

## Press Clippings 1/15/2022 to 1/18/2022

### Kane County Connects

#### 10 Kane Schools on Outbreak list – New outbreak at Larkin High School--- 1/18/2022

Due in large part to the data collection over winter break, Kane County school outbreaks dropped to 10 this week, with just one new outbreak added to the list.



The new outbreak was first reported Jan. 12 at **Larkin High School** in Elgin. It involved less than five cases, and the source was identified as Sports.

Outbreak information is reported once clusters of cases are confirmed to be linked by location and time (within 14 days). Some outbreaks are pending processing and evaluation and will be added as more complete information is available.

The outbreak information is reported by local health departments to the Illinois Department of Public Health through an outbreak reporting system.

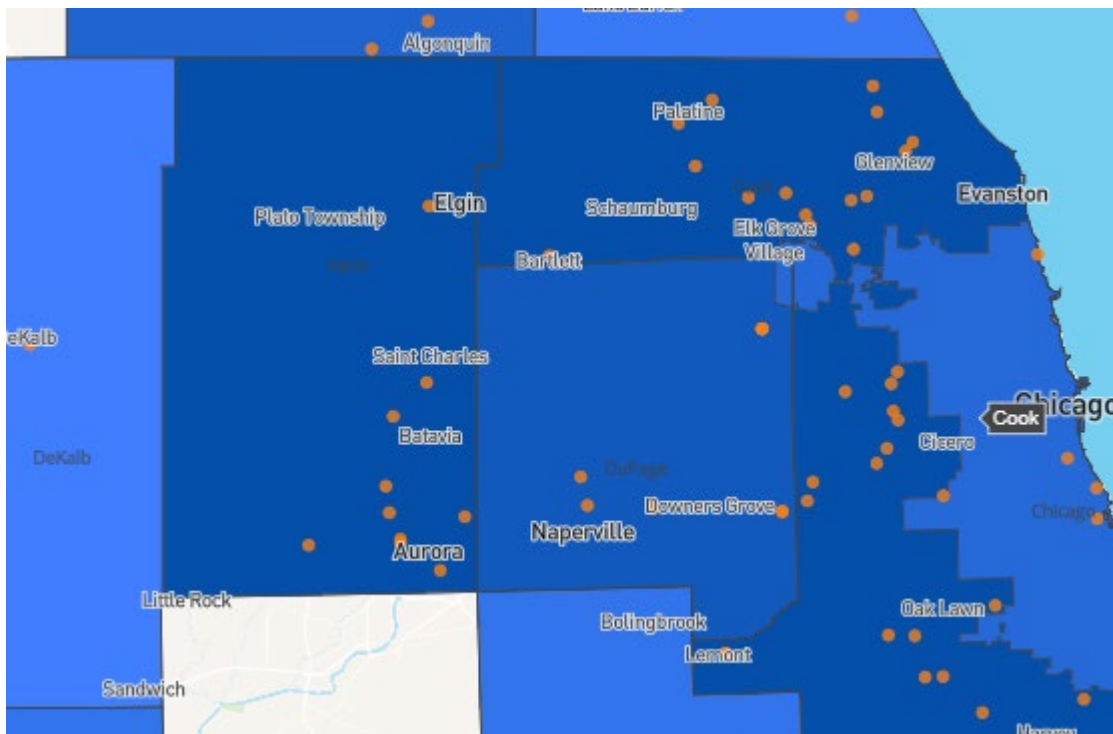


Specific outbreaks included are those that have been identified by the Kane County Health Department to have three or more COVID-19 cases who may have a shared exposure at a shared Youth Related location and are from different households.

These outbreaks do not include secondary cases that may occur in a household member who has not been at the same outbreak location.

All data is provisional and subject to updating as more information becomes available. Data are updated once a week, typically on Fridays. The IDPH says this data includes entries elicited from cases opened within the previous 30 days from the date of the update.

