



## KEENEYVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT 20

5540 Arlington Drive East, Hanover Park, IL 60133 | (630) 894-2250 | [www.esd20.org](http://www.esd20.org)

February 6, 2022

Dear Keeneyville District 20 Families,

As you may know, late on Friday, February 4, a Springfield judge issued a [temporary restraining order](#) enjoining the Governor from enforcing his executive orders that require universal masking in schools, as well as mandatory vaccination or weekly testing for school employees. Approximately 150 of Illinois' 840 school districts are named in that lawsuit.

**Keeneyville School District 20 is not named in this lawsuit and the court order has no impact on District 20's COVID-19 mitigation measures.** Nonetheless, we have been following the case, studying the potential ramifications its rulings may have for our schools, and expect to learn more in the coming days. The Governor has already indicated he will appeal this ruling, which may lead to its immediate reversal and/or continued litigation and decision adjustments. Given the lack of class certification and ambiguity in the language of the ruling, because future court rulings may go back and forth, and because constantly changing school mitigation in accordance would create confusion and disruption in our schools, we will continue with our current mitigation measures for the near future pending additional information and evaluation of options for adjustments and increased local decision-making. We anticipate that an Appellate Court decision will likely come quickly and will likely provide a ruling that will have broader and more definitive impact for public school districts.

**In the meantime, we will maintain the current [D20 COVID-19 Protocols](#), including the layered mitigations such as universal masking, physical distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning practices, isolation and quarantine, contact tracing, and testing.** As a reminder, as outlined in the [Return to Learn Plan](#) (p. 7) our schools will implement a process of progressive steps if a student does not follow the required health and safety protocols, similar to a student's non-compliance with other school behavior policies.

We will continue with current COVID-19 protocols while we take time to carefully understand the court rulings and potential impact on our schools. At the same time, we want to maintain stability for our students, in-person learning, and school operations throughout the unpredictable appeals process. We expect to learn more in the coming days and are eager to thoughtfully consider options if increased local decision-making is available to us.

**As a school community, we are asking for your support, patience and understanding while we seek stability for our students, deepen our understanding of our options based on the recent court rulings, and continue to review our comprehensive mitigation plans.** We need stability in our COVID mitigation efforts, and as we navigate these unpredictable times. We do not want our students or our staff to be subject to confusing shifts and contradictory mask decisions that could change day-to-day based on court orders. We also want you, as parents, to know what you can expect every day within our schools. We will continue to monitor the appeals process and rulings for this case as they apply to our district and local control of mitigation efforts, including options for masking.

The safety of our students, faculty, and staff remains our top priority. Our commitment to safe, in-person instruction has not wavered. However, we believe that the current landscape dictates that we chart a thoughtful and diligent path forward. The pandemic has required our collective action and partnership to keep our schools and community safe, and we know that together we can continue to successfully navigate these new developments, as well. Thank you for your continued support of our students, families, and staff. While it has been a difficult year, we will continue to push forward together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo  
Superintendent of Schools  
Keeneyville ESD 20