

Lockport Township High School District 205

Dr. Robert McBride, Jr., Superintendent

Lorie Cristofaro, M.S.Ed, NBCT, Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction

Stefanie L. Croix
Director of Business Services/CSBO



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William J. Thompson
Director of Facilities Management/CSBO

July 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As fall approaches, we wish to share with you some important steps we have taken to prepare for our return to school. Our Board of Education is committed to keeping school open, sustainable, and safe. We know that some families have had their high school students vaccinated against Covid-19 while other families have selected not to be vaccinated. We respect that families make choices that are best for them and in consultation with their family physicians. Even as Illinois has entered Phase 5, we know that Covid-19 still has the potential to interrupt school this fall. We want to prevent disease spread that could cause lengthy quarantines for students, or even shift LTHS to hybrid or remote learning if conditions warranted.

As such, we have partnered with SHIELD of Illinois, the Covid-19 testing program that allowed the University of Illinois to remain open the entire 2020-2021 school year. SHIELD is:

- The most accurate, sensitive Covid test presently available;
- Free and zero cost to our families and our school district;
- A quick and simple saliva test;
- Involves testing all students (unvaccinated or vaccinated) once weekly;
- Provides results within 12-24 hours after a student provides a sample and results are HIPPA protected;
- Can detect Covid 2-3 days after exposure to Covid-19;
- Eliminates the need for any further testing;
- Requires parental consent for students under the age of 18.

The use of SHIELD testing during the 2021-2022 school year will ensure that: **1)** Covid can be detected early to protect all students; **2)** Clear students so they are not put on a quarantine; **3)** Eliminate Covid as a possible reason a student may be experiencing Covid-like symptoms; and **4)** Prevent Covid spread on campus. A successful SHIELD testing program requires weekly testing of all students (unvaccinated or vaccinated). While rare, some vaccinated individuals have contracted Covid-19 infections. I am asking all families receiving this letter to consider SHIELD testing for their children and provide their consent on the attached form. Additional information will be furnished prior to the start of school and posted on our website.

Thank you for your support and assistance in terms of keeping our school open and students safe,

A handwritten signature in dark red ink that reads "Robert K. McBride Jr.".

Robert McBride, Superintendent

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