

Press Clippings 09/11/2021 to 9/13/2021

---Daily Herald---09/11/2021

22 more COVID-19 outbreaks at suburban schools

By Jake Griffin



Twenty-two new outbreaks of COVID-19 were reported at suburban schools this week, according to data released by the Illinois Department of Public Health. *Brian Hill | Staff Photographer, March 11*

Twenty-two new COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in the past week in suburban schools, the Illinois Department of Public Health is reporting.

Statewide, IDPH is reporting 128 school-related outbreaks, up from 81 a week ago.

Outbreaks are defined as two or more COVID-19 cases linked through a common exposure, which in the case of schools can be in classrooms or sporting events.

IDPH releases new data on school outbreaks only on Fridays via its [COVID-19 statistics website, dph.illinois.gov/covid19](https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19). Officials said outbreak information can lag in some cases.

"Outbreak information is reported once clusters of cases are confirmed to be linked by location and time, within 14 days," said IDPH spokeswoman Melaney Arnold. "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 (state) through an outbreak reporting system."

In Cook County, there are now 14 schools with identified outbreaks, up from 10 a week ago.

Indian Grove Elementary in Mount Prospect is among the four new locations, with the outbreak involving fewer than five of the school's 550-plus students. The other three outbreaks are in the far South suburbs.

In DuPage County, eight new outbreaks were reported. The new outbreaks involved five or fewer cases among staff and students at Churchill Elementary in Glen Ellyn, Calvary Christian in Naperville, Glenn Westlake Middle School in Lombard, North Elementary in Villa Park and St. Francis High School in Wheaton.

Two new outbreaks were reported at Downers Grove South High School and involved classroom exposure that led to five or fewer cases among students in those classrooms. Downers Grove South had reported an outbreak last week attributed to a sporting event. More than 2,700 students attend the high school.

Marklund Day School, a special education school in Bloomingdale, also reported an outbreak of five to 10 cases involving students and staff.

Four new outbreaks were reported at schools in Kane County this week, according to IDPH. There were 11 to 16 cases involving students at Hampshire High School, fewer than five cases among staff and students at Aurora's Illinois Math and Science Academy, fewer than five cases at Kaneland High School in Maple Park and fewer than five cases among students at Willard Elementary in South Elgin.

Six other schools in Kane County had previously reported outbreaks.

In McHenry County, three new outbreaks were reported. Five to 10 cases were reported from an outbreak among students at Chauncey Duker Elementary in McHenry. Edgebrook

Elementary in McHenry reported fewer than five cases among staff members. Hannah Beardsley Middle School in Crystal Lake is reporting a second outbreak among five to 10 students.

Besides the previous outbreak reported at Beardsley, three other outbreaks had been reported in McHenry County schools.

In Will County, three more schools reported outbreaks. A week ago, eight schools in Will County were handling outbreaks. The new outbreaks are in schools in Plainfield, Mokena and New Lenox.

Additionally, a Hoffman Estates Christian school with an enrollment of a little more than 100 students has had its state recognition status revoked for not being compliant with the state's mask mandate, according to the Illinois State Board of Education.

The loss of ISBE recognition means students won't be eligible to participate in IHSA sports or the Invest in Kids Act scholarship program, among other consequences.

A letter of noncompliance was sent to the Valeo Academy administrators Wednesday, ISBE records show. Officials from the school did not immediately return calls.

Currently in the suburbs, Bethany Lutheran School in Naperville and Christian Liberty Academy in Arlington Heights are unrecognized by the state board because of noncompliance with the state's indoor mask mandate at schools.

---Daily Herald---09/13/2021

U-46 high schools celebrating homecoming with students, alumni, community

Submitted by Elgin Area School District U-46

Elgin Area School District U-46's five comprehensive high schools are gearing up for their Homecoming celebrations during the months of September and October.

The schools plan to honor members of the Class of 2020 in attendance after their senior years were upended by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The lives of everyone in public education were changed in March of 2020 when we were forced to close our schools and transition to Distance Learning," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "Members of the Class of 2020 had to miss out on a number of their senior-year milestones, and they celebrated their high school graduations virtually. I'm glad our high schools are shining a spotlight on these resilient alumni."

