



LAKES & ANTIOCH HIGH SCHOOL RANKED AMONG

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Community High School District 117 Families,

This is an update to the communication I sent yesterday regarding pending litigation involving Covid mitigations. The lawsuit, *Austin v. Pritzker* was brought by parents across Illinois against 143 school districts and the state regarding the mask mandate and the requirement that districts exclude close contacts from school. As previously explained, the lawsuit is challenging Governor Pritzker, the State's and District's authority to mandate the wearing of masks in school and to exclude students who are close contacts to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. The lawsuit is seeking class certification, which, if granted, would apply to all students in the District rather than only the named participants.

The judge's ruling has various consequences regarding the lawsuit's request for a temporary restraining order (TRO) for the mask mandate and close contact exclusion from school. The following are some possible outcomes of the ruling:

1. The ruling could uphold the state's authority to require mitigations due to the global pandemic. The District would continue implementing the mitigation efforts currently in place.
2. The ruling could overturn the State's authority to require mitigation but uphold local decision-making.
3. The ruling could overturn state and local decision-making to require mitigations listed in the lawsuit.

If the court decides to implement a TRO and grants class certification, each family within the District could choose whether, or not, to wear a mask in school, and whether to attend school when identified as a close contact, or both.

The hearing was concluded yesterday, but no rulings were issued. The earliest the judge might rule is the end of next week. I will provide another communication when I learn the decision from the court.

The District appreciates your continued support as we strive to provide safe, uninterrupted in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim McKay
Superintendent



Ignite Passion and Discovery in Every Student
Serving the communities of Antioch, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst and Old Mill Creek
Community High School District 117, being a community of learners with a vision of excellence, is committed to providing an educational experience that encourages all learners to develop to their fullest potential, to engage in lifelong learning, and to be responsible members of society