

April 1, 2021

To School District of Marshfield Families and Staff:

With the release of some important new announcements, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court decision to invalidate the Governor's mask order, I am writing to provide an additional update concerning our ongoing efforts to keep students and staff safe. In particular, I wanted to help clarify for families and staff that the Court's decision does not affect the face covering requirement the school district put in place as part of our COVID-19 pandemic response plan. Face coverings will therefore remain in effect to ensure safety.

It is also important to note that the wearing of face masks in schools, as an important COVID-19 mitigation measure, continues to be a key point of emphasis in current CDC and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) guidelines for K-12 schools. Accordingly, the face covering requirement for students and staff, within school buildings and while participating in school-sponsored events, is expected to remain in place in the School District of Marshfield for the duration of the 2020-21 school year.

With this update, I would also like to note some of the newly revised guidance for K-12 schools, which DHS is recommending based on recent changes from the CDC. Here is a summary of the most noteworthy adjustments:

- 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms at elementary schools.
- 3 feet of physical distance between students in classrooms at middle and high schools when community transmission of COVID-19 is at the indicator level of low, moderate, or substantial.
- Students in classrooms at middle and high schools should be 6 feet apart when community transmission of COVID-19 is high, if cohorting is not possible.
- Physical barriers are not necessary (i.e., plexiglass dividers/partitions).
- Fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine, when meeting the criteria of being a close contact with a COVID-positive individual, so long as the fully vaccinated individual does not have COVID-19 symptoms.

One very important detail that has not changed in the CDC guidance for schools is that contact tracing will continue to be based on the criteria of someone who has been within 6 feet of a person diagnosed with COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period. Working with the Wood County Health Department, our school district staff will continue to adhere to these guidelines in determining when students and staff will need to stay home from school and quarantine as a result of close contacts that occur in our schools.

As we return to school after spring break and with all our schools now conducting everyday in-person instruction, it is more important than ever that we stay diligent and maintain our school safety and mitigation protocols. I recognize these safety and mitigation measures may seem more and more challenging by the day. That is why I am so thankful and appreciative for

everyone hanging in there and helping us get through the rest of this school year as safely and soundly as possible. Thank you!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable spring break vacation. We very much look forward to seeing our students back at school. Take care!

Dr. Ryan Christianson
Superintendent