

## Mitigation of Covid-19 update August 23, 2021

Superintendents around our region continue to meet and discuss best practices for proactively keeping students in school safe. We review almost daily the most current recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, The Center for Disease Control, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The difficulty is that we all realize a “one size fits all” mentality in handling Covid-19 protocol is less than practical.

Collectively many superintendents agree most recommendations have a clear and common goal of keeping our public schools open. There are many common practices that we have shared and will unilaterally support, which instruct all staff, parents, and students in the most effective measures to protect each other. Schools are committed to promoting proactive measures such as; diligently promoting hand-washing, hygiene protocols, keeping students home when there is doubt about health, and supporting voluntary and proper wearing of masks as an additional layer of protection.

Our commitment will continue to be educating students, parents, staff, and the community on the best practices for hygiene according to the recommendations of the Department of Health. We strongly encourage intentional handwashing, elbow coughing and sneezing, wiping down surfaces, and staying home if sick, as recommended by the CDC.

In an effort to avoid mandated mask mitigation, the district is attempting and encouraging proactive measures that seemed to work last year. Therefore, the Districts current mitigation efforts are below and are subject to change in a continuing common sense approach in maintaining the safest environment both mentally and physically.

### **The Line Mountain School District mitigation efforts.**

*(This information will be updated as guidance from CDC, DoH and PDE changes - August 23, 2021)*

#### **Quarantine Guidance**

- Our school district will continue its role with case investigation when notified of a positive student or staff member that was physically present in our buildings 48 hours before symptoms or positive test date.
- **A close contact is identified as an individual who is within less than 3 feet for 15 consecutive minutes of a positive case.**
- Those individuals that are **fully vaccinated or voluntarily wear a mask do not need to quarantine** if exposed to positive case unless they exhibit symptoms. If showing symptoms, person must follow up with a Primary Care Provider and a return to work/school note must be provided.
- **QUARANTINE TIME FRAME FOR UNVACCINATED:**
  - An exposed individual can get tested on or after day 5 and then return on day 7 with a negative test result and symptom free. (Exposure date is Day Zero).
  - Without testing, an exposed individual must quarantine for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. If symptoms develop, the 10 day quarantine restarts at the first day of symptom onset.

## **Masking**

- The District continues to support a voluntary stance regarding masks for both vaccinated or unvaccinated while indoors.
- The District will allow students and staff to voluntarily wear masks at any time.
- The District will continue to monitor recommendations, guidelines, and mandates set forth by the PA DoH, CDC and/or PDE related to masking in schools. If masking mandates are established by the PA DoH, CDC, and/or PDE, the district will revisit the mandates and take appropriate action.

## **Social/Physical Distancing**

- Large group areas and outdoor space will be utilized to the greatest extent practicable to allow for physical distancing.
- The District will promote social distancing of students and staff (3 feet) to the greatest extent practicable.

## **Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette**

- The District will promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette by continuing to display signs/education materials and making public service announcements in the schools.
- The District will encourage all school staff to promote proper handwashing and respiratory etiquette when practicable and appropriate.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- The District will follow the CDC's mandated guidance for cleaning and disinfecting schools, increase physical distancing, and hygiene practices.
- The district will implement protocols for cleaning high-touch and high-traffic areas including door handles and sink handles.
- The District will provide cleaning and sanitizing solutions and materials to classrooms and employees for cleaning as needed and provide routine cleaning of facilities/classrooms/buses by employees.
- The District will mist all rooms twice daily (during lunch time and every evening.)