



Shidler Public Schools

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To Shidler Parents and School Employees:

A couple of days ago, Governor Stitt and our Oklahoma State Health Department announced that schools may allow students and staff identified as “close contacts” from exposure while in a school setting to be exempt from automatic 10-day quarantine rules under certain circumstances. Avoidance of mandatory school quarantine is only possible if strict adherence to safety protocols is observed. Our school already utilizes seating charts, encourages hand washing and sanitizing, frequently disinfects surfaces, promotes social distancing, temperature checks everyone upon arrival to school and uses physical barriers such as plexiglass shields where appropriate. The only thing our school has not done to qualify for the Governor’s and State Health Department’s automatic close contact quarantine exemption is to REQUIRE our students, staff, and visitors to wear masks while at school.

Our district leadership realizes that strong opinions about the efficacy of masks exists within our community and with our students and parents. Having acknowledged those differences, it is our belief that we must do everything possible to keep our students learning IN-PERSON and to keep our schools open if possible. If requiring mask wearing at school, while continuing to observe all the other safety protocols that we are already doing can help us avoid sending dozens of our students and staff home for a mandatory 10-day quarantine just because they were around someone at school who tested positive for Covid-19, we need to try.

Therefore, starting January 18, 2021, all Shidler staff and all 3rd-12th grade students will be REQUIRED to wear a mask when around others. This MASK MANDATE applies to transport on buses, classrooms, hallways, restrooms, etc. Covid-19 safety protocols such as social distancing, hand washing, diligent cleaning and sanitizing of surfaces, use of physical barriers such as plexiglass screens where appropriate etc. will remain in effect. The only change for us is that masks will now be REQUIRED for all staff and for all 3rd-12th grade students while at school and while on school buses. If you have any questions, please contact an administrator at the school and thank you for your patience and understanding as we strive to keep school open and students learning safely in-person.

Sincerely,

Rick Rogers
Superintendent
Shidler Public Schools