

SCHOOL TOWN OF HIGHLAND

9145 Kennedy Ave - Highland, Indiana

STOH Community:

After assessing our staffing needs since Thanksgiving, STOH will return to in-person school for K-12 students on Monday, December 7th. We are aware of the elevated status of Lake County but feel strongly that our efforts within the buildings of wearing masks, washing hands and remaining distanced are working to minimize the spread of the virus. Evidence of this fact can be found on the weekly dashboard linked off the STOH's main webpage. It includes weekly positive cases and quarantines for both students and staff. As always, if staffing needs change, if there is large student spread or local/state government deems schools unsafe, we will need to return to a virtual only setting. We appreciate the partnership between administration, teachers, parents and students. It is our collective efforts which will ultimately get us to the light at the end of the tunnel.

We have received the following information from one of the doctors in the area working with the Superintendents in Lake County.

"Recent data shows that while hospitalizations in Lake County are elevated compared to previous months, those numbers have stabilized. With this latest surge, the percentage of hospitalized patients that are critically ill is significantly lower than the last surge in the spring of 2020. Hospitalizations are predicted to continue to plateau for the next 7 to 10 days before trending downward. Overall positivity remains at a significantly elevated rate, although the number of new cases appears to have flattened out and is expected to begin trending down slowly. While the total number of positive COVID cases remains high, healthcare systems in Northwest Indiana are much more prepared to handle that increase in volume (since the beginning of the pandemic in March) with better treatment strategies resulting in significantly lower mortality rates. PPE resources are in adequate supply across Lake County. At this time, there is capacity among the regional healthcare systems to handle the volume of cases in the county. Lake County is classified as RED for the period starting 11/29/20, per metrics assigned by the Indiana State Department of Health. The models and trends we see have not accounted for a possible increase in cases due to recent holiday gatherings." -Dr. Alan M Kumar

We will continue to update you, should things change. Thank you for your cooperation and continued support.

Sincerely,

Brian Smith,
Superintendent