



Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent  
Mahomet-Seymour Schools

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Hello Bulldog Families,

I hope this email finds you doing well on this Friday the 13th--thank you for a fantastic 13th week of school here in the Mahomet-Seymour Schools!

As I shared with you yesterday, the CUPHD made an announcement yesterday recommending that schools in Champaign County switch to fully remote learning. This came as a great surprise to myself and other Champaign County superintendents. This is because, overall, as supported by our local data, schools are doing an incredible job with mitigation and safety efforts. Thank you for your support of these efforts--it is appreciated! The cases and exposures that we deal with as a school district are coming from outside events--NOT from the transmission of COVID 19 in our schools.

As of this morning, below are some current data I am sharing. While we've seen an uptick in cases this week, we are not considered to have had an "outbreak" in our schools this week as defined by CUPHD. Again, this goes back to our diligence with safety protocols in our schools.

- 115 in quarantine
- 10 are staff
- 105 are students
- 16 positive COVID cases, all are students
- 99 are exposures

In terms of the recommendation from CUPHD to go to all remote learning for all of our students, this is a recommendation from CUPHD and not a mandate. This was made clear to Champaign County's school superintendents today in a meeting with Julie Pryde, Administrator of CUPHD. The decision about how to move ahead is up to local school districts. Moving ahead, we will be in school next week, November 16-20, on the schedule we've followed all year so far. I respect and appreciate the work of CUPHD, we've had a fantastic relationship with them throughout the pandemic and will continue that moving forward. Thus far this school year they have not recommended to us, based on our school data, that the Mahomet-Seymour Schools close buildings or go fully remote due to cases here. We continue to consider our local, school based data points as well as what CUPHD has shared with us regarding the county. Should you want to see our data, you can find it here:

<https://www.ms.k12.il.us/covid-dashboard>

A decision has not yet been made about school after Thanksgiving break starting November 30. I know that the uncertainty is difficult--I understand that and would love nothing more than a solid plan that I know we can all follow! Your patience and flexibility is not forgotten throughout the pandemic and it is greatly appreciated.

In the best interest of our students, as superintendent, it is my hope to remain open and following the hybrid plan we've been following until Dec 18. I believe this is what is best for our students and

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families. This may or may not be possible and it is important for everyone to understand we may need to switch at some point to all remote learning. Today is not the day to make that determination. This is an evolving situation, and much could change between now and next week or the following week--this is how 2020 has been all along! As we have done since the beginning of this school year, we will continue to monitor our cases and exposures, respond accordingly, and move ahead. We will continue to follow our plan for wearing masks, washing hands/using hand sanitizer, cleaning/disinfecting and social distancing. I will add that it is vitally important that each and every one of us and our family members make healthy decisions regarding our personal lives outside of school in terms of exposure to and transmission of COVID 19. What everyone chooses to do outside of school impacts whether we can continue with in person learning. Also, it's never a bad time to be tested!

I would encourage your family and you to engage in making plans for childcare or whatever arrangements you need to make should we find the need to go fully remote after the Thanksgiving break. It's best to be prepared even if the plans aren't needed.

I will continue to communicate information as it becomes available. I cannot stress enough how much we appreciate your patience, flexibility and support!

Very sincerely,

Dr. Lindsey A. Hall

Superintendent of Schools