

Press Clippings 12/18/2021 to 12/20/2021

---Kane County Connects--- 12/20/2021 19 Kane County School Outbreaks Kane County Connects report

Kane County is recording a total of 19 active school outbreaks, according to data posted by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

The IDPH outbreak report was last updated today (Friday, Dec. 17, 2021). Data includes entries elicited from cases opened within the previous 30 days from date of update.



Kane County had recorded 19 active outbreaks a week ago. Some schools were taken off the list, some schools were added to the list and some added the number of students or staff that have been infected since the previous week's report.

Among the updated outbreaks are less than five cases at Ferson Creek Elementary School in St. Charles, less than five cases at Geneva High School, five cases at O'Donnell Elementary School in Aurora, five cases at **Ronald O'Neal Elementary School in Elgin** and 11 cases at Wild Rose Elementary School in St. Charles.

[*Click here to see the IDPH School Outbreaks page.*](#)

Of course, school will be closing for the holiday break, with many districts starting next week and continuing through the first week in January, so this report might not be updated for a couple weeks.

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.

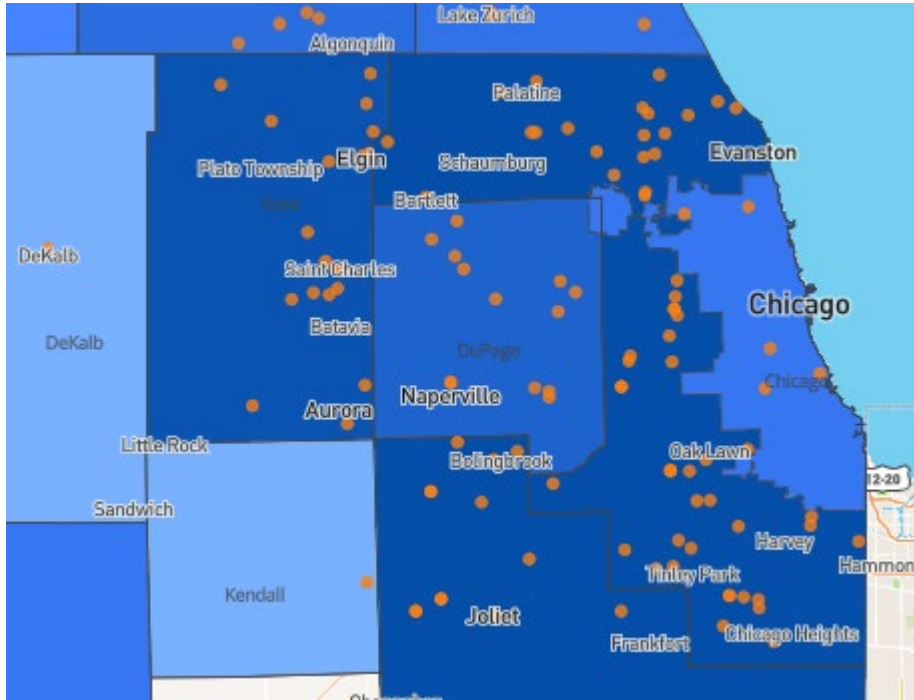
The outbreak information is reported by local health departments to the Illinois Department of Public Health through an outbreak reporting system.

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.

School Outbreaks as of Friday, Dec. 17



Cambridge Lakes Charter School (K-12)

- 24 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/9/2021

Dundee-Crown High School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/9/2021

Elgin Academy (K-12)

- 10 Cases
- Students
- Source: Sports
- First Reported: 12/9/2021

Elgin Math And Science Academy (K-12)

- 11 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/15/2021

Ferson Creek Elementary (K-12) *

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 12/16/2021

Gary D. Wright Elementary School (K-12) *

- 13 Cases
- Staff and Students

- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/18/2021

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

Heartland Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 12/7/2021

Hillcrest Elementary School (K-12)

- 12 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 11/18/2021

Immanuel Lutheran School (K-12) *

- 7 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 11/30/2021

John Shields Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 12/9/2021

Lincoln Elementary School (K-12) *

- 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 11/18/2021

Mill Creek Elementary School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 11/29/2021

O'Donnell Elementary (K-12) *

- 5 Cases
- Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 12/14/2021

Ronald O'Neal Elementary School (K-12) *

- 5 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 12/10/2021

St. Patrick School (K-12)

- 8 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom

- First Reported: 11/15/2021

St. Peter School (K-12)

- Less Than 5 Cases
- Students

- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/12/2021

Wild Rose Elementary School (K-12) *

- 11 Cases
- Staff and Students
- Source: Classroom
- First Reported: 11/15/2021

SOURCE: IDPH website

---Chicago Crusader--- Ran on 12/17/2021 **U of I establishes partnership with Chicago area high school** **By Crusader Staff**

In an announcement last month, a new digital television network was launched in the Windy City.

