

**Stratford Independent School
District**

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The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) forecast “indicates an uncertain trend in new COVID-19 cases reported over the next four weeks and predicts that 310,000 to 710,000 new cases will likely be reported during the week ending November 21, 2020”. If this scenario plays out to be accurate, this will be an incredibly massive surge in cases. We are already starting to feel this increase in patients within the Stratford Independent School District community this past week. As I am sure you have heard, we will make the pivot from brick to no school at our campuses for two days next week. We have done this mainly as a preventative measure to stop any possible spread of the virus. Several months ago, we informed the community we had established threshold percentages to make decisions. Suspending classrooms, programs, and campuses are not our ideal state, but we are committed to your safety and the safety of our staff and students. I hope you are visiting the Stratford ISD COVID tab regularly to find out how many cases, quarantines, and in which buildings they occur. We want to support our stakeholders socially and emotionally so we will take Monday and Tuesday off next week.

Collectively, we know that wearing your mask correctly and consistently protects your co-workers, friends, relatives, and other members of the community (especially those at high-risk). The data also shows that maintaining a distance of six feet or more from another person decreases the coronavirus’s spread. These recommendations, along with washing your hands often and disinfecting objects and surfaces daily, prevent the spread of this illness.

Accepting responsibility is recognizing case counts and quarantines are on the rise. Responsible is identifying that wearing a mask reduces community spread. Responsible is remembering to wash with soap, disinfect regularly, and use hand sanitizer when appropriate. Lastly, reliable is being mindful of large gatherings where it is reasonable to assume someone will be there who is COVID positive. Together, we can respond best by simply being responsible... and that is how we will get through this to get out of this.

Thank you for everything you are doing to keep us all safe.