



SINTON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1337 • 322 South Archer Street

Sinton, Texas 78387

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Dr. Chad Jones
Superintendent

Dana Allen
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum/Support Services

Melissa Villarreal
Assistant Superintendent
for Business

March 18, 2021

Dear Sinton ISD Students, Parents, Families and Staff:

I am thankful for your support as we have successfully implemented safety protocols throughout the school year. As you know, the governor's order to open business capacity to 100% and remove the mask mandate went into effect on Wednesday, March 10th while we were on spring break.

The Texas Education Agency has published updated public health guidance for public schools. A key phrase in the guidance is *"Every student, teacher, or staff member shall wear a mask over the nose and mouth when inside a school building, school facility, facility used for school activities, or when in an outdoor space on school property or used for school activities, wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household....."* While there are a few exceptions, the general rule remains that masks should be worn.

What is new is that there is a mechanism where the school board can take action to modify or eliminate this mandate. At this time, I am NOT recommending that the board make any changes to the mask mandate. Here are my reasons why:

- What we have been doing is working. Throughout this school year, we have not had any confirmed cases of person to person spread on a campus, but we have seen a lot of person to person spread within families, following breaks, following events (such as parties, weddings, sleepovers, etc.). I see no reason to jeopardize an outbreak or mass quarantine when we only have a few weeks left in this school year.
- The close contact rules have not changed. If we were to stop wearing masks, then our numbers having to go home due to close contact would likely increase tremendously. I want us to finish strong and have all of our students and staff here on campus each day. Plus, we have many extracurricular activities going on during the spring and I want those to be able to continue. Remember, last year, our baseball, softball, track, tennis, golf, UIL academic, and one act play teams didn't get to even start district competition due to COVID. They deserve to get to complete a full season this year and an outbreak or a mass quarantine would hinder those student's opportunities to compete.



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- Continuing the current protocols for the remainder of this year would allow staff members who have not had an opportunity to be vaccinated the time to do so if they choose.
- All superintendents in Region 2 work closely together and at our meeting yesterday, every superintendent who spoke stated that they are staying with current protocols to get through the end of the school year. They are all doing this because it is our goal to be back to normal next school year and none of us want to jeopardize that.

As your superintendent, I am here to serve the needs of Sinton ISD students and staff and please know that this decision to me is not political, but based on the success of our current protocols and the desire to get back to normal as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

M. Chad Jones, Ed.D.
Superintendent, Sinton ISD