & SHIELD Testing programs were successfully implemented this fall as an alternative to exclusion when/if COVID-19 exposures occurred. We intend to continue to offer this program. The guidelines require that testing for the Test to Stay program must occur at school and that home kits or private testing conducted off of school grounds are not an option. Therefore, if your student is not signed up for Test to Stay & SHIELD Testing and is deemed a close contact to a positive case of COVID-19 s/he will need to be excluded from school based on the current [guidelines](#) unless they are fully vaccinated. SHIELD testing will resume on Tuesday, January 4th.

If you are interested in more information or desire to enroll your student in SHIELD and/or Test to Stay, please see the linked [SHIELD and Test to Stay FAQs](#).

### Vaccination Records

If your student has received the COVID-19 vaccine, please consider providing proof of vaccination by scanning and emailing it to the school nurse ([healthrecords@dist46.org](mailto:healthrecords@dist46.org)). While notifying the school of your student's vaccination status is voluntary, it does help us with the contact tracing process and keeps as many students as possible at school learning in-person.

### Staffing Shortages

Like many school districts, PG46 continues to experience staffing and substitute shortages. We anticipate these shortages will continue and perhaps worsen into the new year due to the increased positivity rate and spread of the Omicron variant. It is our goal to continue in-person instruction by maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment. However, it's possible we may need to temporarily move individual classrooms to remote learning should an outbreak be declared and/or we cannot find a substitute teacher. Each situation will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and any temporary change from in-person to remote learning in a classroom will be communicated with as much notice as possible. If you or anyone you know is willing to be a substitute teacher, custodian, nurse, paraprofessional, and/or bus driver, please consider applying [here](#) and help us keep in-person learning going.





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Again, we hope that you enjoyed the two week winter break and are ready for the second half of the school year. We appreciate your partnership and look forward to a successful end of the 2021-22 school year.

All the best,

John M. Bute, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

