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# Lockwood R-1 Schools

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Covid 19 Update

## **Masking mandate will go into effect Tuesday, December 1, 2020.**

On November 12, 2020, Governor Parsons announced a proposed change in quarantine procedures for schools in the state of Missouri. The new proposal is an effort to keep kids in school. Last week, our county health department issued new, modified quarantine procedures that would be followed in our county. The Lockwood School District has decided to follow these new quarantine procedures. It is our goal to keep students in school. The new quarantine procedures require our district to have a masking mandate for grades K-12 but will allow students who have been within 6 feet of a positive case at school to continue attending school rather than be quarantined. We are hopeful that we will keep more students in school with these new procedures.

Key requirements established at the state level to allow modified quarantine procedures include:

- 1) The school district must have a mask mandate in place for grades K-12.
- 2) Students must be properly masked anytime they are within 6 feet of each other.
- 3) If a student is within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a student who tests positive for Covid-19, the exposed student will be notified by the health department and will be placed on a modified quarantine. The modified quarantine will allow the exposed student to attend school. The health department will not allow students who are in modified quarantine to participate in extracurricular activities.
- 4) Our health department will recognize face shields and neck gaiters as being in compliance with this new procedure.

We have had several students placed in quarantine and missing significant class time over the last few months. It is our hope that by following the modified quarantine procedures, we will be able to keep more students in class. Modified quarantine procedures will only apply to students who are close contacts to a positive case while at school. Any student who is in close contact with a positive case outside of the school building will still be subject to a full quarantine by the health department. A letter

from the Dade County Health department is available on our school website so that you can view the full document.

We understand that all decisions regarding Covid-19 are going to be met with differing perspectives. It is our goal to do what is best for students during this difficult time and to keep our school doors open and students receiving face-to-face instruction.

Our **masking mandate will go into effect on Tuesday, December 1, 2020** when we return from Thanksgiving break. Our masking mandate will remain in effect until we receive further guidance from our state or county health department. Teachers will allow students to remove masks anytime they are socially-distanced; however, all students will be required to wear masks anytime they do not have specific approval from a teacher to remove their masks. If you would like to view the letter issued from the health department on modified quarantine procedures, please visit our website at [lockwoodschoools.org](http://lockwoodschoools.org). You can view the letter under the tab labeled "Covid."

We appreciate the cooperation that we have received from the community and county health department during this difficult time. We know that changes made this year have been challenging for our families, our school system, and our health department, but together we can make it through these challenges.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and we sincerely hope that our new procedures will help stop any spread of the virus while also keeping our students in school.

Sincerely,  
Clay Lasater  
Superintendent