

August 21, 2020

When our Return to School Committee formalized our plan last month, we wanted to make sure that our students and their parents understood that the plan has to be fluid enough to change with the Directed Health Measures from Four Corners Health Department.

Today we learned that they have discovered that there is a "cumulative time effect" that applies to social distancing. This means the 15 minute "window of time" that any unmasked person who is within 6 feet of a Covid positive person does not reset, it accumulates all day. This measure greatly changes what we need to do to ensure that the maximum number of students can attend school for the maximum number of days possible.

Although the Risk Dial is still at Yellow, starting Monday, August 24, Shelby-Rising Schools will REQUIRE all students and staff to wear masks during the school day. We will be continuing to follow all of the other protocols in our original Return to School Plan, such as lunch.

We hope that you will understand that our decision was entirely made for the safety of our students and staff members. We will continue to provide masks for students who do not have them. The masks will be collected at the end of the day and washed.

We also are asking you to make sure that you do not send your child to school if they are showing any symptoms. We understand that a quarantine is not ideal for any family. We also hope that our protocols minimize the potential of large-scale quarantines or other disruptions to our school days.

Overall, we have appreciated the cooperation that students and parents have demonstrated. A large majority of our students wore masks this week.

Please remember that we are in this together. There continue to be a lot of unknowns. Together we will make a difference.

Sincerely,

Douglas Kluth, Superintendent  
Shelby-Rising City Public Schools