Athletes, staff, and participants will need to follow our COVID-19 mitigation strategies including wearing masks and practicing social distancing as much as possible.

The Homecoming schedules are as follows:

- Streamwood High School, 701 W. Schaumburg Road: Sunday, Sept. 12, to Saturday, Sept. 18. The school colors are gold and black. A tailgate and bonfire are set for 5:30 to 9 p.m. Monday, Sept. 13, in the school parking lot.

The Class of 2020 Tailgate will begin at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 17, at Millennium Field, with the homecoming game at 7:30 p.m. against Elgin High School

- Elgin High School, 1200 Maroon Drive: Sunday, Sept. 19, to Saturday, Sept. 25. The school colors are maroon and cream. The homecoming game will begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, against West Chicago High School. There will be a recognition of Class of 2020 alumni during the homecoming game. The alumni tent will feature free hot dogs; in-game recognition of class of 2020.

- Bartlett High School, 701 W. Schick Road: Sunday, Sept. 19, to Saturday, Sept. 25. The school colors are navy blue, hunter green and white. The homecoming parade will step off at 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19. The parade route will be posted on school website. The Class of 2020 Tailgate will begin at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, in the tent on the football field. The homecoming game will kick off at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 24, against Fenton High School.

- South Elgin High School, 760 E. Main St.: Sunday, Sept. 26, to Saturday, Oct. 2. The school colors are red, navy and silver. The homecoming parade will be Thursday, Sept. 30, with the parade route to be posted on the school website. There will be a tribute to Class of 2020 graduates during the pregame on Friday, Oct. 1, in the Endzone Alumni Tent. The homecoming game starts at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 1, against Streamwood High School.
- Larkin High School, 1475 Larkin Ave., Elgin: Sunday, Oct. 2, to Saturday, Oct. 9. Games and pregame activities held at Elgin High's Memorial Field, 1200 Maroon Drive, Elgin. The school colors are royal blue and white. The homecoming parade will step off at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8. The parade route will be posted on school website. The Student and Alumni Tailgate and yearbook pickup will be at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8. The homecoming game starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 8, against East Aurora High School. Alumni will be invited to march on field at halftime to "Pomp and Circumstance."

---Elgin Courier-News---09/12/2021

Elgin News Digest: Elgin library book sale starts

Wednesday; U-46 survey asking parents, students to answer questions about equity; 'Little Giants' being shown at Panton Mill Park

By Mike Danahey; Note – This story also ran at [chicagotribune.com](https://www.chicagotribune.com).

An online survey for **Elgin School District U-46** for parents, students in 4th through 12th grade and staff will be available from Sept. 13 to Oct. 5.

The survey is part of an equity audit being conducted by the district and will ask questions about vision and accountability; achievement; equity and access; culture and climate; and curriculum and should take about 20 to 30 minutes to complete. All responses will be kept confidential and anonymous.

Curriculum Management Solutions Inc. has been hired to conduct the survey. The firm will also be conducting site and classroom visits; holding focus group and one-on-one interviews with students, parents and staff; and reviewing administrative regulations, board policies, curriculum guides, human resources data, state reports, staffing formulas and student work samples, U-46 website information said.

The audit to “determine the extent to which the district is effectively serving all students,” the website said.

Their findings will be presented to the school board in the spring. For more information, go to www.u-46.org/Page/17983.

---Daily Herald---09/11/2021

South Elgin stymies Glenbard South

By Craig Brueske, Daily Herald Correspondent



South Elgin's Mason Montgomery (8) celebrates his first quarter touchdown against Glenbard South with Jordan Jones (5) in South Elgin on Friday, September 10, 2021. *Mark Black / Shaw Media Illinois*

South Elgin's defense was up to the task Friday night.

Facing a talented Glenbard South offense averaging 42 points in its first two games, South Elgin's defense limited the Raiders to just one trip to the end zone during its 35-7 Upstate Eight Conference football triumph in South Elgin. "It's a real challenge to stop a team like this with multiple Division 1 threats on offense," said Storm coach Dragan Teonic, whose team improved to 3-0. "To be able to hold them to only seven points is one heck of a night."

