

Salem R-80 School District

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Dear Salem R80 Staff, Students and Parents:

On November 12, 2020, Governor Mike Parson, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced modifications to the rules relating to the quarantining of students who have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case. The new guidance will prevent students from being quarantined if masking rules are followed. At the November 19 Board of Education meeting, the Board voted 6-1 to adopt a mask mandate, in order to keep students and staff safer and to reduce the number of staff members and students quarantined.

At the December 17, 2020 meeting, the Board of Education adopted the implementation plan for the district mask mandate.

- Students in grades PreK-12 will be required to wear face coverings/masks when they are on the bus.
- Students in grades Pre-K-5 will be required to wear masks while working in small groups (with students from other classrooms), and when they leave their cohort classroom.
- Students in grades 6-12 will be required to wear face coverings/masks when they are within six feet of another person. This includes in the classroom, hallways, common areas (masks may be removed while a student is eating or engaged in rigorous physical activity).
- Staff members are required to wear face coverings/masks when they are within six feet of another person. This includes in the classroom, hallways, common areas, and the bus.
- All students in grades PreK-12 will be required to wear masks at school events (ballgames) and adults will be strongly encouraged to wear masks. Seating capacity limits will stay in effect..
- Visitors to the buildings during the school day will be asked to wear masks (disposable masks provided for those who do not have one).

Face coverings must be at least two layers (including gaiters), and face shields will not be considered face coverings. Students and staff with a medical condition documented by a physician may be exempt from wearing a face covering. Requested accommodations for students with IEPs or 504 plans should be directed to the child's case manager, or Mrs. Heavin, Director of Special Services.

If a student or staff member is in close contact (within 6') of someone who tests positive, and both parties are masked, the exposed individuals may remain at school, but not co-curriculars or other activities outside of the instructional day.

This plan was created from guidance provided by the CDC, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, the Dent County Health Department, and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in order to protect the health/safety of our staff and students, and as an effort to mitigate the the number of days being missed by staff and students due to quarantines.

The high school will remain on the hybrid model until further notice. All students K-12 will be using Acellus if they choose to go fully virtual. Each building office can give you information on Acellus, or you may contact John Smith, Assistant Superintendent. Reminder, once your child chooses virtual instruction, there is one week window to allow a return to seated classes, but then the student is committed to virtual instruction for the semester.

As always, proper handwashing, face coverings, social distancing, and staying home when sick are the best ways to avoid the spread of COVID, per the CDC and local and state health departments.

We appreciate your efforts to support the school district as we make difficult decisions during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Lynne Reed
Superintendent