



USD 330 Mission Valley School District

Home of the Vikings

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Viking Family,

As you are aware the mask policy for USD 330 Mission Valley was changed last Wednesday by board of education approval. The wearing of masks at Mission Valley Schools and/or while being transported in a school vehicle is optional for each individual. However, as part of their decision the USD 330 Board of Education strongly recommends to continue wearing masks if you choose to do so.

Over the past several days I have fielded many questions over various topics related to the new policy. It is my intent to provide answers to the questions.

Question--"How does this impact being excluded from school or work if a person is identified as a close contact?"

Answer--USD 330 Mission Valley will still follow the (6ft & 10 minute) guidance as we have all year. This means that a person will be identified as a close contact if they are within a distance of 6ft of a positive case for at least 10 minutes. Please remember that the school does not have the authority to quarantine a student or staff member, we only have the authority to exclude them and let the Wabaunsee County Health Department make the final determination. If there is a situation where the school can not make a determination on whether to exclude a person then we will explain the situation to the health department for guidance.

Question---"What if I want my child to wear a mask at school, can the school make sure my child has their mask on?"

Answer---The school will work with parents if we know that they want their child to wear a mask. School personnel that work with your child will be informed of the parents request, however, the school will not apply any disciplinary action if the child refuses to wear their mask. School staff will remind the child and if needed inform the parents that their child is not wearing their masks.

Question---"In the past there have been times when the elementary classroom was able to operate a "modified quarantine classroom" for students who were quarantined to be able to still attend school. Is that still going to be a possible option?"

Answer---That was an option made available to us by the Wabaunsee County Health Department, however, under the new mask policy that will not be an option since there may be students who are in the "modified quarantined classroom" who would not be wearing a mask, thus increasing the possible risk of spreading the virus if one of them was an unknown positive case.

Jim Rudeen--President
Clinton Lambotte

Jon Deters

USD 330 Board of Education
Mistina Kraus

Jacob Durkes

Clipper Goodrich--Vice President
Tuff Stephenson

Question--"If a person has previously tested positive for COVID-19, will they still have to quarantine?"

Answer---A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 6-months will not be required to quarantine. The 6-month window starts when the positive case is released from isolation by the local health department. Tests that check for antibodies do not count as there is no way to identify when the person was exposed to COVID-19. A person may be excluded until they can provide proof of the date they were released from isolation.

USD 330 Mission Valley also wants to remind everyone that wearing a mask is a personal choice. No one, rather a student or staff member, shall harass someone regarding their choice to wear a mask or not wear a mask. As previously stated, the USD 330 Board of Education strongly recommends that people continue to wear masks. All other mitigating measures are still in effect. It is also recommended that everyone continue to wash/sanitize hands frequently, cover sneezes and coughs, avoid touching face with hands, continue social distancing, avoid being around sick people, and if you are sick do not go to school or work. Please contact your child's teacher or school administration if you have any concerns.

You will be notified if any of this information changes that would affect school operations. USD 330 Mission Valley appreciates all of the support that has been provided over the last year as we dealt with the pandemic.

Have a great week! GO VIKINGS!!!

William J. Clark