



September 10, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This purpose of this letter is to clear up any confusion that may be circulating regarding Southwestern Jefferson County School District's masking and quarantine guidelines, due to COVID-19.

On Monday, August 30 the Southwestern Board of Trustees adopted new quarantine guidelines for Southwestern Schools that would have kept our schools as "mask optional" but would have allowed any close contact of a COVID positive person to not be required to quarantine if they (the close contact) were wearing a mask when they were within 6 feet of the COVID positive individual. These new guidelines were to take effect beginning Tuesday, September 7. These changes in policy were reported in an article in the Madison Courier on Thursday, September 2.

On Tuesday, August 31, Governor Holcomb issued an Executive Order regarding schools and quarantine rules that made the policy passed the night before invalid. **That Executive Order requires close contacts to quarantine in any school that does not require every person in a school building to wear a mask.**

Because Southwestern Schools are currently mask optional, the policy was not implemented on September 7. At this time, Southwestern Schools are still operating with the same masking and quarantine guidelines that we began the school year with. The bottom line at this point in time is that Southwestern Schools are required to follow the Indiana State Department of Health guidelines on quarantines, which are:

- Unvaccinated close contacts must quarantine per one of the following acceptable time frames (Asymptomatic vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine)
 1. Quarantine for 14 days (no test needed)
 2. Quarantine for 10 days (no test needed), return to school on day 11 and wear a mask on days 11, 12, 13, and 14.
 3. Quarantine for 7 days with a return to school on day 8 if have a negative COVID test on day 5, 6, or 7. Must wear a mask on days 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

Hopefully this straightens out any misconceptions on the current policies on quarantines at Southwestern Jefferson County Schools.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L. Bates, Superintendent

Board of School Trustees

Richard Stockdale - President | John Jones - Vice President | Lacie Deputy - Secretary
Misty Jacobs - Member | Jonathan Simpson - Member
Assistant to the Superintendent / Corporation Treasurer
Laura Boldery

239 South Main Cross Street
Hanover, Indiana 47243
Phone: 812-866-6250
Pax: 812-866-6256