## Active Kane County School Outbreaks as of Jan. 14, 2022



### Gates Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/2/2021

### Geneva High School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Sports
- First Reported: 12/13/2021

### Geneva Middle School North (K-12)

- 10 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/22/2021

### Illinois Math And Science Academy (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff
- Source: Other

- First Reported: 12/29/2021
  - Jefferson Middle School (K-12)
    - Less Than 5 Cases
    - Staff and Students
    - Source: Classroom
  - First Reported: 12/22/2021
  - Jewel Middle School (K-12)
    - 10 Cases
    - Students
    - Source: Classroom
  - First Reported: 12/21/2021
  - John Shields Elementary School (K-12)
    - 9 Cases
    - Students
    - Source: Classroom
  - First Reported: 12/9/2021
  - Larkin High School (K-12)
    - Less Than 5 Cases
    - Students
    - Source: Sports
  - First Reported: 1/12/2022
  - O'Donnell Elementary (K-12)
    - 5 Cases
    - Students
    - Source: Classroom
  - First Reported: 12/14/2021
  - West Aurora High School (K-12)
    - 12 Cases
    - Students
    - Source: Sports
  - First Reported: 12/22/2021
- SOURCE: Illinois Department of Public Health website*

## WBBM NewsRadio 780 AM

### Elgin District U-46 looks at COVID protocol priorities as those out sick return to school --- 1/17/2022

By Bernie Tafoya

To hear interview with U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders, click on link below.

<https://omny.fm/shows/wbbmam-on-demand/elgin-district-u-46-looks-at-covid-protocol-priori>

**ELGIN, III. (WBBM NEWSRADIO)** -- With more students and staff returning to schools after being sick last week, the state's second largest school district is looking to its next COVID protocol priorities.

Last Thursday, about 5,000 students and staff, mostly students, were out sick in Elgin District U-46. Supt. Tony Sanders said 4,000 letters went out to families of those children on Friday.

"The letter said that if you've been out for your five days, you can come back beginning on Tuesday so long as you're symptom-free," he said.

With new state guidelines, Sanders said sometime soon, students and staff who test positive for COVID-19, but who show no symptoms will be allowed to remain in school.

"Symptom-free means without taken any sort of, you know, ibuprofen or acetaminophen to lower a fever or any sort of medications to make you appear symptom-free," Supt. Sanders said.

This week, Sanders said staff will be looking for a vendor to handle the test-to-stay program, as well as order KN95 masks for those who want them.

"We are working on the test-to-stay protocol, but they don't have to test as long as they're symptom-free. If they tested positive once, after five days, if they're symptom free, they're free to return. What they will have to do is wear a mask at all times, except, of course when eating," Supt. Sanders said.

## **Daily Herald**

### **ECC board accepting applications for trustee vacancy ---**

**1/17/2022**

**Submitted by Elgin Community College**

The Elgin Community College District 509 board announces a vacancy due to the resignation of Jeffrey A. Meyer, JD.

Under Illinois law, the board will appoint a trustee to fill the vacant seat from Dec. 17, 2021, until the next consolidated election on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

A candidate must be: a citizen of the United States; age 18 or older; and a resident for at least one year immediately preceding the election, of the state and the community college district area, which is comprised of **School Districts U-46**, 300, 301, and 303.

If you are interested in being considered for this appointment, send an up-to-date resume, references, and a letter explaining your knowledge of, or interest, and experience in public community colleges and in particular why you wish to serve as a trustee at Elgin Community College.

All submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21. They may be submitted electronically to [boardoftrustees@elgin.edu](mailto:boardoftrustees@elgin.edu), or to [dkerruish@elgin.edu](mailto:dkerruish@elgin.edu), or in hard copy, to

Board of Trustees, Building B, Room 235.04, Elgin Community College, 1700 Spartan Drive, Elgin, IL 60123.

If you have any questions, contact Dr. David Sam, president, or Diane Kerruish, board recorder, both at (847) 214-7374.

Candidates may be invited to the college for interviews Wednesday, Jan. 26. The board plans to fill the position no later than Feb. 11.

Note: The campus is closed on Jan. 17.

Visit [elgin.edu](http://elgin.edu).

## **Elgin Courier-News**

### **U-46 will update COVID-19 protocols --- 1/16/2022**

**By Mike Danahey**

With nearly 5,000 students and staff absent from school Thursday because of COVID-19 exposure, symptoms or infection, **School District U-46** will adjust its procedures for contact tracing inside school buildings and for alerting parents on when a student can return to school.

In a memo to families, Superintendent Tony Sanders asked for patience as they update their practices to conform with new state policies.

“We began (this week) by adopting the guidance for staff members to return,” he said in his Thursday message. “We will begin to follow the five-day exclusion recommendation for students next week.”

On Tuesday, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the State Board of Education provided new school guidance on COVID-19 based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Sanders said.

“Federal, state and local health officials are now telling us that students and staff can return to school/work after five days of exclusion under certain circumstances, including that they are symptom free and they wear masks,” Sanders said in his message.

“Exclusion” is the term used in an executive order issued by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, district spokeswoman Karla Jiménez said.

