

# LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

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October 17, 2020

Dear Lake Villa Parents and Guardians,

As I continue to monitor our ability to reopen schools safely, I thought it prudent to inform you of the latest Incidence Rate for COVID in Lake County. The news is not good. I also wanted to update you on the measures we are taking within the districts to be prepared for a reopening if possible.

On Wednesday, the Lake County Superintendents met with officials from the Lake County Health Department. We received further information on Incidence Rate tracking. On the attached page you will see two charts. The first chart will be used to determine the status of school reopening/closing. You will notice that there is a three day lag time.

The second chart displays Incidence Rates coming in daily. These numbers are fluid, not final. That is because there may be non-residents who were tested in Lake County that need to be removed. Similarly, the opposite might be true. There may be Lake County residents who tested positive outside of Lake County that need to be added. The second chart is useful to see where the rates are headed as well to see the rates in our own community.

On Monday morning, the Lake County superintendents will meet again with officials from the Lake County Health Department to determine next steps. Unfortunately, the health department told us today that they are seeing substantial community transmission at this time. They are requesting everyone follow the **3 W's** **W**ear a mask, **W**ash your hands, and **W**atch your distance and get a flu shot.

In the meantime, we are continuing to plan for the start schools reopening in a hybrid model starting October 26th. Our Board approved a motion for \$179k to contract with an additional cleaning company (GSF USA Inc) to assist with the daily disinfecting of high touch surfaces at each school. The contract will carry us through the end of the school year in June. This means we will have a dedicated person at each site to clean and sanitize all high touch surfaces between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. (Because of its size, Palombi will have two cleaners on-site.) The cleaners will also be

present during our deep cleaning Wednesdays. There will also be a supervisor on-site to coordinate with our own staff.

We also received emergency approval from the Board to purchase individual portable room air purifiers which will allow us to purchase 112 units for the district. These will be placed in rooms without windows and/or in rooms where the windows aren't operational.

In addition, we have purchased UVC lighting units for each building to assist in the immediate sanitization of rooms. These will be especially helpful when a classroom is temporarily relocated to another room if a student is sent to the nurse with one of the COVID symptoms.

In other hybrid planning news, we received 2,182 parent survey responses. 31.3% of parents want to continue with full remote. 68.7% of parents are interested in their children returning in a hybrid model. 45.6% of those students will need bus transportation. We will be able to maintain social distancing measures while on busses.

I know our staff members are eager to get back on-site with students and we are all keeping our fingers crossed that this will happen soon!

Respectfully,

*Lynette Zimmer*

Dr. Lynette Zimmer  
Superintendent