

Winter Break begins on Monday, December 20, 2021
through Friday, December 31, 2021
School resumes on Monday, January 3, 2022



December 14, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we head into the Winter Break over the next two weeks, I want to wish our families Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Las Posadas, Happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year! I know 2021 has been a challenging year, so I hope you enjoy this break and spend time with your immediate family.

I also feel it is important to pass along advice and guidance from our public health authorities, which was shared at our "Ask the Experts" COVID Meeting last night about holiday gatherings during COVID-19. The safest way to celebrate the holidays this winter is with your immediate household members. If you gather with others, choose outdoor or well-ventilated spaces. Wear a mask, stay at least three feet apart and wash your hands often. For more tips, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/index.html>.

Over the past two weeks, much has been said about the surge in the number of students and staff testing positive for COVID. I want the school community to know that Chicago Public Schools (CPS) has been working closely with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) to investigate multiple cases within the school community and has found no evidence of widespread school transmission. Swift were taken to quarantine impacted students and classrooms. Given these results and these actions based on evidence gathered to date, there is no scientific nor public health reason to close Carnegie Elementary, and students not in quarantine are required to attend in-person learning.

The school has undergone extra cleaning and disinfecting over the past few days to continue to provide a safe learning environment. We will continue to address cleanliness issues with targeted cleaning and additional resources. Furthermore, we require that all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask inside our building regardless of vaccination status. We also work to keep three feet of space between students and staff whenever possible. All ventilation systems are working; we have air purifiers in every classroom, Care Room, and our main office. Hand sanitizer and masks are also readily available for students, staff members, and visitors.

It has been a difficult time for our school community. We are currently working closely with the district's crisis and faith based teams to provide crisis support to students and staff. For general support, please contact the Office of Health and Wellness at oshw@cps.edu, 773-553-5437 or visit cps.edu/oshw. To self-report a positive case, visit cps.edu/covidresults.

It is important that we work together to fight this virus and we all play an important role in keeping our community safe. I am extremely grateful for your support during these challenging times.

COVID-19 Testing Opportunities

In order to continue protecting our school community, we will continue to make free COVID-19 testing for students and staff available weekly on **Wednesdays**. Please visit <https://www.color.com/readychckgo-cps> to sign up your child for testing.

COVID-19 Vaccination Opportunities

Vaccines are the best way to protect you and your family from COVID-19, and they are available to all Chicagoans age five and older. COVID-19 vaccines are safe, work extraordinarily well, and are widely available. CPS will be offering a two-part vaccination event at Carnegie on **December 13, 2021 (completed) and Monday, January 3, 2022** from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Parent or adult family member must be present for the child to receive the vaccine**. Click [here](#) to register. To find other COVID-19 vaccination opportunities, you can *search* <http://vaccines.gov>, *text* your ZIP code to 438829, *call* 1-800-232-0233, or visit cps.edu/vaccinations.

Student Vaccination Status

If your child is fully vaccinated (i.e. two weeks after their final dose), please bring a copy of their vaccination status to the Main Office so that it can be entered into the Aspen system.

Health Screener Questionnaire

At-Home Daily Health Checklist: All staff will complete a daily health checklist at home before they come to school using the [CPS health screening questions](#). This checklist does not need to be submitted online. If you test positive for COVID-19, please self-report at cps.edu/COVIDresults.

Travel Guidance for Family:

If your family plans to travel during the winter break, you are asked to adhere to the below CPS Travel Guidance for families:

- Domestic travel follows [CDPH guidance](#):
- If unvaccinated and traveling from states and territories that are labeled Orange, obtain a negative COVID-19 test result no more than 72 hours prior to arrival in Chicago or quarantine for a 10-day period upon arrival.
- If vaccinated, you do not need to quarantine or receive a negative test.
- International travel follows [CDC guidance](#):
- If unvaccinated, get tested with a viral test three-five days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full seven days after travel.
- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full seven days.
- If your test is positive, isolate yourself for 10 days from your first symptoms (or the date of the test if asymptomatic) to protect others from getting infected.
- If you do not get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine but are encouraged to test.
- **Note:** Students who need to quarantine due to travel do not qualify for remote instruction.

