



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear South Vermillion Parents and Guardians,

Effective Friday, January 21, 2022, Indiana schools that have a mask requirement in place have been given the option of making close contact notification optional in K-12 schools. This letter is to inform you that you will no longer be receiving routine close contact notifications from the schools. South Vermillion School Corporation is aware of the high community transmission and increased level of cases within the school population. We acknowledge that with anything in life, there are risks wherever we go and that the past few weeks have proven that the school setting is no exception. We will continue to monitor for trends in cases and illnesses, so please continue to report if your student tests positive or is absent due to illness.

We will continue to be vigilant of the high-risk settings where masks cannot be worn consistently by students for various reasons. If there has been positive case(s) or reported illness identified in these settings, then the school maintains the ability to make the safest decision for that population, contact parents of students that are in this student population, and continue to enforce quarantines, as needed, on a case-by-case basis.

All schools will continue to report positive cases of students, staff, and teachers that were on school grounds during their infectious period to the Indiana Department of Health. You will be able to monitor these numbers weekly at [coronavirus.in.gov](https://coronavirus.in.gov).

- If your child is sick, please do not send them to school and keep them home until they have fully recovered. COVID is not the only virus out there we need to be concerned about. Several viruses are circulating at this time of year.
- If your student has had COVID and can return after 5 days, please do not send your child back until they have recovered and can fully participate in school.
- If you know that your child has had social or home close contact exposure to someone with COVID and is not vaccinated or within 90 days of having COVID, please do the right thing and keep them home for a 5-day quarantine and test them on day 5 after exposure, if possible, before sending them back.
- If they are a known contact and develop symptoms, please assume they are probably positive and consider keeping them home for 5 days for their isolation period.

- Testing is never 100% accurate. We are seeing that some people do not test positive on a rapid test immediately. If you get a negative test at home, but your symptoms are not improving after a day or two, please consider doing another rapid test or getting a PCR completed and **stay home until your results come back.**

If you test positive on a home test, you do not need to schedule another test or use another test to see if that test is accurate. Rapid and home tests are very accurate at detecting when a person is contagious with the virus. **We take any positive result as a positive result.** We do not require a negative test before returning to school.

If you get a negative rapid test and decide to get a PCR test completed, **please stay home until the PCR results come back.**

We will continue to do our part by using the mitigation strategies of social distancing, hand washing, and sanitizing throughout the day, trying to lessen group settings, sending students home when they are ill, and masking. Thank you for doing your part by knowing who your child has been around and when to keep them home to help keep our schools safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David A. Chapman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Chapman  
Superintendent