Under that order, anyone who has COVID, is exhibiting two or more COVID symptoms or has been exposed to COVID can be refused admittance to school buildings, extracurricular events

or any other school events regardless of whether a local health department has issued an isolation or quarantine order or such an order has expired, Jiménez said.

The exclusion period — also referred to as quarantining or isolation — has been shortened from 14 days to five.

According to a page on the district's website, [www.u-46.org/Page/18423](http://www.u-46.org/Page/18423), a COVID case remains open while it is being investigated, during a period of self-quarantine or until the person is cleared to come back to school by the county health department or by the U-46 Human Resources Department.

“In the last 7 school days, we have had an 82.8% attendance rate,” Jiménez said. “This includes all absences, COVID and non-COVID related.”

While students are out, U-46 teachers are required to make course resources available to them through the Canvas learning management system, Jiménez said. Tutorial sessions are available to help students get up to speed on what was taught during their exclusion.

In his message, Sanders also said the district has ordered a large supply of KN95 masks for staff members but does not have a delivery date for them.

“Further, we are coordinating with SHIELD and their testing provider to begin offering a test-to-stay program for students as well,” Sanders said. “This will not be in place immediately, but will be a priority for us to get up and running.”

Test to stay is a program recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health that allows students exposed to COVID-19 to remain in school as long as they don't have symptoms, wear a mask and undergo testing on first, third, fifth and seventh day after exposure.

In early December, U-46 officials said about 650 staff members remain unvaccinated and have agreed either to take the SHIELD test weekly or to get tested elsewhere. U-46 has more than 4,500 full-time employees and nearly 2,200 part-time employees.

## **Daily Herald**

### **Former U-46 administrator nominated for regional schools chief --- 1/15/2022**

**By Ben Szalinski for Shaw Media**

McHenry County Board Chairman Mike Buehler nominated former **Elgin School District U-46** administrator Diana Hartmann to be the next superintendent of the McHenry County Regional Office of Education.

Hartmann's nomination will go before the county board for a vote Tuesday night, potentially marking the end of a two-month search to replace former Regional Superintendent Leslie Schermerhorn.

"Hartmann is experienced, capable and motivated, and I believe she is the best choice to get the Regional Office of Education back on track," Buehler, a Crystal Lake Republican, said in a news release Friday.

Hartmann was a special education administrator in the Elgin school district and is a Lakemoor resident. She was one of three people to apply for the job. Interim Regional Superintendent Mike Freeman also applied for the position.

Hartmann also has worked in Crystal Lake Elementary School District 47 and Harvard School District 50, according to the news release.

The Regional Office of Education is responsible for handling teacher certification, truancy issues and GEDs, as well as ensuring the county's public-school districts remain financially viable and in compliance with state curriculum requirements.

Schermerhorn was removed from office by a unanimous vote of the county board in November after years of troubles with the office, including unaccounted for funds and organizational issues.

Regional superintendent is an elected position that will be on the November ballot.

## **Elgin Courier-News**

### **Rick Armstrong's Beacon-News/Courier-News boys' basketball rankings and player of the week for Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022 --- 1/18/2022**

**By Rick Armstrong for the Aurora Beacon-News**

Top 10

*With records through Monday and previous rankings in parentheses.*

1. Oswego East 20-1 (1)

2. Larkin 18-2 (2)

3. Bartlett 15-4 (3)

4. Burlington Central 17-3 (4)

5. Batavia 15-6 (5)

6. Yorkville Christian 11-10 (8)

7. East Aurora 10-5 (6)

8. St. Charles North 10-8 (NR)

9. West Aurora 10-9 (NR)

10. Kaneland 10-3 (NR)

**Player of the Week:** Senior center Conrad Luczynski had a triple-double with 25 points, 15 rebounds and 13 blocked shots as Bartlett beats East Aurora to strengthen its hold on second place in the Upstate Eight Conference.

## Daily Herald

### Srodulski's 26 leads Prospect past South Elgin --- 1/18/2022

By John Leusch, Daily Herald Correspondent

Prospect senior Summer Srodulski has applied to 17 colleges but she is still not sure if will play college basketball.

However, she is sure she will study engineering.

On Monday, it was Knights coach Matt Weber and assistant Antonio Gardner who designed a well-scripted game plan for South Elgin (17-4) and the 6-foot-1 Srodulski obliged with a game-high 26 points to help lead the Knights (16-4) to a 56-49 triumph at the MLK Showdown at Batavia High School.

"We understood that we had a mismatch because they were a smaller team (no one taller than 5-9)," Weber said. "So we wanted to put an emphasis on getting touches for Summer and I thought our team did a nice job finding her when things were breaking down."

