

October 22, 2020

Dear District 202 Families and Staff,

Effective Friday, October 23, 2020 Governor Pritzker will move our Region back to Phase 3 for mitigation purposes.

While school districts are generally exempt from the Governor's mitigation strategies, they are an important indicator of the environment created by COVID-19. We continue to monitor COVID-19 related metrics as a community health issue while simultaneously balancing the needs of our students.

We look forward to welcoming our multi-needs special education students back to in-person learning on October 26, 2020. This group of students was prioritized to return first due to the challenges meeting their unique needs solely through remote learning.

We have implemented and installed all appropriate health and safety measures and resources at all schools receiving students next week based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, Illinois Department of Public Health, or Illinois State Board of Education.

We understand the concern many parents are feeling now after the governor's announcement this week. Scientists have been telling us for months that even if we re-open schools safely, we may be in and out of in-person and remote learning.

Other districts that have re-opened (including several we have visited and spoken to) have subsequently had confirmed cases of COVID-19. Confirmed cases require contact tracing and quarantining of groups of students or staff.

Without question, the constant changes related to COVID-19 are confusing and stressful for everyone. They can begin to disrupt the rhythm of a consistent school experience.

Unfortunately, when we return to in-person learning, everyone needs to be prepared for us to possibly return to remote learning again.

We have consistently said that all details of our plans to return to in-person learning are tentative and subject to change. If we continue to see COVID-19 on a larger and growing scale, and it appears to be widely and rapidly spreading throughout our community, we may adjust timelines of other groups of students or grade levels returning. Please prepare now for that possibility.

Many of us are so "done" with the pandemic. Sadly, the virus is not done with us. We will address the ongoing challenges appropriately to ensure the health and well-being of our students, staff, families, and community. Lastly, we must all remember to maintain physical distance, wash our hands, and wear a mask over our noses and mouths.

Thank you for your efforts and understanding.

Dr. Lane Abrell

Superintendent