



September 10, 2021

Good Afternoon Noble Public Schools,

Week #5 of the 2021-2022 school year has now been completed. Our numbers on Monday, September 13, 2021, pending notices this weekend will be: 15 confirmed student positives, 6 confirmed staff member positives, 101 students and 0 members of staff quarantined, due to Contact Tracing and Exposure. Staffing shortages are becoming more difficult to overcome.

As we informed you last week, we reinstated our Mask/Face Covering procedures on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Masks/Face Coverings are now required for students and staff. As required by law, we have provided 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 1<sup>st</sup>. If positive cases, isolations, and quarantines have been significantly reduced, we will consider removing this requirement.

The Opt-Out Forms will be given to our nursing staff and school administration. They will not be shared publicly, nor will they be used in any type of disciplinary action. We respect parents having a choice and we will honor their choice. We also want to note that the requirement of wearing Masks/Face Coverings, applies only while inside a school facility and on school buses. Students will not need to wear Masks/Face Coverings while outside participating in recess, school activities, etc.

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.

We are doing everything we can to protect every student, staff member, and family member, and we are hopeful that taking these steps 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