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November 19, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Last week, Governor Mike Parson, the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) announced modifications to Missouri's K-12 school reopening and operating guidance. As explained in a letter last week the school board would be considering a mask mandate for our school district for students in PreK-12 grades.

Under the updated guidance, proper mask-wearing may now prevent individuals from being quarantined as close contacts in K-12 schools that have implemented a mask mandate. This means that if both individuals at school – the person testing positive with COVID-19 and the person exposed to the positive case – have masks on and are wearing them correctly, the individual exposed does not need to quarantine.

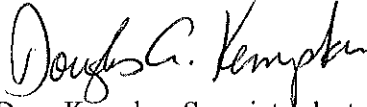
This letter is to inform you that during last night's regularly scheduled school board meeting, the school board voted to implement the attached mask policy for the St. Elizabeth R-IV School District. This policy will go into effect on Monday, November 23.

This policy shall be in place until further notice and will be revisited each month as we continue to monitor the daily positive Miller County COVID-19 cases as well as our positive student and staff cases. We are hopeful this policy will allow our healthy students to remain in school to receive the best education our school can provide.

As mentioned previously, attached to this letter are the guidelines that will be followed for the duration of this mask ordinance. Additionally, I have attached communications from the Miller County Health Center and DHSS for your review.

Please do not hesitate to communicate any concerns about this new policy. Again, our district realizes that the best place for students is here at school with teachers, classmates, and friends. However, we cannot stress enough the importance of keeping your child at home when they do not feel well and remind students to communicate with you when they do not feel well.

Respectfully Yours,

  
Doug Kempker, Superintendent  
St. Elizabeth R-IV School District