

11/30/2020

Dear Maries R 2 Families,

As we navigate through the ever-changing health guidelines, a new modified quarantine procedure was approved at the regular November Board of Education Meeting. Governor Parsons recently announced changes in guidance for Missouri schools. This guidance reduces the number of students who may have to be quarantined due to direct contact with a person that has tested positive for COVID-19.

Effective **Tuesday, December 1**, we are strongly encouraging all students and staff to wear a mask when they cannot social distance. This will apply to our students and staff in the 5th through 12th grade (Middle School and High School).

When we return to school on **January 5, 2021**, a mask mandate for all grades 5th through 12th students and staff will go into effect.

The new modified quarantined procedures:

If the individual diagnosed with COVID-19 and the close contacts (within 6 feet) were both wearing masks appropriately during the time of exposure in the school setting, the close contact would follow a modified quarantine, allowing students and staff to attend school while monitoring for symptoms. All students and staff who were contacts must be wearing a mask in order for this new procedure to be followed. The modified quarantine does not include participating in extra-curricular activities during the modified quarantine. The modified quarantine only applies to students and staff who were exposed in the school setting. If a student or staff is exposed outside the school, the modified quarantine will not be used.

The modified quarantine will require students to wear a mask when social distancing is not possible. This will include hallways and standing in line for lunch.

If your child has a health condition that prevents the wearing of a mask, please contact your physician. A written note from the physician excluding them from the mandate will be accepted by the district.

This decision was not made lightly. It was made with careful consideration to keep our students and staff healthy and at school. The district is following the recommendations of the Health Department. With your grace, cooperation and patience, we hope to reduce the number of students who are required to be in quarantine and who miss classroom instruction. We will review the mask guidelines at each Board of Education meeting. We are hopeful that this is a short term procedure for our students and staff.

If you have questions concerning the new modified quarantine procedures, please feel free to contact me at 573-859-3800 or email me at lbasham@mariesr2.org. Your building principals and nurses will also be able to answer questions concerning the modified quarantine procedures.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lenice Basham

Maries Co. R 2 Superintendent