Led by linemen Omari Larson, Cody Doolin, Eduardo Ramirez and linebackers Alex Rios, Rocco Cataldo, Axel Bernal and Salvi Macaluso, the Storm defense held elusive Raiders senior tailback Trevor Burnett to 60 yards on 15 carries.

"Our defense was so great," said Macaluso. "Burnett is a great player, but we fought hard and stuck with it. We want our guys at the ball 90 percent of the time every single play."

"We were relentless," added Teonic, whose team won the turnover battle, 4-0, highlighted by a pair of interceptions from Jordan Jones. "They couldn't get the edge on us."

South Elgin grabbed an early 7-0 lead as Mason Montgomery (12 carries, 204 yards) took a pitch from sophomore quarterback Jake Sullivan and raced 24 yards down the sideline for a touchdown at the 6:50 mark of the opening quarter.

The Storm added a pair of second-quarter touchdowns within a 3-minute span -- the first on Montgomery's 28-yard misdirection run before Sullivan tossed an 8-yard TD strike to Joey Viverito to make it 21-0 with 28 seconds left before halftime.

The Raiders (2-1, 2-1) broke the ice with: 0.5 remaining in the half on a 25-yard TD pass from Michael Champagne (16 of 23, 137 yards) to Cam Williams (5 catches, 60 yards) to cut the deficit to 21-7.

However, the Storm broke the game open with a pair of short TD runs by Sullivan (24 carries, 129 yards) in the third quarter.

"When you play a triple option offense like South Elgin and they're so well-coached with it, if you don't play disciplined football, you get that result," said Raiders coach Ryan Crissey.

Crissey felt his team lost the game at the point of attack.

"Their defense is stout," he said. "They just play so fast, and they had a great game plan against us. They won the game on both sides of the line."

Despite the Week 3 setback, Crissey feels confident moving ahead.

"I didn't say one word after the breakdown," he said. "Some of our senior captains -- Connor Murphy, Trevor Burnett and Sam Scullion -- all stepped up right away and started talking about using it as motivation moving forward."

---Aurora Beacon-News ---09/11/2021

‘He’s priceless to our team’: James Knight experiences a good night on both sides of the ball as Bartlett cashes in win over Elgin

By Paul Johnson; Note – This article also ran at chicagotribune.com



Bartlett’s James Knight (2) bursts through the Elgin defense for a touchdown in the first quarter of an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

Whenever **Bartlett’s** James Knight gets the ball, his objective is clear.

“Every time I touch the ball,” Knight said, “I tell myself I’m scoring a touchdown.”

Or stopping one.

The senior receiver/running back/defensive back did both of those things during Friday’s Upstate Eight game against **Elgin**.

Knight picked off a pass as the Maroons were driving toward the end zone. He then capped the ensuing seven-play, 91-yard drive with a 30-yard TD to set the tone for a 29-12 victory.



Bartlett's James Knight (2) has an ice pack applied to his right shoulder at halftime of an Upstate Eight Conference game against Elgin in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

"Coach called my number, I got the ball, saw an opening, and did what I did," Knight said. "I just put myself in position and do what I can."

Knight is used as a decoy as often as he gets the ball on offense for Bartlett (2-1, 2-1).

His numbers Friday — 56 yards on five carries — weren't as big as they were in Week 2 against Streamwood, but he fought through a shoulder issue to make plays all over the field.

"Any time he has the ball in his hands, he can bust a big play," Bartlett coach Matt Erlenbaugh said. "When he doesn't have the ball in his hands, he draws a couple guys with him."

"He's priceless to our team. He's one of those players that's always calm, cool and collected. He just played a great game."

Knight only missed a couple of plays after aggravating his shoulder.

In addition to his interception on defense, he broke up a potential touchdown pass for Elgin (0-3, 0-3) in the second quarter, a drive that resulted in a missed field goal to keep Bartlett in the lead.



Bartlett's Jacob Searce passes the ball during an Upstate Eight Conference game against Elgin in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

"He's a guy that will never take himself out," Erlenbaugh said of Knight. "He was banged up a little bit, saw the trainer, and then right back in.

