2/6/2022

Dear Millstadt School District #160 Families and Staff,

From the beginning of the pandemic, the Millstadt School Board of Education has worked to keep our students and staff safe by following guidelines set forth by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the CDC. The school board also approved our return to school plan for 2021-2022 mandating mask wearing within the school setting due to Illinois Governor Pritzker’s mandate on August 4, 2021.

Many of you are likely aware that there have been legal challenges to the Governor and IDPH’s ability to enforce executive orders related to the pandemic. On Friday evening, Judge Grischow of Sangamon County ruled on a lawsuit filed by more than 700 parents across the state that challenged state-mandated COVID-19 mitigations, which include masks, vaccines, and quarantines.

Although Millstadt School District #160 was not named in this lawsuit, the ruling utilized language stating that non-named school districts may govern themselves accordingly.

As a result, the Millstadt School District will amend our return to school plan, pause enforcement of the mandate, and **recommend mask wearing within the school** setting beginning Monday, February 7, 2022. Federal requirements will **continue to mandate masks while on district buses and for all transportation**.

Please understand that this is subject to change based on appellate court decisions. Many school districts are continuing to follow masking requirements pending appeals to avoid continuous adjustments within their school. While nobody wants to be alternating back and forth with mitigations, our message has continued to be that we will follow CDC guidance and mandates from ISBE and IDPH. Once again, as previously stated mask wearing will be optional within the schools with all other mitigation measures remaining in place for our staff and students.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, teachers, and staff.

Sincerely,

Bradley W. Landgraf, Superintendent