



February 6, 2022

Dear Hurricane Parents,

Approximately 145 school districts throughout Illinois have been named in two separate lawsuits regarding COVID-19 mitigations over the last couple of months. On Friday, February 4th, Judge Grischow of Sangamon County ruled in favor of the Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) filed on behalf of the plaintiffs – staff and students named in the lawsuit. Although this decision is not a class action lawsuit and Harrison is not part of the lawsuit, the Judge stated that the Court declared IDPH and ISBE’s Emergency Rules void for non-plaintiffs as well. The TRO addresses the state mask mandate, close contact exclusion and weekly testing for unvaccinated staff.

This means that effective Monday, February 7, 2022:

1. Harrison will strongly **recommend** all staff, students and visitors to wear a mask.
2. Masks will be **REQUIRED** to be worn on all buses per Presidential Executive Order #13998. This is not addressed in the court ruling since this mandate is for all public transportation.
3. Staff and students named as close contacts will not be excluded from school **unless** they are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms.
4. Any staff or student who tests positive for COVID-19 are required to self isolate for the recommended period of time based on the current CDC guidelines.

The following mitigations will continue to be in place for our staff and students but are not limited to:

- Practice social distancing to the greatest extent possible and to the best of our ability;
- Practice hand washing throughout the day;
- Use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not available;
- Cleaning and disinfecting common areas, as well as high touch surfaces;
- Promote vaccination for staff and students who are eligible;
- Staying home when not feeling well;
- COVID testing as needed and appropriate.

Essentially, multiple layers of prevention strategies will continue to be used as we move toward the end of this pandemic. We will communicate updates with our community as the ruling from this lawsuit could be overturned or paused during the appeal process.

We truly appreciate all of your patience, support and understanding throughout this pandemic. We know it has been difficult at times, and we’re hopeful that we’re turning the corner in a positive direction. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me (swings@hsd36.org).

Thank you,

Dr. Susan Wings, Superintendent