



OAK PARK and RIVER FOREST HIGH SCHOOL

Dec. 13, 2021

Dear OPRFHS Students, Staff, and Families,

As we launch our last week of classes and exams before break, we want to update you on the status of our COVID case numbers, the mitigations put in place last week, and ongoing testing plans.

Masking

We've seen a marked improvement in students keeping their masks up over their mouth and nose. Let's be sure to keep this up through the following week.

Lunch

Opening off-campus lunch to all grades and taking over the Fieldhouse as an additional lunch space has been very effective for spreading out students during lunch. We also closed the Student Commons and balcony areas as lunch spots, which has eliminated the crowding that was happening there. Next semester we will be closing lunch periods again for grades 9 and 10. The new South Cafeteria will be open starting the first day of second semester, which will help to alleviate our lunchtime challenges. If we find that we need more space, the Fieldhouse will continue to be our additional location.

Saliva testing

We had a large number of students participate in voluntary saliva screening last week. In fact, SHIELD told us that OPRFHS set a record for the daily number of tests at one site. Here are the results of last week's testing:

Date	Number of SHIELD tests	Number of positive results*
Monday, Dec. 6	1,651	20
Thursday, Dec. 9	1,396	3

**Identified through on-site SHIELD testing only; does not include an additional 19 new cases for the week, identified through other testing sources.*

As mentioned in previous communications, we were able to test so many students because our PE teachers gave up their class time for testing on both days. This approach is not sustainable, however, and below we have additional information about saliva testing for this week that will provide a path forward for us as we head into the second semester.

Changes to COVID testing for this week

This week we will again conduct voluntary testing for all students on Thursday. Students can drop in for testing in the 1 West Gym between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If your student is not opted in yet, please [click here](#) for instructions on how to complete the consent form in Skyward. If you aren't sure whether your child is opted in, you can follow these instructions to check.

The Oak Park Department of Public Health in collaboration with the Illinois Department of Public Health has provided us with a new process for testing, targeted at identifying persons most likely to have had exposure to a positive case. Below is the general schedule of testing we expect to implement following winter break. In addition, we will test in-season student-athletes over the break; they should look for further details to come soon from the Athletics Department.

Population	Testing schedule
All in-season student-athletes	Required to test once/week on Thursdays
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvaccinated persons • Vaccinated persons identified as close contacts • Other persons who wish to test 	Strongly encouraged to test once/week on Thursdays
Vaccinated, asymptomatic members of specific athletic teams or activities/clubs <i>who have been individually notified</i> to increase testing due to an outbreak identified within their sport or activity	Required to test twice/week, once on Thursday + additional identified day

By tomorrow at noon, students will receive a QR code in their student email. This code is **not** required for testing. But it will speed up the process if students screenshot the code and have it pulled up when they get in line for testing.

Dashboard

Since the beginning of the school year, our [COVID-19 dashboard](#) has included weekly tallies of our new positive cases and quarantine cases, as well as percentages for the year-to-date number of positive cases that are vaccinated and unvaccinated. Last week we added two new graphics, one for positive cases and one for quarantine cases, to visually illustrate how our cases are increasing, decreasing, or holding steady.

We know that this has been a stressful time for our students, staff, and families. Thank you for everything you are doing to help us slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and keep our students in their classes and activities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Greg Johnson
Superintendent, District 200