



September 14, 2021

Prairie Families:

On Monday, September 13, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa granted a temporary restraining order regarding the State of Iowa's ban on mask requirements for public entities. The College Community School District, after investigation and under advice of counsel, has been complying with Iowa law since the start of the school year. Strongly encouraging masking, not mandating masking is the practice listed in the published Return to Learn Plan.

In the coming days, we will be learning about the impact of this ruling and considering the role of masking as a layered mitigation strategy. We will also consult with legal counsel as we continue to learn about this ruling and make any proposed changes to our Return to Learn Plan.

The Board will make a decision related to any proposed changes to the Return to Learn Plan at its regularly scheduled meeting, Monday, September 20. In summary, this temporary injunction puts the decision to enforce mask mandates back on local school districts as a matter of local control.

The Board will be accepting public comment on this topic. To enter your written public comment, please use the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKabpJN17Q7JE0aNGEXPZy5yXwCNEQ2QsP_jl0Y7C80qb7mA/viewform

Until such time that the Board takes action on this ruling, masking will continue to be required on busses and strongly encouraged at school and school events.

The ruling can be found at this link (the last page has a summary of the injunction):

<https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21061751/federal-temporary-restraining-order-iowa-house-file-847.pdf>

In Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Wheeler".

Douglas Wheeler, Ph.D.
Superintendent
College Community Schools