



CLINTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

765 Yellowjacket Lane

Clinton, AR 72031

501-745-6010 Phone

501-745-2475 Fax

Clinton School District Family,

The Clinton School District is determined to do all that is possible to protect our students and staff. Because of the alarming number of cases and quarantines that have developed in our district, the school board met on Friday, January 14, 2022 to formulate ideas to ensure that everything possible is done to protect everyone. While it is not possible to eliminate all risks associated with COVID-19, Clinton Schools have been very successful in providing in-person learning since August 2020. This success can be attributed to the multiple layers of mitigation strategies that we have implemented in our schools, such as social distancing, mask wearing at times, disinfecting and cleaning, handwashing, hand sanitizer, and physical distancing to the extent practical.

Although the health directives that governed school operations were converted to guidance, the Arkansas Department of Health and Arkansas Department of Education have strongly advised districts to continue to follow all measures that have allowed for successful in-person learning to occur. Therefore, the Clinton School Board voted to continue the COVID-19 protocols that students and staff were practicing last school year which include the wearing of masks/face coverings by all students and staff upon resuming school on Tuesday, January 18.

As updated on August 4, 2021, CDC guidance states, "When teachers, staff, and students consistently and correctly wear a mask, they protect others as well as themselves. Consistent and correct mask use is especially important indoors and in crowded settings, when physical distancing cannot be maintained." The CDC currently recommends the following regarding the wearing of masks in school settings:

- **Indoors.** CDC recommends indoor masking for all individuals age 2 years and older, including students, teachers, staff, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.
- **Outdoors.** In general, people do not need to wear masks when outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings or during activities that involve sustained close contact with other people. Fully vaccinated people might choose to wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised. Individuals exposed to a confirmed case of COVID-19 will not need to quarantine if the individual exposed has no symptoms and both the infected and exposed individual consistently and correctly were wearing a mask.

The decision by the school board was for the safety of all and to help students and staff stay at school instead of missing due to quarantine guidelines. The district understands that a great burden is put on our students and families when missing in-person instruction, as well as other burdens such as finding childcare, missing work, etc. The wearing of masks/face coverings will be addressed by examining district case and quarantine data after a two week period. Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school district!

Jay Chalk
Superintendent
Clinton School District