

Parents,

This school year, we have made a conscious effort to keep any communications involving COVID-19 limited unless it has a possible direct or immediate effect on your children in our classrooms. Frankly, the guidelines continuously change, and I did not want to frustrate you more than you already are as we maneuver our way through another school year while trying to keep as close to a regular routine as possible.

Riverside remains mask-optional and will continue to be until a higher authority eliminates that option for us. However, a recent CDC guideline change concerning masking may interest some of you. Therefore, I thought I would share this change to allow you, as parents, to make an informed choice on what you feel is best for your family and child.

- If your child wears a mask at school, they will not be tested or quarantined if they are identified as a close contact to a positive case (you may request for your child to be tested). Before this most recent change, we had to contact trace and test all students determined to be a close contact. We will no longer have to do this with any student wearing a mask during the school day.
 - This change will not apply to students exposed to COVID-19 at home. Our current testing protocols will stay the same if a student is exposed outside of school.

As we have maneuvered through COVID in education for more than a year, we have learned that there will always be a situation that the current guidelines do not address. When we arrive at that situation with these most recent changes, we will deal with them individually with as much common sense and fairness as possible.

Again, I want to assure you that I am not attempting to pressure you into having your child wear a mask while at school. That decision is yours as a parent to make, as I feel it should be.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact the school nurse during working hours.

Sincerely,

John Whetzal

Superintendent of Schools

USD 114 - Riverside