According to MVP Sports Marketing, the Chicago Arts and Athletics Network (CAAN), powered by the University of Illinois, will highlight the talents of students on and off the field at various high schools in both the Chicago area and the suburbs.

“The Chicago Arts and Athletics Network is available online at www.chicagoartsathleticsnetwork.com, along with streaming applications for television and mobile devices, including Android TV, Apple TV, Amazon Fire, Roku (TV), iOS and Android (mobile),” said MVP Sports Marketing via a press release.

The group said the educationally-based program will help empower students to put on headsets and get in front of—or behind—the camera to gain valuable experience in producing live broadcasts.

The group also said that many schools in the area have already added broadcast journalism or digital media courses to their curriculum or have created student-run broadcast clubs to broadcast sporting events, activities, band concerts, theater productions, and even proms. The group will also broadcast homecoming dances and graduations as well.

The program was developed by MVP Sports Marketing, which saw an opportunity for schools to market and promote their remarkable stories and successes.

“In this digital age, it’s important that schools capture the best moments of the year. We’re proud to collaborate with the University of Illinois and our high school partners to create a program that not only is student-led but will positively impact Chicago area families and students,” said Brian Miller, founder and CEO of MVP Sports Marketing. “All events on this network are free to view and will keep parents, long-distance family members and alumni connected. Not only will students receive more exposure, but schools will now have a digital archive of each school year.”

Thanks to the partnership with the University of Illinois, schools have received streaming equipment including laptops, cameras, audio mixers, headsets, and software to broadcast events.

“We are very excited to be a part of the launch of CAAN,” said University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Chancellor Robert Jones.

“This program is going to put the power of information and media in the hands of the students today who will be the ones using those same tools to shape the world around them in their lives and careers that follow. We’re very proud to be able to offer this trajectory-changing opportunity to Chicago land families and students.”

“I am so thankful for these technology tools, which will allow me to bring so much of the activities at the school to one site where family and friends can see events that they otherwise might miss because they can’t be present in person. This equipment has

brought on an excitement from the kids to produce content that I have not seen in years” noted Mundelein High School, Television Instructor Kent Meister.

Tiray Jackson, Director of Athletics at Perspectives Charter Schools remarked, “We’re extremely excited about the network! It will not only allow us to showcase our students to a broader audience, but it also allows our school community and families to support them [students] from afar. We’re just as excited about the programming opportunities this provides our students. They get to learn new skills in a very exciting and ever-emerging media field,”

For more information on the program, check out www.chicagoartsathleticsnetwork.com to learn about the different apps and member portals that are available.

The Program Partner Schools will include:

Bolingbrook High School

Bulls College Prep Academy

Butler College Prep Academy

Chicago Tech Academy

Crete Monee High School

Evergreen Park High School

Gary Comer College Prep

Holy Trinity High School

Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy

Intrinsic – Belmont Campus

Intrinsic – Downtown Campus

Johnson College Prep

Larkin High School

Maine South High School

Metea Valley High School

Mundelein High School

North Lawndale College Prep

Perspectives – Joslin

Perspectives – Leadership

Perspectives – Math & Science

Perspectives – Tech

Proviso East High School

Proviso West High School

Proviso STEM Academy
Rich Township High School
Romeoville High School
Thornton Fractional
North Thornton Fractional
South Urban Prep – Englewood
Urban Prep – Bronzeville

---Elgin Courier-News--- 12/19/2021

U-46 note about Tik Tok school violence meant for teachers accidentally sent to elementary students

By Mike Danahey

A District U-46 email message meant to alert elementary school teachers to a TikTok threat of school violence and shootings was mistakenly sent to all of the district's elementary school students instead.

District spokeswoman Karla Jimenez apologized for the error in a subsequent note sent to teachers and principals and attributed it to a malfunction of the district's Blackboard electronic mass notification messaging system.

"This was not at all intentional. I completely understand this may have caused some confusion and concerns," Jimenez wrote.

