



January 25, 2022

Prairie Families,

Today we learned the ruling related to the state law restricting mask mandates in schools by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals. As you are aware, we began the year under the Iowa law that did not allow schools to implement mask mandates. We then shifted mandates based on a temporary injunction of that law. Since mid-November an appeal to that injunction has been in consideration. A ruling by the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals was announced today releasing the injunction.

In our Return To Learn plan, we clearly state that the College Community School District will follow any applicable Iowa laws. **Therefore, in response to this ruling, we will eliminate universal facial masking as an element of our Return to Learn Plan effective January 26, 2022.** This includes the metrics associated with temporary masking added as a precaution against potential school closure. We will continue to update our public COVID dashboard and follow 10-day isolation for students. **Masks will also continue to be required on buses as a federal mandate.**

As we continue to be impacted by current infection rates, we strongly encourage continuation of masking at school.

**Please know, as we learn about this new ruling in the next few days/weeks, we may learn of situations where masks may be required again in accordance with this ruling. There may also be variations in some school districts in the interpretation of this ruling based on unique local factors and legal considerations.**

We appreciate your support as we continue to navigate COVID-19.

College Community School District