

Dear Country Day Families,

Two weeks until winter break and overall, we continue to be healthy, strong, and importantly, open for learning.

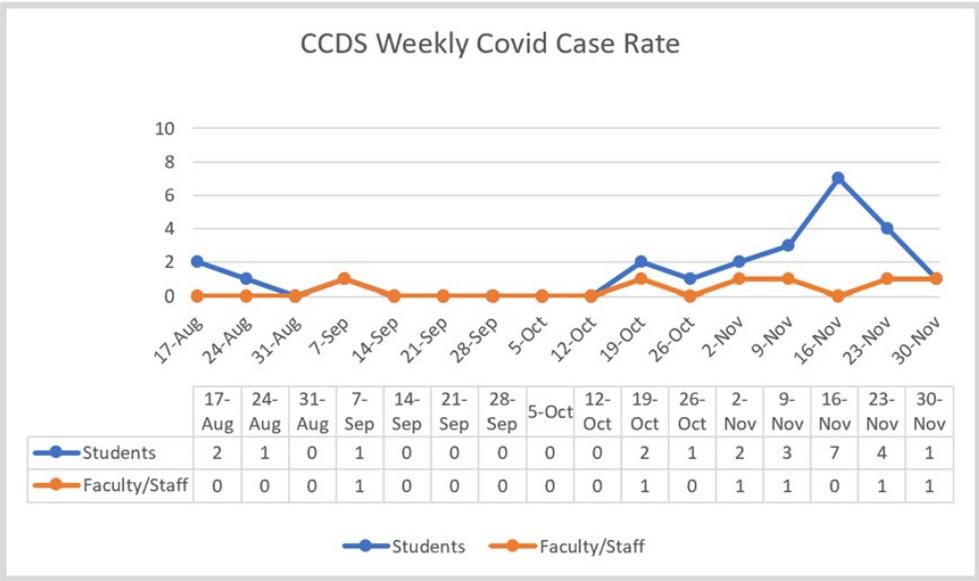
The Covid case rate, and even more telling, the transmission within our students and staff population have remained low making schools one of the safest places for children. But every lapse of the preventative bundle (wearing masks, washing hands, maintaining social distance, avoiding crowds and gatherings) jeopardizes our chances of staying open.

The virus’s negligible spread on campus is impressive. Yet, pockets of Covid have crept onto our campus, resulting in an increased number of student and staff quarantines due to close contact. While the rate of Covid on campus is low, the resulting quarantine numbers are challenging. We are reaching a worrisome tipping point that would warrant a full shift to remote learning for all students if the quarantine numbers continue to increase.

Please double down on all Covid preventative measures, particularly avoiding group gatherings of 10 or more. We want to keep our doors open, Covid out, our community healthy, and students on campus for the optimal learning experience.

**Covid on Campus**

The chart below details the number of Covid cases on campus this school year. While the total number is low, compliance fatigue and the colder weather have resulted in a fall surge, boosting the overall case rate.



To keep you apprised of the campus case rate, we’ve created a [dashboard](#) that appears on the school’s homepage. The dashboard will be updated weekly and allows us to streamline the number of email notifications we send.

**Ohio Public Health Advisory System (OPHAS)**

We are often asked, “What if Hamilton County turns purple?”

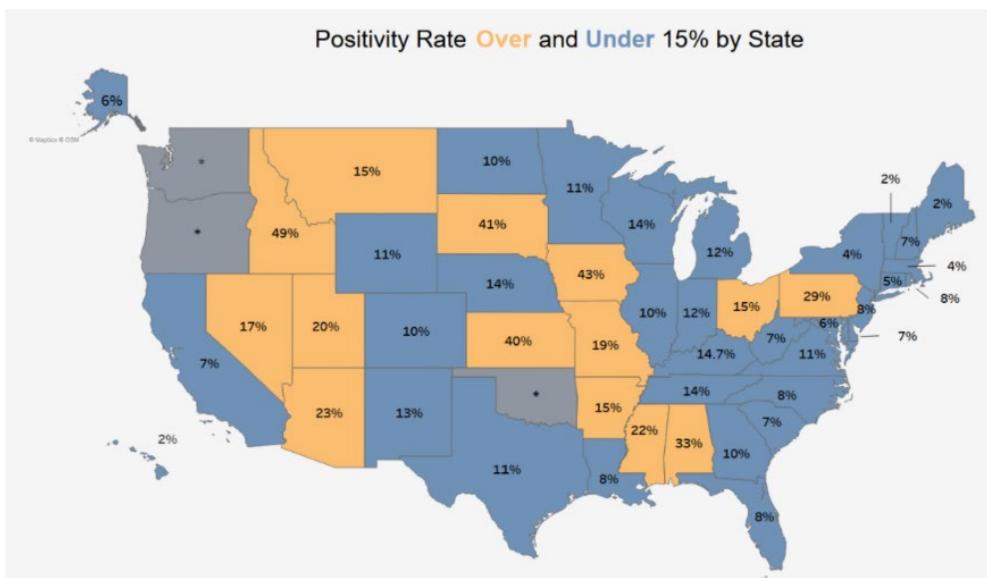
As we [communicated earlier](#), the school’s decision to shift to remote learning will be based on internal metrics (i.e., CCDS Covid case rate and the number of students/staff quarantining) rather than relying on the [OPHAS](#) since some of its indicators are not applicable for school-based, operational decisions. It is possible that Hamilton County could be designated purple, but Country Day would remain open for in-person instruction if the school’s case and quarantining rates remain low.

**Ohio Travel Advisory**

Each week, [Ohio updates its list of states reporting testing rates of 15% or higher](#). The state advises those entering Ohio after traveling to a state with a positivity rate of 15% or higher to quarantine for

14 days. Perhaps, the state will reduce the quarantine time to 7 or 10 days to align with the new CDC quarantine guidelines.

Interestingly, Ohio is now at 15%. Further evidence for not leaving the Buckeye state!



### Athletic Update

Sports have, and will continue to be, a vital component of a Country Day education. Participation in sports nurtures student growth both physically and intellectually, while imparting valuable lessons about teamwork, commitment, leadership, and sportsmanship. Additionally, athletic participation restores opportunities for students to connect with classmates and coaches that are essential to emotional wellness.

Earlier, the school announced its plans for a modified sports program, to be in effect November 23 – December 7. The modified program involves practices and activities with additional precautions in place (e.g., podding players, masking for the entire length of a practice (not including swimming), emphasizing skill-building, and postponing all interscholastic play).

Based on the recommendation of [CCDS's Medical Advisory Board](#), the modified program (for all youth, MS, and US teams) will be extended through Friday, December 18. We will reschedule all interscholastic competitions taking place November 20 – December 17 to dates on or after December 18. All practices will continue with the current modifications in place.

We are making every effort to maintain a safe and healthy winter athletic season, similar to our successful experience with fall sports (only one case of intra-team transmission).

We appreciate your help with our Covid mitigation efforts and the sacrifices you make to keep our doors open.

Sincerely,  
The Covid Rapid Respond Team

**Covid-19 Rapid Response Team**  
Tina Moulin, Ashley Ward (Co-Chairs)  
Dennis Coyle, Jackie Fiora, Theresa Hirschauer

**CHALLENGE YOURSELF. BE YOURSELF.**

**#WeAreCountryDay**