"Some schools have shared that they are receiving questions from parents about this. Please let parents know the message was not intended to be sent to elementary school students; and that we are working to identify and fix the problem so that it does not happen again."

The TikTok "challenge," since removed from the social media site, urged students to commit acts of violence on Dec. 17, which the unknown poster labeled "National Shoot Up Your School Day," according to published reports. The message spread quickly and went national but did not name a specific school or district.

The note that went to students Thursday afternoon was identical to the message posted on the district's Facebook page at about 7 a.m. Thursday, Jimenez said Friday.

The district has about 14,745 students in grades kindergarten through fifth, many of whom has email addresses because of the switch to remote learning last year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Elgin police posted a similar Facebook notification about the TikTok threat, stressing there was no indication anything would occur at district schools but that patrols around school buildings would be stepped up as precaution.

Some parents were angered the district did not switch to remote learning just to be safe, especially given that it was the last day of school before the winter break, according to Facebook notes left for Superintendent Tony Sanders. Several said they would not be sending their children to school Friday.

Jiminez said she did not know how many students missed school Friday or how many of those absences could be attributed to the violence threat.

She also was unable to say how many calls or complaints the district received from parents upset their children received an official district email that references the possibility of “school shooting and bomb threats for every school in the USA even elementary” in the first sentence.

Blackboard is the mass notification system the district uses to send out information to parents, teachers, staff and students via phone, text and email messages.

In this case, the alert was to go to staff, families and secondary-level students, Jiménez said, but apparently malfunctioned and sent the message to all students, regardless of grade level, but not to all elementary school staff.

Sanders did mention the mishap in his weekly message, apologizing that not all staff members got the alert and for the confusion that caused. He did not address that fact that elementary students received it.

“Please know that we are working with Blackboard to determine what occurred,” Sanders wrote.

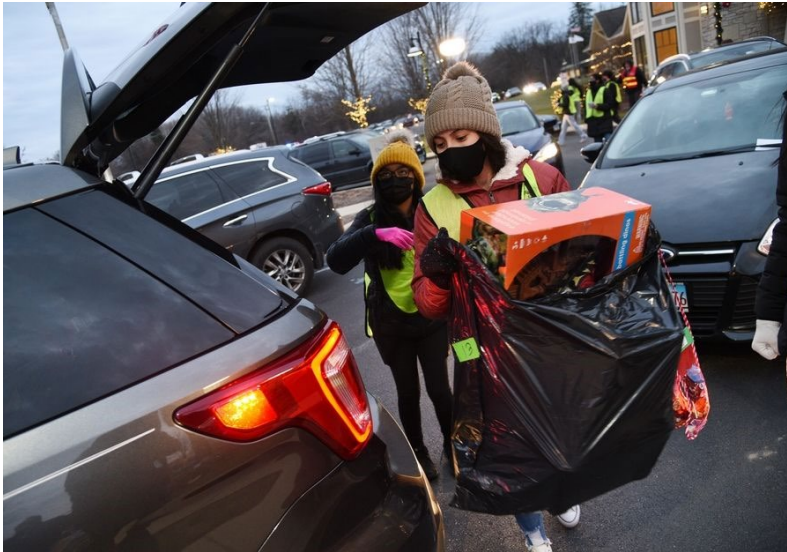
Jiménez said she urges parents to talk to their children about school threats and what they should do if they learn of one or see something online.

“If students see something threatening online, they should let adults know about it,” she said. “Don’t share such posts and don’t encourage them.”

---Daily Herald--- 12/18/2021

A toy story in Hanover Township

By Paul Valade



Streamwood High School National Honor Society members Jenny Chanwongse, left, and Alexandra Mercado load toys into a car during Hanover Township's annual Toy Drive and Sponsor-A-Family distribution event Friday in Bartlett. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Christmas came a little early for 630 families in Hanover Township.

A drive-through distribution was held Friday for the township's annual Toy Drive and Sponsor-A-Family program. Government officials, staff members, emergency services personnel and students from **Streamwood High School's National Honor Society** helped deliver items to cars at the Hanover Township Tiknis Campus in Bartlett. About 75 people pitched in.

Families had to show financial hardship to qualify for the program. Some toys were donated at various drop boxes, and others purchased from monetary donations. Some donors sponsored an entire family and purchased specific requested items.

About 1,600 children will receive gifts through the program. Some of the toys included bicycles, remote-control cars, video games and board games.

