



Canton

Union School District #66

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Parents, Friends, and Guardians:

A week ago today our school board met to approve a district re-entry plan. The cornerstone of the re-entry plan is a metric that will guide our district in the re-opening of our schools in a safe manner. The metric measures four IDPH County and School statistics over a two-week period. Those statistics are:

- Test positivity (%)
- Youth case increase
- Number of new cases from Sun-Sat
- New Cases per 100,000

Unfortunately, we did not meet the metric for our first week of implementation. Although disappointed, we feel the metric is working exactly how it is supposed to. For example, two of the aforementioned categories are currently rated as “substantial” and another category is rated “moderate”. Specifically, the test positivity rate is currently at 7.3%. For illustration purposes, if a county reaches 8% or higher, for test positivity, for three consecutive days, the state may implement mitigation action. That action may include the closure of bars and restaurants. The IDPH County and School statistics are used to determine the community spread of the COVID 19 virus.

On a state-wide basis the Lake County Health Department has recommended the closure of all schools. Similarly, and equally alarming, is the fact that 51 of 102 counties in Illinois are now under warning status. Simply put our state is experiencing a spike in COVID 19 infections. It is important to remember that the spike is attributed to social gatherings and not wearing masks. In closing, it is our hope our district will experience lower metric numbers this week. For more information visit our metric website at : <https://www.cantonusd.org/2020-re-opening-metric-dashboard.html> or IDPH at: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/countyschool?county=Fulton>

Sincerely,

Rolf Sivertsen
Superintendent
Canton Schools