



Dr. Lindsey Hall, Superintendent
Mahomet-Seymour Schools

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January 21, 2021

Hello Bulldog Families,

This is a friendly reminder about COVID 19 on drive through testing on Monday, January 25, 2021, from 8:00-6:00 p.m. at Mahomet-Seymour Jr. High School.

You can find the link to sign up at:

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

You must have a waiver filled out for your student(s) prior to having them tested. You can fill out a waiver here:

<https://forms.gle/vWxU3gm9U1bPdLLG6>

Tomorrow, January 22, 2021, Mahomet-Seymour High School will engage in remote synchronous learning for ALL students, due to an increase in COVID 19 exposures and cases this week. This is out of an abundance of caution, and will provide an opportunity for cleaning as well as four consecutive days with students away from the building. Through contact tracing, we believe that the cases and exposures this week at our high school can be largely attributed to gatherings outside of school and are not due to exposure at school. Drive through testing on Monday, January 25, 2021 presents a fantastic opportunity to be tested, and this would be an effective way to follow up as it relates to the increase in cases this week at our high school. It is quick, easy, convenient and free.

As you are aware, our in person students are attending school now four days per week and have been since the start of our second semester on January 6, 2020.

As mentioned above, we've experienced an uptick in COVID 19 positive cases, in particular at our high school--again due to gatherings outside of school. As of the sending of this email, we've had 10 positive cases this week, 2 staff members, 50 exposures from school, and 31 exposures outside of school. This data can change and is current as of the sending of this email.

Attached you will find the quarantine protocols that we are following and will continue to follow. We understand that parents and students will have questions if you get a phone call from our district nurse Nita Bachman and/or CUPHD, and we are happy to answer those questions and speak to your concerns. However, the quarantine guidelines are not negotiable. I have attached two documents which might be helpful in understanding the CURRENT protocols--however, please be aware that these frequently are changed by the Illinois Department of Health.

In transitioning to our second semester model, we knew that with more students in school we would likely need to put more students into quarantine if there were positive cases in school. This was stated publicly in our September 21, 2020 Board of Education meeting by District Nurse Nita

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Bachman and myself. It is a known outcome of our second semester plan. Very simply, with more students in school, more students will be exposed when there are positive cases resulting in larger numbers of students in quarantine. The vast, vast majority of our positive COVID 19 cases are coming from outside of school from various gatherings and events, and then resulting in the quarantining of students when they are exposed in school.

While the vaccine is now available for certain parts of our population, and various restrictions are being lifted in our state and region, COVID 19 is very much still being spread, most especially in situations where masks are not being worn and/or gatherings outside of school. While I realize this message isn't popular, it is our reality right now---if your family or your children engage in activities that are high or higher risk, including not wearing a mask, then the possible outcome is contracting COVID 19, very possibly resulting in a quarantine. Your respect and understanding that our job on the school end is to contact you and inform you of the quarantine is appreciated and needed. We know it isn't the information you want to hear, we know a quarantine is inconvenient, and we know a quarantine means staying at home. Bluntly, if you take and accept the risks regarding the transmission of COVID 19, then a quarantine could be the outcome. We also ask that our families consider that in order for in person learning to continue seamlessly without interruptions, we ask that families consider your activities and your child's activities outside of school. With extracurricular activities ready to begin, please know that interruptions in these activities could occur as well if we continue to see increases in cases such as we have this week. Keeping kids in school is going to involve some sacrifices from everyone. Again--I realize it isn't a popular message, but it's our reality right now.

Our schools are some of the safest places to be due to the fact that mask are required, social distancing is followed to the greatest extent possible, hand sanitizer is readily available throughout our buildings, hand washing is strong encouraged, rapid antigen testing is available to staff and students, and we encourage all people to stay home when ill. We will continue with these protocols and again, getting regularly tested for COVID 19 is strongly encouraged.

[IDPH FAQ](#)

[IDPH Return to School Guidelines](#)

Thank you for reading such a long email--your patience and flexibility is appreciated!

Very sincerely,

Dr. Lindsey A.Hall

Superintendent of Schools