"A lot of work is put into the event many months in advance and requires significant assistance from volunteers," said Tom Kuttenberg, the township's director of community and government relations.

He praised support from local businesses and community organizations for making the event a success.

Hanover Township Supervisor Brian McGuire said the program has been running for at least 12 years.

"It's important because it allows the community to give back to those who are less fortunate. And really make sure this time of year that everybody gets to celebrate the holidays in some way or fashion," McGuire said. "Turnout has been great from the community to support the program. We couldn't do it without strong community support."

Families not registered for the distribution but still seeking gifts can call the township office at (630) 837-0301. Holiday meal boxes for township families are being distributed next week.

---Daily Herald--- 12/18/2021

Larkin blows out Glenbard East

By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent

Only fans who watched both the sophomore and varsity games Friday night between **Larkin** and Glenbard East saw end of the game drama.

The Rams' sophomore team rallied in the fourth quarter to tie the Royals at the end of regulation and then win it in overtime, 44-39.

The only question in the final period of the varsity contest in Elgin was: would the Royals hit triple digits? Larkin did not hit the century mark but did overwhelm its Upstate Eight Conference rival, 93-18.

"It was a special game on both ends of the court. I'm proud of our guys. Defensively, we were really, really special," said Larkin coach Deryn Carter. "I thought our ball pressure was phenomenal but even when they beat the ball pressure running some backdoor sets, we had great rotation."

The Royals' ball pressure forced 18 first half turnovers. Larkin (9-1, 5-0) led 32-4 after the first quarter and 60-6 at halftime.

"I think (the first quarter) kind of shellshocked them a little bit. They have some young guys. It's one of their first true road games," said the Larkin coach, "And we used the momentum to carry it over (to the second quarter) and it never stopped."

"We got thoroughly outplayed, out-coached, out-everything tonight," Glenbard East coach Al Biancalana said. "I just think that Elgin Larkin came out with an impressive winner's attitude, got us back on our heels and we had nobody to step up, nobody to take the fight to them. We just got back on our heels, and we took every punch that they gave us with no retort."

Carter was also pleased with the offense.

"We put it on the board all the time. I think guys were making plays for Larkin High School. They weren't making plays for themselves," he said. "It was unselfish basketball. Guys were taking shots that they should have taken and made passes that should have been passed"

Three Royal starters hit double figures. Damari Wheeler-Thomas led all scorers with 20 points. Jakob Blakely tallied 18 followed by Fernando Perez with 16.

"Our defense played great tonight and our defense led to our offense," said Perez. "I just let the game come to me and made the shots that I could."

With Larkin holding an 81-14 advantage over Glenbard East (3-4, 3-1) after three quarters, Royal reserves saw extended playing time as all the starters were on the bench for the last eight minutes.

"I thought Wardell Harvey did a great job (off the bench) and so did Adrian Colen-York," said Carter.

Carter hopes the team will be fresh for Saturday's first game at the Hinkle Tournament at Jacobs.

"We are playing five games in 10 days, so it was good to give our starters some rest," the Larkin coach said. "Hopefully we're ready to play tomorrow."

Another one-sided contest was the best dressed person at the game. That honor easily went to Larkin band director Nicholas Lambert who was wearing a new maroon jacket covered with Santa Clauses.

"It's almost as loud as the band," Lambert said.

---Daily Herald--- 12/19/2021

Larkin stays hot, shines in Hinkle opener

By Dave Hess, Daily Herald Correspondent



Johnsburg's Joe Wolff (1) and **Larkin's Dontrell Maxie** (22) chase a loose ball during Saturday's Hinkle Holiday Classic boys basketball game at Jacobs High School in Algonquin. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

Yes, **Larkin's** high-octane offense is capable of scoring over 100 points every time it takes the court.

But through the early portion of the 2021-22 season, veteran Royals coach Deryn Carter has been impressed with the defensive effort.

That was on display Saturday afternoon.

Holding Johnsburg to 49 points, Larkin opened play in the 21st annual Hinkle Classic hosted by Jacobs with an impressive 87-49 victory.

Against Larkin's smothering defense, Johnsburg committed 25 turnovers. The Skyhawks made 16-of-61 shots from the field for 25% and 7-of-38 from 3-point range.

"We hang our hats on our defense," said Carter. "We made them take a lot of tough shots and we can live with that."

Leading 24-17 after one quarter, the Royals (10-1) took control of the game to start the second.

