



SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear SLSD Families & Staff:

January 3, 2022

We trust that all of you had an awesome and relaxing holiday break! As we start the second semester, we will continue where we left off first semester, following the Hamilton County Dept. of Health's guidance to **STRONGLY RECOMMEND masking for all staff and students**. As we have said from the start of this school year, we will follow this direction as long as possible – meaning, internal spread is not occurring within our walls. Once we have large, rapid spikes in positive cases, we will first require masking by class, grade, school and then district.

Our worst-case scenario is rapid spread, far above normal student absences and staff shortages – in which remote instruction would be warranted. Again, we will start at the lowest level possible and work up, as necessary. Our goal, from day one, was / is to continue to teach our students face to face, all school year. Academic and social growth for all happens best when we operate under a traditional, face to face, school model. **In effort to avoid having to go remote, it is imperative that parents keep their children home when they are ill and that they follow the below protocol – with regards to testing, isolation and quarantine. The better we are at keeping illness out of our schools, the better the chance of us remaining face to face this winter.**

Our schools will be a mask-friendly environment, as many students and staff have and will continue to wear masks. **Masks are still required when riding on a school bus per the Federal CDC mandate.** The District will continue to follow HCPH and ODH guidelines including county guidelines for COVID-19 reporting.

The isolation and quarantine guidelines did change last week, while we were on break. Below are the details of these changes. Please make sure to pay particular attention to the flow charts regarding isolation / quarantine.

Click [HERE](#) to read the new guidance released by ODH which aligns to the recent change in CDC guidance.

Click [HERE](#) to read the new guidance that moves the mask requirement from 14 days to 10 days when identified as a direct contact in a school setting and was released by ODH to align with the new CDC guidance.

Health Checks - We ask you to continue to monitor your student daily. Should your student not feel well or show signs or symptoms of illness, please do not send your child to school. Reporting any illness or positive COVID-19 case to your school's attendance line / nurse will assist our efforts to remain in school.

We will continue to monitor the evolving COVID-19 guidance changes as well as our weekly data. Our plan has and will remain to be flexible and responsive. Plans, including this current one, can and will be adjusted as needed.

Thank you for your continued trust and support as we finish this school year strong!

John C. Hamstra
Superintendent
Southwest Local Schools

Mission: “Academic and Social growth for all students, EVERY DAY!”
Motto: “Excellence through Relationships!”
Core Values: Trust, Respect, Ownership, and Leadership