



September 3, 2021

Good Evening Noble Public Schools,

As we informed you at the beginning of the 21-22 school year, to ensure the safety of our students and staff, and in order to continue In-Person Learning throughout the course of the school year, we would need your help and support. **Unfortunately, we now need your help and support even more. Beginning on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, Masks/Face Coverings will be required for students and staff. Wearing Mask/Face Coverings and required quarantine allowed us to stay In-Person for the entire 2020-2021 school year. As required by law, we will provide an option for parents to Opt-Out their students based upon medical, religious or personal reasons. Staff will be allowed to submit an Opt-Out Form for medical or religious reasons. We will review this decision on October 1st. If positive cases, isolations, and quarantines have been significantly reduced, we will consider removing this requirement. A form for Opt-Out is attached.**

Week #4 of the 2021-2022 school year has now been completed. Our numbers on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, pending notices this weekend will be: 20 confirmed student positives, 10 confirmed staff member positives, 139 students and 2 members of staff quarantined, due to Contact Tracing and Exposure. Staffing shortages are becoming more difficult to overcome. We simply can't keep going at this rate.

Rules, regulations, procedures and protocols are changing daily. We continue to meet with our local medical professionals, we communicate with the Cleveland County Health Department, the Oklahoma State Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control. We are aware that today's procedures may not be tomorrow's procedures. We are also aware that this leads to frustration and discontent.

If able and willing, please consider being vaccinated. Social Distancing at every opportunity, and practicing great habits of personal hygiene, will also be of great assistance in helping maintain our school year. We don't have to agree on everything, but it is my hope that we can agree that kids need to be in school and we must do everything we can to ensure that happens.

It is extremely important that if anyone in your family is exposed, is positive, or is displaying any type of sickness, that they remain at home until they have been cleared. Please do not take a chance of bringing any type of sickness into our schools. If anyone in your family is being tested or you are waiting on test results, please keep all children home until results have been received. We are depending upon each other to be proactive and vigilant to minimize the virus, and the devastating impact it can have. **Students that are positive and or quarantined, will not have their absences counted against them, and they will be provided an opportunity to complete their coursework.**

Please know that this decision has been an extremely difficult decision to make. I am personally invested in this school system and the 3500 people I am responsible for. Every decision that I make is done with the best interests of all students and staff. I also know that many of you will not agree or support our efforts, but please understand the reasoning behind the decision. We are doing everything we can to protect every student, staff member, and family member, and we are hopeful that this inconvenience will allow us to achieve our goals. We were able to stay In-Person last year, and we hope to continue the same throughout this year. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. Go Bears!

Frank Solomon
Superintendent
Noble Public Schools