

Seneca Community Consolidated School District #170

Eric Misener-Superintendent

174 Oak Street

Seneca, Illinois 61360

Telephone 815-357-8744

Fax 815-357-1516

February 6, 2022

Seneca Grade School Learning Community,

We have had the opportunity to review the Sangamon County court ruling in favor of a challenge to the state mandated COVID mitigations. We have carefully considered the legal aspects of this case and how it relates to Seneca Grade School. The court held that the Governor and state agencies such as the Illinois department of Public Health and the Illinois State Board of Education do not have the authority to mandate masks at school, exclude students for COVID-related reasons or require COVID-19 vaccinations or testing of school personnel. The Illinois Attorney General has appealed the decision to the 4th District Appellate Court in Springfield. Either the trial or appellate court may enter a stay (pause) of the decision pending a ruling from the appellate court.

Based on the Sangamon County Court ruling, effective immediately:

- Seneca Grade School will be **"mask recommended."** Masks are highly recommended for staff and students, but **mask are optional**.
- **Masks are still required to be worn on any school bus transportation** due to the Federal CDC order.
- Seneca Grade School will not be contract tracing nor excluding close contacts. Students and staff who test positive will continue to be excluded from school. Any student who is currently excluded due to being a close contact may choose to continue in quarantine or return to school effective Monday.
- Staff members who are unvaccinated will not be required to test weekly.
- Testing for symptomatic students and staff will be available.
- Positive individuals and symptomatic students without a negative test will still be required to quarantine. If you child exhibits symptoms, please keep them home.

We appreciate your continued support, understanding and flexibility during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Eric Misener