

**UNION SCHOOL
DISTRICT #81**

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August 6, 2021

Dear Union Families and Staff,

As you are now aware, the Governor has issued a mask mandate for vaccinated and unvaccinated staff, students and visitors in schools. For a number of reasons, our District will be adhering to that mandate. Although the mask mandate is upsetting and disappointing for some staff, students and parents, we ask that you not put your student or the school in an uncomfortable situation by having them come to school without a mask. Please follow the mandate issued.

In the interest of transparency, while still addressing the public health issue, understanding that parental choice is important, that children belong in school in order to get the best education possible, and that no child should be denied a public education because of a decision that is out of their control, the following procedure will take place for any student who has a parent/legal guardian refuse to have them wear a mask:

- Parents/Guardians will be contacted asking them to have their student comply
- If there is still a refusal, students without masks will be separated at least 6 feet from other students at all times
- Those students will not be able to partner in close proximity on assignments with masked students
- Students will not be able to participate in indoor athletic activity or sports
- Students may be prohibited from other activities if it's not possible to maintain safety protocols
- Student sent home if not in compliance of these protocols or if the BOE, ISBE or State determines this is the new course of action for non-compliance

These measures would be taken, not to be punitive to the mask-less student, but rather to provide a level of comfort and security to the other students and their parents who are complying with the mandate.

Again, masks are still mandated for public transportation, which includes school buses. All students must wear a mask if they are riding the school bus. The school will continue to follow the additional safety measures that have been in place since last year. Additional measures may be added as the year progresses. Current measures include:

- Temperature screening for all staff and students at the beginning of each day
- Distancing in the classroom and at breakfast/lunch
- Quarantining per Covid guidelines in coordination with the Health Department
- Parents keeping students home when they are ill
- Students being sent home immediately if they feel ill
- Each classroom equipped with an AeraMax air purifier with Hepa filter
- Electrostatic cleaning daily
- Support vaccination for all students/staff 12 years and older

The State has also mandated in-person learning, meaning everyday remote learning will not be available except in cases of quarantine.

We will continue to monitor this situation and will update you immediately if changes are needed. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me any time you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Timothy Baldermann
Superintendent
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