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Dear Parents/Guardians:

We are almost a month into the 21-22 school year, so I wanted to reach out with a few reminders and clarifications.

1. Metrics Threshold

Currently, the metrics threshold for a building to transition to masks required is 3%. If a building reaches 3% or higher, the building administration will attempt to notify staff and parents of the change in mask status 24 hours in advance. With that 24 hour notice, we hope to give families time to obtain masks, talk to their children, etc., in preparation for the transition to masks required. <u>Masks will continue to be available at the school should your student(s) forget their mask</u>. For the mask requirement to be lifted, the building must be below 3% at the end of a week for two weeks in a row.

As stated in the district's Safe Return to In-Person and Continuity of Services Plan (SRCSP), masks are ALWAYS strongly recommended when a building is below 3%. As also stated in an earlier communication, if a building goes above the 3%, and masks are required; this does **not** automatically move a building to Plan B in its entirety, but the building administration may decide to use some of the more extensive mitigating strategies that are part of Plan B.

2. District COVID-19 Dashboards

These dashboards are updated by 6:00 pm on Friday, but if a building exceeds the 3% metric during the week, we will update that building's numbers to reflect the increase in numbers that triggered the transition to masks required. Like last year, the overall purpose of the dashboards is to give a snapshot of how we ended the week.

3. Close Contacts and Quarantine

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), in conjunction with the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), has published guidelines for contact tracing and quarantine in the school setting. These guidelines (COVID-19 Exposures and Defining Close Contacts in a School Setting, Missouri School Reopening & Guidance, and Decision Tree When to Quarantine), are easily accessible via the JCCHS COVID-19 page. Our SRCSP states that the District assists JCCHS with close contact tracing, but JCCHS quarantines individuals.

As a District, we want to do everything we can to keep our students and staff safe and at the same time continue in-person instruction as we did last year. We strive to do that within the *guidelines provided by DESE* and DHSS. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Dr. John Finnane, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at ifinnane@warrensburgr6.org or 660-747-7823.

Your support and understanding are appreciated. Andy