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Mr. Feather's Headquarters

February 19th, 2022

Hawk Hollow's Vision

We will work collaboratively to implement rigorous, standards-based core instruction and practice which shifts learning from teacher-based to student-based and fosters student agency showing improved outcomes for all.

A Message from our Superintendent regarding Mask Mandates

Late last night, the Appellate Court of Illinois for the 4th Circuit ruled in regards to the state's appeal of a temporary restraining order that had been issued in litigation to which U-46 is a defendant. The court affirmed the ability of local school districts to make decisions in regards to mitigation strategies. Even prior to the Appellate decision, we had begun preparing for a shift in our local mitigation strategies which would be announced today because our local COVID-19 metrics continue to trend in a favorable direction. We will implement these plans effective **Wednesday, February 23**. We also plan to update the Board of Education on the plans on February 28.

The start date of Wednesday allows us time to attempt to address any concerns of teachers or families, and to allow teachers time to adjust their classroom setup if they feel it necessary.

The new plan will look at both county (Kane, DuPage, and Cook) and school-based metrics. The data from each county as well as at the school level will be reviewed by our U-46 Health Services Department which will then advise me. It is important to note that these local guidelines give the District the ability to increase mitigations, including masking, in the case of a significant rise in cases.

At the district level, we will require masks if all of our three counties demonstrate a "Substantial" (eight percent or higher positivity rates) spread of COVID-19 as defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health. When community spread is "Low" or "Moderate" as defined by IDPH, we will continue to strongly recommend students and staff wear masks.

At the school level, we will review the confirmed positive cases at sites, student absences for reported COVID-like symptoms at sites, and SHIELD test data. If the positivity rate at any school is considered "Substantial" based on confirmed positive cases, student absences due to reported symptoms, or through identification through SHIELD testing, masks would be required.

Strongly recommended means that our desire is to see all students and staff continue to wear appropriate masks that have been identified as effective against the spread (any of our district provided masks meet those requirements).

Using these updated metrics, and if there is no worsening of the metrics, all U-46 schools will move to strongly recommended by Wednesday, February 23.

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