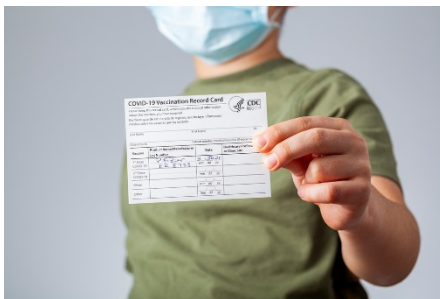


Press Clippings 11/11/2021

---Kane County Connects U-46 to offer COVID-19 vaccine clinics for students at all 40 elementary schools

With federal health officials now recommending that children ages 5 to 11 be vaccinated against COVID-19, **School District U-46** is holding optional vaccine clinics at all 40 of its elementary schools this month.

The clinics will allow students ages 5 to 11 to be vaccinated with the pediatric dose of the Pfizer vaccine during the school day. For a student to participate, their parent or guardian must register them for the first and second doses of the vaccine, and submit a consent form to their school nurse.



There is no mandate for students to participate, it is completely optional and free. The vaccine clinics will be held in school libraries.

“I know that many families of younger children have been eagerly awaiting the chance to give them the protection offered by the COVID-19 vaccine,” said Superintendent Tony Sanders. “We decided to offer these clinics at our elementary schools as a service to our busy families. They won’t need to worry about transportation or locating a trusted provider, and their children can be vaccinated in a place that is familiar and comfortable to them.”

The vaccine clinics will start at 13 of U-46’s elementary schools on Friday, Nov. 12, with another 13 schools hosting clinics on Friday, Nov. 19, and the final 14 holding their events on Tuesday, Nov. 23.

Because the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine requires two doses, students will receive their second shot about three weeks after their first, also at school.

Parents who want to be present while their child is vaccinated will be able to do so by letting the school know in advance, answering a few COVID-19 screening questions upon their arrival, and using the District’s normal guest-management system to receive a temporary ID.

More information about U-46's elementary COVID-19 clinics can be found at u-46.org/covidclinics.

---Chicago Teachers Union--

CTU to vax kids Friday as families scramble for COVID shots – and mayor's CPS team rejects expanding school vax access

CHICAGO — Children age 5 and up can get COVID vaccine shots in over 1,000 [New York City public schools](#) this week, as local school districts like [Elgin school district U-46](#) move to provide vaccines to schoolchildren through every district school. Yet Mayor Lightfoot's hand-picked board of education has balked at mounting a widespread student vax campaign, even though CPS' four high school vaccine centers were on average getting shots to less than ten children per week, before younger students became eligible for the vax.

Mayor Lightfoot's [indifference to promoting the lifesaving vaccine in school communities](#) has left fewer than half of Chicago's schoolchildren aged 12 and up vaccinated, as COVID rates tick up again. The rate for Black children is even lower, still hovering at less than one in three vaccinated as working class communities struggle with access to affordable health care and lingering questions about the shots, especially for younger children.

The Chicago Teachers Union is among grassroots groups and individuals stepping into the breach, offering free vaccines to children age 5 and up as well as adults at its West Side headquarters this Friday. CTU rank and file members and officers will hold a short **press availability at noon on Friday, November 12**, as the Union opens its doors to shots from **12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. at our offices at 1901 W. Carroll Ave.**

Parents and families can [preregister their child \(or themselves\) for a shot at this link](#), although there will be some walk-in vaccines available, as well. Over a hundred had registered for shots within hours of the Union's release of registration information.

The Union had also hoped to work with rank and file members at Prieto Elementary to provide free vaccines at the school Friday morning, but CPS rejected that effort despite strong support from the school community. The district's general hostility to stepping up school-based vaccine education and outreach has left parents scrambling to line up shots — and alternative childcare — after CPS announced that schools would be closed Friday for a 'vaccine awareness day' without offering school-based shots to kids or childcare for working parents.

The CTU has pointed to cities like Newark, New Jersey, where Mayor Ras Baraka partnered with grassroots groups and community-based programs to [nearly double the rate](#) of child vaccination among the City's Black and Brown students in only two months. Instead, Mayor Lightfoot's CPS team has rejected beefing up its vaccine outreach, at the same time that CPS has walked away from its promise to test all children and adults weekly for COVID in schools, even as COVID is again on the uptick in Chicago and in states across the nation. Most COVID cases in schools continue to be reported by parents and educators directly because CPS testing remains so deficient.

The CTU, which will once again be hosting this vax event without partnership from the mayor's CPS team, continues to urge CPS to collaborate on vaccine events and stand up a robust, district-wide school-based vaccination campaign that focuses on getting shots to hard-hit neighborhoods disproportionately burdened by COVID sickness and death.

The Chicago Teachers Union represents more than 25,000 teachers and educational support personnel working in Chicago Public Schools, and by extension, the nearly 400,000 students and families they serve. The CTU is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers and

the Illinois Federation of Teachers and is the third-largest teachers local in the United States. For more information please visit the CTU website at www.ctulocal1.org.

---Daily Herald Editorial: Why schools must get homeless students back

Their numbers dropped 21% in the first year of the pandemic. And that's not a good thing.



Maggie Schroeder, left, and Patty Briones coordinate Project Access serving homeless students at **Elgin Area School District U-46**. Families can get clothes, shoes and coats in the program's "closet." *Rick West | Staff Photographer*

The Daily Herald Editorial Board

Without the school bus and driver, who sees that a child frequently changes where he or she spends the night?

Without a teacher nearby, who notices if a student can't stay awake during the day?

Without kids attending in person, who realizes that a child has left one school without enrolling in another?

Homeless students, to some extent, depend on trained school personnel to recognize the signs and symptoms of their precarious positions and steer them toward resources intended to help.

So when tallies of homeless students dropped sharply in the first year of the pandemic, experts surmised that the grim realities of COVID-19 hadn't improved the lot of so many children and teens.

Rather, it seems likely those students simply exited the system.

"We've lost track of them, which is the worst thing that can happen because then they're kind of falling through the cracks and not getting the services that they need," Tom Bookler, a regional homeless liaison in the North Cook Intermediate Service Center, told Daily Herald staff writer Katlyn Smith.

At a time when school boards are beset by distractions over the imagined dangers of face masks, here's an urgent pandemic-related issue that deserves some genuine public concern.

The "homeless" designation sweeps in students who live in hotels or camps; sleep on others' couches, floors or spare beds; move between shelters or live out of cars.

Under the law, known as the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, they can remain in their school even if the search for shelter takes them out of the attendance area and even if they lack the usual documentation involved in enrollment. The students qualify for transportation, meals, fee waivers and other support.

In 2018-19, 14,912 homeless students were in schools in suburban Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties.

During the pandemic's seismic changes, the count was down by 21%. Some students might have lacked internet, equipment, space or supervision to concentrate on studies. They might have gotten jobs or cared for siblings. COVID-19 illness or death might have left their families in crisis.

We can't successfully put the pandemic era behind us if we fail to gather these students back in.

Some schools consider it urgent, and more need to look at it that way. The Illinois State Board of Education is putting \$38 million in federal funding into locating homeless kids and linking them to services.

If they're successful, the number of homeless students might rise substantially next year. And that could be a good thing.

---WBEZ interview with Health Services Supervisor Jeff Judge

On Tuesday, Nov. 9, WBEZ interviewed Health Services Supervisor Jeff Judge about U-46's COVID-19 vaccine clinics at elementary schools. Listen to the interview by clicking [here](#) or by visiting the website page at www.u-46.org/Page/18768.