COVID-19 Travel Guidance for Families

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Domestic Travel

In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the City is issuing an [Emergency Travel Order](#) applicable to anyone coming into Chicago from designated states with a significant degree of community-wide spread of COVID-19. Anyone traveling from a state on the Orange list is directed to obtain a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours prior to arrival in Chicago or quarantine for a 10 calendar days (or the duration of their time in Chicago, whichever is shorter). The Order is subject to the limited exemptions outlined in the ['Exceptions section'](#).

Students are not exempt from testing or quarantine requirements.

This order applies to returning Chicago residents and out-of-state visitors arriving in Chicago.

- Vaccinated persons (returning travelers who live or work in Chicago, or visitors to Chicago) who have travelled domestically are not required to quarantine if they are: asymptomatic; and
- Fully vaccinated (i.e., are ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of 1 dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine).
- Fully vaccinated travelers must monitor their health for 14 days after travel and if they experience symptoms potentially consistent with COVID-19, they must self-isolate until clinical evaluation and COVID testing.



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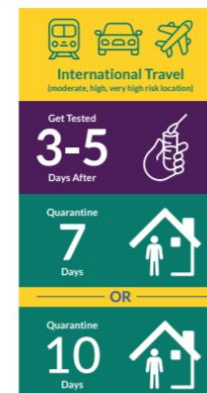
International Travel

If your child traveled to a [moderate, high or very high risk](#) location, your child must stay home for 7-10 days after travel. Testing does not eliminate all risk, but when paired with a period of staying at home and precautions like [wearing masks](#) and [social distancing](#), it can make travel safer by reducing spread on planes, in airports, and at travelers' destinations.

If you are fully vaccinated and returning from international travel, get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel & self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms. You must remain home if waiting on test results.

Get tested with a viral test (Either PCR or antigen) 3-5 days after travel AND self-quarantine at home for a full 7 days after travel.

- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.



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A household member has traveled either internationally or domestically

The person who has traveled must observe the above guidance, but those who did not travel do not.

Example: If a parent traveled the parent needs to follow the CDPH travel order but the child who did not travel does not need to quarantine.

Only the Traveler must follow above guidance

COVID Take Home Kit

Your child will bring home a COVID Home Testing Kit on Friday, December 17. Parents are asked to test students on **Tuesday December 28** and drop off the test at a FedEx drop box the same day. Information on [FedEx drop boxes is available here](#).

GoCPS SY22-23 Application

GoCPS Application Period window **closes on Wednesday, December 15, 2021**. Parents who **wish to apply for PreK, Kindergarten, Regional Gifted Centers, Academic Centers or High School** for the 2022-2023 school year must complete an application. For students applying to fifth through eighth grades, eligibility to take the admissions exam(s) for academic centers, classical schools and regional gifted centers will be based on GPA.

After School Programs

The OST Fall After School Programs ends on **Thursday, December 16**. The Spring After School Programs will be announced in January 2022.

Virtual Holiday Assembly

There will be a Winter Holiday Assembly on **Friday, December 17**. Class performances will be videotaped and the link will be posted on our school website, emailed to parents on REMIND and sent to parents via your child's teacher. The ACS students want to spread a little holiday cheer and have been working diligently on their Holiday Performances. Happy Holidays from the ACS school community.

Holiday Classroom Celebration

All classroom Holiday classroom parties will be held on **Friday, December 17** from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Student may bring in store purchased treats to share with their class. You may contact your child's teacher for more details.

Winter Break Homework

Winter Break homework will be assigned to students who received a failing grade on an assignment or have any missing assignment. This is an opportunity for students to improve their grades by completing any missing assignment.

