

2021-2022 USD 417 Masking Guidelines



Adopted 1/19/2022

The goal for this school year is to keep students in school for an optimal educational experience. To do so, the district has been closely tracking COVID-19 positive cases and close contact quarantine cases for both in-school and out-of-school exposure. This data has aided the district's decision making process for COVID-19 mitigation strategies (i.e. masks). This information has been posted throughout the pandemic on the USD 417 website under the "COVID-19 INFORMATION" tab and is labeled "USD 417 COVID-19 Daily Statistics."

Now that the Morris County Mask Mandate has been rescinded by the county commissioners, the USD 417 COVID-19 Daily Statistics have been used to create a **USD 417 Masking Guidelines** that will be used to help accomplish three primary goals: 1) Ensure safety, 2) Create metrics that define when masks are required, and 3) Move from district-wide decision making to school-specific decision making.

The **USD 417 Masking Guidelines** will use the following data to create a metrics that defines when masks are required in individual school buildings:

- Active Positive COVID-19 Cases (Friday through Thursday)

The formula created, using the data collected as described above, is as follows per school:

Active positive cases (staff and students) / building enrollment (staff and students) (converted to a percentage)

Example:

5 (active positive cases) / 415 (building enrollment) = .012 X 100 (converting to a percentage) = 1.2%

- Based on this formula:
 - Buildings with 0 - 1% will be shaded in green meaning masks are optional.
 - Buildings with 1.01% - 2.99% will be shaded in yellow meaning masks will be encouraged, but optional.
 - Buildings with 3% or greater will be shaded in red meaning masks will be required at that specific school for the following week.
- The **USD 417 Masking Guidelines** for each building will be released each week on Friday, and take effect the following Monday. This will enable families and staff to be prepared for each week.
- Due to federal mask mandates, masking on bussing and in all school vehicles is required regardless of building masking status.

We will monitor the 3%+ threshold closely and adjust the percentage if necessary to ensure it meets the intended primary goals listed above.

Sincerely,

Aron Dody