



RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227

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February 6, 2022

Hello Rich Township District 227 Families:

As you may be aware, on Friday, Sangamon County Judge Raylene DeWitte Grischow issued a ruling related to the governor's mask mandate for schools.

Rich Township High School District 227 was not one of the districts named in the lawsuits that were presented to Judge Grischow, so her ruling does not affect the day-to-day operations in our district. All Rich Township 227 students, staff, and visitors are required to wear a mask covering their nose and mouth while in our school buildings and must adhere to all Covid mitigation policies.

We are committed to the health and safety of our students and our staff. Wearing a properly fitting mask is one of the mitigation strategies that our district uses to reduce the potential for COVID-19 outbreaks in our buildings. Thanks to our overlapping mitigation strategies (masks, distancing, cleaning) we have been able to identify, mitigate, and control the spread of Covid within our school system.

Our mask mandate allows the district to follow the CDC's reduced quarantine time when there is a close contact and seat students closer than 6 feet in the classroom. This seating is particularly important as not all of our classrooms can meet the six-foot requirement with 100 percent attendance. If the district did not require masks, it could affect the amount of time students spend in our buildings as well as the health of students and staff.

We appreciate that our community has continued to support these mitigation practices. The district, in partnership with our local, state and federal health departments, will continue to monitor health conditions to determine when it might be the appropriate time to remove any mitigation strategies. The community would have advanced notice of any changes in mitigation practices.

Respectfully,

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