



Update #16 – November 19, 2020

Santa Fe R-X Community:

As you are likely aware, the Santa Fe School District will now fall under the mask order announced by the Lafayette County Health Department. Unfortunately, that announcement came directly on the heels of my last update, stating that we would continue to leave the wearing of masks up to individuals and their risk tolerance. I do apologize for any confusion this quick turnaround in policy may have caused. To clarify, the LCHD's announcement does 'override' my prior decision released on 11-13. To further clarify, I would like to cover some FAQ's for anyone interested:

Q: Do masks have to be worn throughout the ENTIRE school day?

A: No. There are several circumstances/exceptions that will allow students/ staff to remove their masks for a period of time.

Q: Are masks mandated on busses?

A: Yes.

Q: Will student athletes be required to wear masks during practice/games?

A: No.

Q: Will patrons be required to wear masks at games/activities/events?

A: Yes. Per the public order from the LCHD regarding school activities, "Spectators ...will continue to fall under this public health order."

Q: Will masks be provided for students?

A: Yes. The district has a limited amount of washable/cloth masks for students; we do have enough for every student as of Nov. 19.

Q: How long will the order be in effect?

A: Indefinitely. The LCHD indicated the order would be in place until cases are "reduced back to levels that indicates that the curve is dropping down to a low level like we had at the beginning".

The complete public health order can be found at the following link:

<http://www.lafayettecountyhealth.org/LCHD%20MASK%20ORDER%20November%202020.pdf>



- Throughout this event, each of us have found ourselves on the other side of decisions that we may or may not agree with. I would like to share, in advance, my appreciation for your understanding, tolerance, respect and cooperation during this period of time.

Respectfully,

Derek Lark
Superintendent
Santa Fe R-X School District