Technology Distribution

Your child will bring home a Chromebook or iPad for the winter break. Many of the iPad adaptors were not returned to the school last year. Therefore, parents may need to purchase an adaptor for the iPad. All devices and adaptors (if issued to your child) must be returned to the school on Monday, January 3, 2021.

Out-of-Uniform Days

To celebrate the holiday season! **Thursday, December 16 and Friday, December 17** is an out-of-uniform day for students. Students may wear holiday colors on these days.

2nd Quarter Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent home with your child on **Friday, December 17**. If you do not receive your child's progress report, you may check ASPEN Parent Portal. To access the ASPEN Parent Portal, all current portal users and parents who are interested in creating an account for the first time must set up a new account. You should have received a signup email with a security code from ASPEN. If you did not receive the signup email, you may contact Mrs. Roberson, Assistant Principal at segriffin@cps.edu. For additional information and videos on how to access ASPEN Parent Portal, please click <https://cps.edu/Pages/parentresources.aspx>.



Parent Portal

Winter Break Homework

Winter Break homework will be assigned **ONLY** to those students who received a failing grade on an assignment or have any missing assignments. This is an opportunity for students to complete any missing assignments during the winter break.

Technology Distribution

Students will receive bring home a Chromebook or iPad for the winter break. Many of the iPad adaptors were not returned to the school from last school. Therefore, it may be necessary for parents to purchase an iPad adaptor. All devices and adaptors (if issued) must be returned to the school on January 3, 2021.

Gym Uniform and Carnegie Gear

Most of the gym uniforms have been distributed to students. The sweatpants and sweatshirts sizes have arrived and are being distributed to students. The sale of sweatpants and sweatshirts has been removed from the school's website, due to the vendors' inability to supply these items in a timely manner. If you have any questions, concerning gym uniforms, you may contact Mrs. Roberson, Assistant Principal at (773) 535-0530 or by email at segriffin@cps.edu. Thank you for your patience.



We have begun to sale Carnegie gold hoodies, which can be worn as part of the uniform. You may purchase the Carnegie hoodie online (ePay) under the tab "Carnegie Gear" you must include your child's size. The cost: \$25.00. Thank you for your continued support.

School Communications

Parents may receive important school-wide communications and updates from the school via REMIND (i.e. monthly parent newsletter, district-wide information, etc...) Parents are highly encouraged to sign-up for REMIND. Go to the school's website www.carnegie.cps.edu, go to the top of the page, click "Parents", click "REMIND" and then click the REMIND icon for instructions.



Attendance

When your child must stay home from school, please follow CPS procedures to notify the school in writing or by telephone and provide a valid explanation so your student is not considered truant. CPS recognizes **six reasons for an absence to be considered excused:**

- student illness
- observance of a religious holiday (absence note required)
- death in the immediate family
- family emergency
- circumstances which cause reasonable concern to the parent for their child's safety or health (must be approved by the principal)
- other situations beyond the control of the student (as determined by principal)

Main Office Hours

The school office hours are daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mrs. Docilla Pollard, Principal
dpollard1@cps.edu
(773) 535-0530 or (773) 251-7181

Mrs. Shirley Roberson, Assistant Principal
segriffin@cps.edu
(773) 535-0530 or (773) 251-0939

Dr. Dina Egonmwan, Case Manager & STLS Coordinator
dlegonmwan@cps.edu
(773) 535-0528 or (773) 255-3551

Mr. Kei Ishimaru, School Counselor (Kdg-3rd)
kishimaru@cps.edu
(773) 535-0530

Mrs. Franci Boateng, IB-MYP/Gifted Coordinator
fbnimpson@cps.edu
(773) 535-0661

Mrs. Felicia Morgan-Percy,
Enrollment/Transfer/Attendance Coordinator
fdmorgan@cps.edu
(773) 535-0530



Principal Pollard
See you next year!