It was the Knights' defense and rebounding (led by 12 boards for Srodulski) that helped break down the talented guard-oriented Storm, which was led by Raina Yang's 15 points.

The Knights held South Elgin to 11 points in the first 12 minutes of the second half to overcome a 24-23 halftime deficit and then withstood three 3-pointers from Zoie Lewis, Ella Winterhalder and Yang in the final 1:27.

"We focus a lot on defense," said Srodulski, who made 6 of 8 free throws. "It's all about trusting each other. We are a defensive-oriented team. That's what we are known for. I think we executed that in the second half to get the lead."

Back-to-back buckets by Emily Skoog tied the game at 8-8 but the Storm went ahead 14-10 after one quarter on consecutive 3-pointers from Winterhalder (9 points) and Chloe Kmiec.



South Elgin gained its biggest lead at 18-11 on a layup by Caroline Croft (7 points) with 5:43 left in the first half.

"We got down early but I thought we just continued to have a help-you-teammate mentality on defense," Weber said. "That's (South Elgin) a tough team, a well-coached team and a team that's going to put a lot of pressure on you defensively and overall I thought we handled their pressure pretty well."

Prospect gradually cut into the lead and trailed only 24-23 at half, thanks to a 15-foot pullup jumper by Kathryn Keehn (4 points) with 41 seconds left.

Junior Yang's 3-point play put the Storm in front for the last time at 30-29 with 5:19 left in the third quarter.

Prospect went on an 8-0 run and led 37-30 following Katie Neal's 3-pointer with 2:48 left in the period.

The Knights started the fourth quarter with a 6-0 run, getting a 3-pointer and free throw by Jess Reizer (9 points) and a driving layup by Srodulski for a 43-31 advantage.

Yang's third 3-pointer got the Storm to within 52-47 with 32 seconds left but 4 free throws by Srodulski sealed the verdict.

Andie Will (7 points) hit two big 3-pointers for the Knights.

"Prospect has to be a top 10 or 15 team in the area," said Storm coach Dan Mandernack, whose team is three wins away from a seventh 20-win season in his ninth year. "They beat Hersey (No. 3 in Class 4A). They're very similar to us except they have a couple of taller players. They shot a lot of 3s and press like us.

"I told our kids before the game that win, lose or draw, go out there and have fun. It's an honor to be playing that good of a team and what a great opportunity this is for them to learn. No matter what happens, we are going to get better. And we did.

"We had the lead at halftime and I don't know how many people would have thought that. But then at some point we got killed on the rebounding side. The kids fought their hearts out. At the end of the day, we can't get taller but we can stay tough, and strong. At the end with our defense/offense pressing stuff that got us a little back in the game so it was a great experience for the kids. We learned we are good."

# Elgin Courier-News

## **‘The big fella is a big fella.’ Bartlett’s Conrad Luczynski is even harder to handle when he uses both hands. The 7-foot-3 center gets a triple-double vs. East Aurora --- 1/16/2022**

By Paul Johnson for the Aurora Beacon-News



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski grabs a rebound during a game against East Aurora in Bartlett on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

**Bartlett's** Conrad Luczynski was already dangerous in the post with his right hand.

As the season has progressed, so has his use of his left hand, which has made him even more lethal.

"I decided to work on my left also ever since the start of the season," Luczynski said. "I've been getting better at it. It's hard for teams to guard me when I use two hands. I just feel where the defender is and go up right away. It's also up to my team to give me good passes."

The 7-foot-3 senior center had both hands working Friday as he led the Hawks to a 69-55 Upstate Eight Conference win over visiting East Aurora.

Luczynski scored 19 of the first 35 points for the Hawks (15-4, 8-1), who led East Aurora (10-5, 5-2) by as many as 23. He finished with a triple-double: 25 points, 16 rebounds and 10 blocks.



Bartlett's Conrad Luczynski dunks during a game against East Aurora in Bartlett on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

As is the case for most teams, the Tomcats' plan was centered around Luczynski.

"The big fella is a big fella, man," East Aurora coach Rick Robinson said. "There's nothing you can say about that. The game plan was, once again, cut everybody else off and let him get his.

"He's a good passer, so that was the one thing we knew would happen. We had to contain everybody else because he will pass out of it. Conrad was killing us at first."

Bartlett (13-3, 7-1) was up 22-17 when Luczynski got hot. He scored eight points during a 15-5 run, and Bartlett led 41-25 at halftime. The Hawks hit 16 for 27 shots from the field in the first half.