"That's just the type of kid he is. That's the type of character we want in our program."

Knight's TD run started a 22-point first quarter for Bartlett, giving the Hawks 81 points in a five-quarter stretch.

After another Elgin turnover, Jacob Searce hit Gabriel Bemont for an 11-yard TD. Bartlett followed with the 2-point conversion for a 15-0 lead. It was one of two Searce-to-Bemont connections for TDs in the game.

Elgin struck back right away, however, as Matthew Lawson took the ensuing kickoff 83 yards for a TD to cut the deficit to 15-6.

On Bartlett's next offensive play, however, Anthony Verges delivered a 74-yard TD run to push the lead to 22-6. Verges ran for 164 yards on 13 carries.



Elgin's Matthew Lawson (33) runs back a Bartlett kickoff for a touch down during an Upstate Eight Conference game in Bartlett on Friday, Sept. 10, 2021. (H. Rick Bamman / The Beacon-News)

“Verges was running tough,” Erlenbaugh said. “It was taking two, three, four people to get him down. First contact he was not going down. That’s the type of kid he is — tough kid.”

Elgin hung around, however, holding Bartlett scoreless in the second quarter and cutting the deficit to 22-12 in the third quarter on a 6-yard TD run from Clem McCullough.

“I just thought the first quarter we struggled with knowing we can win the game after the first two games of the season,” Elgin coach Anthony Mason said. “We have to keep that hope alive and understand what we anchor ourselves on is not necessarily wins and losses but how you prepare and win the day every single day.

“It’s really just keeping them up, keeping them going.”

---Daily Herald ---09/11/2021

Glenbard East slows down Streamwood

By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent

Glenbard East found the solution to stopping **Streamwood's** triple option offense.

The Rams held the Sabres, who compiled boxcar number rushing yards in their first two games this season, to a total of 116 yards in a 39-7 Upstate Eight win Friday night at Millennium Field.

"Their run game is awesome," said Glenbard East coach John Walters. "I think our defense accepted the challenge of what Streamwood had done in the previous two weeks and they were going to take a lot of pride in stopping the run game."

Glenbard East's offense was the one on the roll. The Rams gained 359 yards, 193 on the ground and 116 in the air. Senior quarterback Connor Cerkas completed 11 of 19 passes with three touchdown strikes. John Seybold led East's ground game, gaining 111 yards on 12 carries and a TD.

"On the offensive side, it was just about us getting into a rhythm," Walters said. "Once we found our stride, we were able to move the ball around and be a multidimensional offense."

Streamwood's backfield suffered a blow late in the first quarter when running back Mickey Estrada left the game with an injury.

Glenbard East (3-0, 3-0) capitalized on Streamwood (1-2, 1-2) miscues to score its first touchdown with 1:57 left in the first quarter. The Rams recovered a fumble on Streamwood's 23-yard line. On Glenbard East's first play of the ensuing drive, a roughing the pass call moved the ball to the Sabres' 11-yard line. On the next snap, Nikolas Kostov swept to left and crossed the goal line.

The Rams widened the lead to 13-0 on their first possession of the second quarter. A 5-yard scoring pass over the middle from Cerkas to Kyle Tyszkiewicz (4 receptions for 42 yards) capped a 54-yard, 6-play drive.

Glenbard East ended the half with its third TD of the night. Dimitri Hritz scampered 3 yards to put the Rams up 20-0 with 3:47 left in the half.

Glenbard East extended its lead early in the third quarter when Cerkas connected with Tyszkiewicz for a 24-yard score.

Walters singled out the senior's play.

"Kyle is a hardworking kid. He does everything right," said Walters. "He's kind of like an unsung hero for us on offense. It was nice to get him a couple of touchdown catches."

The Rams added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter. The first was a 22-yard pass from Cerkas to Dailen Zollicoffer with 7:30 left. The second was a 46-yard run by Seybold at the 3:16 mark.

The Sabres did have one highlight reel play. Issac Martinez returned a kick 84 yards for Streamwood's only score late in the fourth quarter. The senior workhorse accounted for most of the Sabres' yardage, gaining 111 yards on 23 carries.