

Illini West High School District #307

600 Miller Street
Carthage, IL 62321
Phone: (217) 357-9607
Fax: (217) 357-9609
www.IlliniWest.org

Kim Schilson, Superintendent
Email: schilson.kim@illiniwest.org

August 11, 2020

Dear Illini West School District Families:

In July, The Illini West High School District shared a proposed plan to reopen our schools on August 17, 2020 with both in-person instruction and remote learning. At that time, we were optimistic that the COVID cases would remain low in our district. The county superintendents along with the Hancock County Health Department and Memorial Hospital representatives met throughout the summer and have made plans on how to handle the different scenarios that could possibly arise from hallway congestion, to symptom checks, to possible COVID cases at the school. All to reopen schools safely.

We have continued to meet throughout the summer and now find ourselves in a position where the Hancock County COVID Team, consisting of Memorial Hospital, Hancock County Health Department, EMS, and Law Enforcement, has given the Districts a written recommendation to delay the start of in-person school due to a large increase in positivity rates for our county. In the last seven days Memorial Hospital and Clinics' positivity rate is 11%.

Last night, August 10, 2020, the Illini West Board of Education met to discuss what actions to take. In order to protect the health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff, the Illini West High School District will provide remote-only instruction. The start of the school year will begin remotely on August 24, 2020 and continue with remote learning until September 18, 2020. Before September 18, 2020 the Board will re-evaluate and make a recommendation on how the District will proceed.

Please look for further information coming from Mr. Schneider with details such as book/computer pick-up and how your student will log on to their classes.

In closing, please know that we understand the magnitude of this change and the impact it will have on our students, staff and families. However, please always remember that the decision in moving to remote-only instruction and learning was made to place the health, safety and welfare of our students, faculty and staff above all else. Thank you for your ongoing patience and understanding under these unprecedented and ever-changing circumstances.

Sincerely,



Kim Schilson, Superintendent