



Memo

To: Parents and Southwest R-5 Employees
From: Tosha Tilford
Regarding: Southwest R-V School District Protocol for all Illnesses
Date: January 10, 2022

Following the Cole County Circuit Court's decision in Robinson v. Missouri Dept. of Health and Senior Services, Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt sent a letter to local public health agencies and school districts informing them of the court's decision and requiring them to stop enforcing any mask mandates, quarantine/isolation orders, or any other public health orders that are null and void under the judgment.

Missouri Attorney General Eric Schmitt threatened legal action against school districts and public health departments if they do not drop COVID-19 mask mandates and quarantine rules, the Southwest R-V School District Board of Education agreed with the recommendation that the district would move away from its quarantine/isolation policy related to COVID-19.

As of December 18, 2021, the Southwest R-V Schools will no longer be contact tracing or notifying families of the need to quarantine/isolate for a specific amount of time. At this time, this change is being made to ensure that our district complies with Attorney General Schmitt's directive.

The following guidelines are written for students but are also applicable to all school employees.

There are no longer any specific district guidelines for COVID-19. COVID-19 will be handled as any other illness. As always, if a student is sick or symptomatic at school, the district will contact a parent and ask that the student be taken home until he/she is well enough to return to school. The suggested rule of thumb is symptom free or fever free for 24 hours. These same guidelines are applicable to all school employees.

If a student lives in a home with a positive case, the district encourages the parent to monitor the student for symptoms but will not direct the parent to keep the student home. The same goes for all district employees. The district recommends that the student or employee should be kept home if they become symptomatic.

These changes have caused much confusion and a multitude of questions about how to proceed during this ongoing pandemic, in terms of preventative measures. The district knows that many of you may have questions and concerns, because we do, as well. The district committee related to the Safe Return to school Plan has addressed areas that need to be revised following this court judgment and directive from the Attorney General.

The district asks that our families and employees continue to communicate with the Southwest R-V School District and their healthcare providers regarding exposure and symptoms. Your health care provider will give you specific guidelines regarding your illness. Although the district will not enforce this guidance, please take your doctor's medical recommendations seriously, as this medical advice is made in the best interest of public health and the spread of all illnesses.