



# East St. Louis School District 189

Arthur R. Culver  
Superintendent of Schools

## MEMO

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**To:** Arthur Culver, Superintendent  
**From:** Keisa Garrett, Chief of Schools  
**Date:** 7.22.20  
**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates

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### **BACK TO SCHOOL TASK FORCE 2021**

A District 189 team of more than 50 individuals, including parents, community members, principals, directors, teachers, support staff, and Cabinet, participated in numerous meetings to plan for returning to school amid COVID-19. We will follow all of the latest and up-to-date guidance from ISBE and the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health). The guidance for each option is now complete for view by The Board.

### **COVID CASES IN SERVING ZIP CODES**

In order to provide better trend information, we are currently tracking the information directly from the IDPH website. We looked at IDPH to get totals for each week, and updated with Belleville News Democrat articles when available. The trends of cases in our serving ZIP codes follow a disturbing pattern of consistent significant increases weekly. The most prominent week in terms of attention to increases were those reported in the last week of June 2020 (136 new cases).

According to Illinois Department of Public Health data, the Metro East region in southwestern Illinois has a positivity rate of 7.1% as of Monday — the highest in the state — fueled by seven consecutive days of positivity rate increases. Reported on July 21, 2020, there is a gain of 100 coronavirus cases in St. Clair County for the eighth consecutive day. The average number of new cases for each week in our serving ZIP codes is now 81 up from 72 last week. The rate of change from last week is 6.3%. Both St. Clair County and our serving ZIP codes are exhibiting per capita infection rates higher than in Chicago, which was noted as 58 per 100,000 and is above Governor Pritzker's goal of 50 per 100,000.

Considering that there are under 30,000 people in our serving ZIP codes, the applied ratio of new cases (81 to 30,000) could mean that for each 100,000 people in this area, there are 270 new cases. This rate is more than 5 times the infection rate of Governor Pritzker's goals for Phase 4. As of July 21, 2020, there are 1,265 reported cases within our serving ZIP Codes. Of the 1,265 reported cases, 1,181 are within St. Clair County. The St. Clair County cases within our serving ZIP code represent 38% of the 3,095 reported positive cases in St. Clair County, Illinois. We were advised by the East Side Health Department to include all Venice ZIP codes.

See additional information today. The percentage of representative cases in our serving area has been ranging from 36% to 38% over the past few weeks. Our serving area represents 30,000 of the 259,000 plus residents in St. Clair County. IDPH has begun sponsoring free testing sites in our direct serving areas and are asking that all are tested even without symptoms, each day of July from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please see the chart below for data related to COVID-19 positive cases in our serving ZIP codes. I will continue to include only the past eight data points, as continuing to include all weeks will make the document more difficult to view.

### COVID-19 CASES WITHIN EAST ST. LOUIS DISTRICT 189 SERVING ZIP CODES

ZIP CODE	Serving Schools	6/12	6/19	6/26	6/30	7/2	BND 7/8	BND 7/09	7/10	7/15	7/20	7/22
62201	VA, Bush, Lincoln, HS	28	52	87	120	122	130	136	137	145	148	155
62203	Wright, MCMS, HS	48	56	63	67	70	75	77	80	89	107	117
62204	VA, Officer, Lincoln, HS	57	59	64	68	69	72	75	79	84	87	94
62205	Wright, MCMS, HS	65	67	73	81	84	87	91	89	99	105	122
62206	VA, HS, Cahokia	132	152	109	181	190	202	213	222	246	267	281
62207	Dunbar Officer Wright, MCMS, HS	90	101	109	113	114	118	119	124	144	146	165
62208	Wright, MCMS, HS / Grant, Illini Elementary, Belleville East 201	85	91	102	110	111	113	120	123	142	153	173
62232	VA, Avant, Wright, MCMS, HS	28	31	36	39	40	46	50	52	58	60	66
62059	Brooklyn-VA, HS, SPED	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	9	8	8
62090	Venice-HS (Not in St. Clair Total)							14	14	17	19	20
62060	Venice-HS (Not in St. Clair Total)											64

## POSITIVE EMPLOYEE COVID-19 CASES IN DISTRICT 189

In addition to our cases of residents, we have been monitoring the cases of our staff both on duty and off duty as reported. We have been working closely with our contracted agencies, both Chartwells Food Service and Illinois Central Bus Company, to determine the number of staff positive cases. During the past week, we have had 1 new confirmed COVID-19 case in District 189. This is a total of 21 cases. Please see the chart below for the most recent information.

Employer	Total Number of Positive COVID 19 Cases Reported
East St. Louis SD 189	14
Chartwells	6
Illinois Central Bus Company	1
Total	21

### **New Update Monday 7.21.20**

<https://news.wttw.com/2020/07/21/covid-19-restrictions-could-return-metro-east-region-illinois-pritzker-warns>

<https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/coronavirus/these-are-the-metrics-illinois-will-use-to-determine-if-a-region-must-roll-back/2305576/>

We have been following the data very closely and are looking at the most recent information from Governor Pritzker's office regarding possible regional restrictions based on spikes in infection. Although many of our surrounding districts have communicated a plan to families, we have been informing families of the current options and gathering their feedback and information. We have found that 1 in 5 of our parents surveyed are leary of sending their children in for in person instruction during this pandemic. We have communicated with families and our community to standby for a decision as of July 31, 2020. We understand that communicating options that may or may not be available based on regional restrictions would be particularly harmful to our families. We also understand that the departments that are addressing teacher needs and curricular needs for students are designing learning for several options and would want the most concrete avenues for planning. We believe that by July 31, 2020, we will have communicated a concrete plan for our parents that is in line with guidance from both ISBE and the Governor's office.