"We got some easy scores, and we hit a couple outside shots on top of it," Bartlett coach Jim Wolfsmith said. "When we play like that offensively and defensively, we're a hard team to play.

"I thought (East Aurora) had a good game plan. We just shot the ball well. They didn't shoot the ball well. When you combine us shooting the ball well and them not, you get the deficit."

Bartlett pushed the lead to 56-33 to start the fourth quarter. Julian Acosta wouldn't let the Tomcats get blown out, however.



East Aurora's Julian Acosta, right, drives past Bartlett's Keegan Kunzer during a game in Bartlett on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Acosta took over on both ends to spark a 14-0 run that cut the lead to 56-47 with 2:50 left. He scored six of his team-high 21 points in that run. He also had 10 rebounds.

"He was a major contributor to us getting back into it, but there's no one man that's going to get us back in it himself," Robinson said. "It had to be a team effort. We had to do what we didn't want to do, scrambling, but it kind of worked to our advantage. We were able to get back within nine."

The Tomcats turned up the pressure, and Bartlett succumbed to it. The Hawks had 25 turnovers, including 11 in the fourth quarter.

"It was more of a hold-on than a put-away," Wolfsmith said. "We want to learn how to put teams away instead of holding on to wins."



Bartlett's Kelton McEwen (2) whips a pass to a teammate during a game against East Aurora in Bartlett on Friday, Jan. 14, 2022. (Brian O'Mahoney / The Beacon-News)

Kelton McEwen added 19 points for Bartlett, and Ian Smith scored 15.

Luczynski was the star of the show once again, however, and Wolfsmith doesn't get tired of watching it.

"It's going to be a shame when he graduates because players like that, they come around once or twice," Wolfsmith said. "I've had two of them: Kamil Janton and Conrad. You have to love guys that like to pass and can score too."

## Daily Herald

### Bartlett downs East Aurora behind Luczynski's triple double

--- 1/15/2022

By Craig Brueske, Daily Herald Correspondent

When it comes to devising a strategic defensive game plan against Bartlett's 7-foot-3 senior center Conrad Luczynski, opposing teams will try about anything.

Whether it be a physical man-to-man approach or more double and triple teaming, East Aurora (10-5, 5-2) couldn't figure out the right combination Friday night.

Luczynski recorded a triple double with a game-high 25 points, 16 rebounds and 10 blocked shots during the Hawks' 69-55 Upstate Eight Conference victory in Bartlett.

"The big fella is the big fella," said Tomcats coach Rick Robinson. "Our game plan was to cut everybody else and let him (Luczynski) get his. It worked for the most part but then we had some guys not following the plan like they should have, and consequently, they had a couple guys hit some open jumpers."

Luczynski, who had 8 points in the first 3 1/2 minutes as the Hawks (13-3, 7-1) jumped out to a 14-2 lead, scored 19 first-half points to help propel Bartlett to a 41-25 halftime advantage.

"Early on, they (Tomcats) were going to let (Jabian) Acosta bang with him (Luczynski) down low and keep him from getting some easy buckets," said Hawks coach Jim Wolfsmith. "But we got some easy scores and we hit a couple shots on top of that."

"When we play like that offensively and defensively, we're a hard team to play against."

When the Tomcats began double-teaming Luczynski, the Hawks' big man found some open shooters, particularly sophomore guard Kelton McEwen (19 points) and senior forward Ian Smith (15 points, 10 rebounds).

McEwen, who added 4 assists, connected on three 3-pointers while shooting 6 for 11 from the field, while Smith hit 6 of his 8 field-goal attempts, including three 3-pointers -- forming the perfect complement with Luczynski.

"We like to get it to him (Luczynski) down low, especially in the beginning of games, to see how they're going to play us," said McEwen. "When they double team him -- he's a really good person -- he finds the open teammates.

"We've got to keep hitting our open outside shots." Bartlett, which led 52-33 after 3 quarters, opened a 23-point bulge at 56-33 following a McEwen basket with 6:30 remaining.

East Aurora, however, made things interesting.

Relying on relentless full-court defensive pressure, the Tomcats went on a 14-0 run to pull within 56-47 with 2:49 remaining.

Jullian Acosta (21 points, 9 rebounds) led the surge with 5 points.

"You knew in that second half they were going to come out loaded for bear," Wolfsmith said of the Tomcats. "They created a whole bunch of turnovers. They were flying around. We've got to learn to play through that.

"We were able to hold on instead of a put-away. They just upped the pressure in the second half. It's something to grow on going into our big showdown with Larkin on Tuesday."

Calvin Savage added 11 points for East Aurora.