Larkin, making its first 5 shots of the quarter, scored the first 11 points to extend its lead to 35-17 with 5:45 left before halftime. Jakob Blakley scored 5 including a 3. Damari Wheeler-Thomas, a North Dakota State commit, along with Fernando Perez and Adrian York each had baskets during the pivotal run.

Outscoring the Skyhawks 27-11 in the second quarter, Larkin held a commanding 51-28 advantage at intermission.

Perez with 6 assists and Wheeler-Thomas led the Royals with 20 points each.

Connecting on five 3-pointers, Blakley added 19 points for the winners. Armani Ivy came off the Larkin bench to score 10 all in the second half. Ivy was 2-of-4 from beyond the arc.

"Our goal is to make defense into offense," said Perez. "That is always our game plan. We are a very unselfish team. If one of our teammates is open we get him the ball. Our goal is to be champions in this tournament."

Larkin won the Hinkle Classic in its last appearance in the tournament in 2014.

"We think of ourselves as the defending champions," said Carter. "Today was a good start for us."

Dylan Schmidt, who was 3-of-6 from 3-point range, paced the Skyhawks with 17 points while Joe Wolff added 11 with 3 treys.

"They are the best team we have played so far this season and will be the best team we will play all season long," said Johnsburg coach Mike Toussaint. "They are a better team than us. They are so quick. I don't think they are 40 points better than us, This is something we can learn from."

---Daily Herald--- 12/19/2021
Schaumburg hands South Elgin first loss
By Jared Birchfield, Daily Herald Correspondent

With its tallest player at 5-foot-9, South Elgin has relied on its pressure defense and speedy guards to offset its opponents' height advantage.

It has worked well for the Storm's first 10 games of the season -- all victories.

However, Schaumburg successfully applied a strategy to counter the Storm in the third quarter of Saturday's nonconference game in South Elgin to earn a 55-49 come-from-behind victory and give South Elgin its first loss of the season.

Trailing the Storm 36-23 with three minutes left in the third period, Saxon coach Jacqueline Strauch inserted Jackie Tuzil, a 6-footer, in the post position.

Teammates got the ball inside to the senior for four straight baskets as part of a 9-0 run to close out the frame and narrow the Storm's margin to 36-32 to start the fourth quarter.

"We've were telling girls (at halftime) that we had a size advantage and we needed to play in the post a little bit. We needed to make smarter passes," Strauch said. "Jackie is one of our leaders and she went in and posted up and she made smart passes and she got big rebounds. I think that ignited her teammates to start doing the same."

Schaumburg's inside play and South Elgin's cold shooting continued to reduce the Storm's lead during the final period. Finally, with less than four minutes to play, a layup by Madi Dolecki put the Saxons on top 43-42 for the first time since the end of the first quarter. Schaumburg held off South Elgin for the rest of the game.

"Then I wised up as a coach and put both my posts in and I got a little cross screening action," the Schaumburg coach said. "That put us in a place where we got comfortable. It put them on their heels, they started shooting quicker and we rebounded well."

"We are super small, and we finally got exposed down low. Other teams haven't been able to take advantage of that because our pressure defense is so good," said South Elgin coach Dan Mandernack. "They did a really good job of getting down low to their tall and they got some easy buckets and they just hung around. We just kind of fizzled out at the end. In the fourth quarter we were waiting for the one big basket to fall and that didn't happen."

The Storm also trailed the Saxons early in the game, but rallied to take a 25-21 halftime lead. Schaumburg led 13-9 at the 2:07 mark in the first quarter. Back-to-back baskets by Raina Yang (12 points) gave South Elgin a 14-13 lead with less than a minute to play in the period. A Symone Harrell bucket just before the buzzer put the Saxons up 15-14 to start the second quarter.

Baskets by Caroline Croft and Yang returned the advantage to the Storm, 18-15 halfway through the second frame. Croft scored a team-high 14 points.

South Elgin (10-1) started the third quarter on 13-2 run and looked to break the game open. The only Saxon basket was a Alyssa Orozco layup. The senior led all scorers with 15 points.

"We were up four at the half and I didn't think we played really well but we still had the lead," Mandernack said. "We needed to win the first three minutes (of the third quarter). We got it up to 13 and we missed a couple of key shots which I think might just have closed it out."

That's when Tuzil entered the game and the momentum shifted to Schaumburg (7-5). The senior finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

"We needed some energy. As soon as one person steps up and makes a good impact, it has a positive effect on the whole team," Tuzil said.