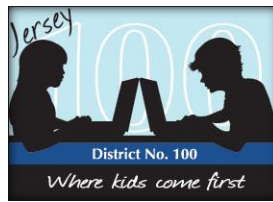


Brad Tuttle
Superintendent



Jersey Community Unit District No. 100

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Dear Jersey CUSD #100 families and staff,

As you may be aware, there is a lawsuit pending in Sangamon County involving numerous plaintiffs suing many districts across the state, including Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100. The lawsuit challenges various aspects of the State's Covid-19 requirements for schools, including mask requirements and the exclusion of close contacts.

Arguments on a temporary restraining order (TRO) concluded in both cases and the judge released her decision at 5 pm on Friday, February 4, 2022. There has been some confusion and inaccurate reporting over the weekend. I thank our families and staff for their patience as we conferred with our legal team and other regional districts determining how to discern, communicate and implement the findings of this decision.

This is a temporary restraining order, which is by its very definition "temporary", and is not a final disposition of the issues. A TRO temporarily enjoins the actions of the parties, but it is not a permanent injunction and is not necessarily a reflection of the final merits of the case. Please take note to recognize that this is a temporary status at this stage in litigation.

Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 has been and remains committed to being open for in-person learning after the initial outbreak and we have remained open for in-person learning throughout the pandemic to better serve our students and families. The district has followed changing CDC recommendations since the beginning of the pandemic. The recommended mitigations include universal indoor masking by all students, staff, teachers, and visitors to our school, regardless of vaccination status. In addition to universal indoor masking, we maintain at least 3 feet of physical distance between students within classrooms to reduce transmission risk.

Screening testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and cleaning and disinfection are also important layers of prevention we have instituted to keep our school safe and open over the last three years.

In compliance with the court's order, beginning tomorrow, the use of universal masking is highly recommended for all staff and students but is not required within the building.

An appeal was expected by either side after the decision was released. The Attorney General is appealing this decision at the appellate court level on Monday. A decision by the appellate court will be made within ten days after the judge's decision. A stay could be granted which would extend the Governor's Mandates until a decision by the appellate court. The appellate court could uphold or reverse this court's decision. Whatever the ultimate outcome, as always, Jersey Community Unit School District No. 100 will follow the law.

If you are a parent or guardian of Jersey CUSD #100 and you are concerned with health issues in your home or concerned with your student attending school with the Sangamon County Circuit Court Judge Grischow's ruling, please contact your student's principal for possible remote options.

Finally, the last couple of years have been rough, to say the least. Jersey CUSD#100 is proud that we have been able to navigate through the peaks of the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our schools open and in person. We have and will continue to offer extra learning opportunities to all the families that have been affected by COVID-19. We are proud of all of our employees who have sacrificed extra time and effort for our students during this global pandemic.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help us help your students!