



# WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 15, 2022

Dear Whitnall Families:

Last night, the school board approved updates to our mitigation protocols. The changes, which are detailed below, are due primarily to access to vaccinations as well as decreasing case numbers. The district will continue to post case data, update the learning dashboard, and provide an onsite testing center.

**Starting today, the district will no longer be contact tracing for school close contacts.** The district will email K4-5 parents in the event that there is a positive case in a classroom; parents will be asked to monitor for symptoms, but this would not require a quarantine. The district will not be emailing parents in grades 6-12.

Isolations and verified quarantines will continue to be medically excused (MED) absences. Isolations result from a positive test. Verified quarantines require documentation from the health department or a physician, now that the district will not be contact tracing. Isolations and verified quarantines will be treated like any other illness absence in regards to school services; they will not constitute homebound designation.

**Starting February 22, the district will move to mask optional at all levels.** Please note that the TSA face mask requirement currently extends through March 18, 2022, so students and staff will still be required to wear a mask on all school buses and vans. This week, PBIS lessons will be shared at elementary schools and in WMS grade 6 classrooms in preparation for the change. More information will be sent to parents at the building level later this week. There will be no change for students in grades 7-12. These grades will remain mask optional.

Thank you for your partnership in maintaining the health and safety of our school community. Please continue to email [covidreporting@whitnall.com](mailto:covidreporting@whitnall.com) for guidance.

####



WHITNALL SCHOOL DISTRICT