

Dear CPS Families,

I want to sincerely thank everyone who took last Friday, November 12 — Vaccination Awareness Day — as an opportunity to get their children vaccinated against COVID-19. Just days after the vaccine was approved for children aged 5 to 11, it was encouraging to see thousands of CPS families take this important step to protect themselves and our school community.

Last Friday alone, 6,600 CPS students received shots, with more than 5,800 of those were given to children aged 5 to 11. Taking a slightly wider view, almost 13,000 CPS students received a shot between Thursday and Saturday last week, with more than 11,800 given to children aged 5 to 11.

This was an important step, but it is only the start of a broader effort to get as many children vaccinated to protect families and ensure our school becomes an even safer learning environment moving forward.

This week, during report card pickup and parent teacher conferences, we shared [this flyer](#) and this [Frequently Asked Questions](#) handout. We encourage you to look at these materials and make a plan to get yourself and your children vaccinated.

We also encourage you to get your student tested for COVID before and after Thanksgiving, especially when traveling to COVID hotspots in the U.S. For a map of hotspots, [click here](#). For testing resources, [click here](#).

The timing could not be more critical. With the temperatures dropping, we are all spending more time indoors. And with the holidays right around the corner, many of us will soon be gathering to celebrate with family and friends. As a result, there is a much greater chance of spreading the virus over the next couple of months, so the more children who get vaccinated now, the better chance we have of closing 2021 on a healthy note.

Throughout November and December and into 2022, families can:

- Make an appointment at [a CPS Regional COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic](#);
- Make an appointment at [a CPS Mobile Event](#); or
- Make an appointment at [a CPS School-Based Health Center](#).

Families can also access many vaccine opportunities beyond CPS:

- Visit [vaccines.gov](#);
- Text your zip code to 438829; or

- Call 1-800-232-0233
- Make an appointment at [a clinic run by the Chicago Department of Public Health](#)
- Make an appointment to get a vaccine [in your home](#)
- Call the City's COVID-19 helpline at (312) 746-4835.

Remember that the vaccine is free, safe, and effective for everyone ages 5 and up. Also, to be fully vaccinated by Christmas, your child's last chance to get the first dose is this Saturday, November 20!

After a difficult 20+ months dealing with this virus, our students deserve a healthy and joyous holiday season. Let's give that to them by getting vaccinated as soon as possible.

I thank you for your continued support as we manage the pandemic and hope that you will make a plan to get your children vaccinated in the days ahead.

Sincerely,  
Gwen Kasper  
Principal