



Central R-III Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

200 High Street Park Hills, Missouri 63601
Phone: 573-431-2616, ext. 7000 Fax: 573-431-2107
Dr. Ashley McMillian - Superintendent
Mr. Mike Harlow - Asst. Superintendent
Mr. Dereck Wilson - Dir. Special Services



November 13, 2020

Parents/Guardians of the Central R-III School District,

Governor Parson held a press conference yesterday detailing a change in quarantining protocols for school districts. Per the Governor and the Department of Health and Senior Services, in order to use the protocols, a district must put a mask mandate in place. Due to this requirement and the difference this will make in keeping our kids in school, Central R-III will have a mask mandate in place beginning Tuesday, November 17th, 2020.

The quarantining protocols, in the document “Wear a mask. Stay in School.,” and this letter can be viewed on the District website at www.centralr3.org. Although a student wearing a mask will not have to be quarantined if the person testing positive was also wearing a mask, it is extremely important to monitor for symptoms once being in contact with a positive case. Symptoms to monitor for can be found in the District Re-Entry Plan and in the Re-Entry FAQ document, which are both also on the District website.

The District guidelines, very similar to the earlier guidelines during the County Order, for wearing a mask/face covering are:

- Students and staff will be required to have a mask or face covering available with them at all times. If they do not have access to a face covering/mask, one can be provided. Please contact your building principal.
- Face coverings/masks are required to enter any building in the Central R-III District for adults and visitors. This includes afterschool activities and events on campus.
- Central R-III students **will not** be required to wear a face covering/mask all day, but **ARE** required to have access to a mask and wear as needed or as instructed when social distancing is not possible.
- Students ages 9 and up will be asked to wear masks or face coverings when:
 - in passing times such as hallways and crowded common areas.
 - social distancing cannot be maintained such as working in small groups or in close proximity with a teacher or medically fragile student.
 - directed by the teacher or school leadership team.

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- Elementary students, below age 9, should also have a mask for use when working in small groups with students or teachers, when social distancing is not possible, or when medically fragile students may be present.
- Masks and face coverings will not be worn:
 - When students/staff have a medical reason that will not allow them to wear a mask (please communicate with your building principal).
- Teachers will use their best judgement to instruct students as to when it is appropriate to wear masks/face coverings.
- When masks and face coverings are necessary, teachers will give students mask breaks whenever possible.
- Staff will be required to wear face coverings/masks when in common spaces and when social distancing cannot be maintained, such as in small groups.
- Teachers will not have to teach in a face covering/mask when social distancing can be maintained.

The District appreciates your understanding as this mandate is put in place. We see this as an opportunity to keep our students in school. Quarantining has been a major obstacle and we appreciate the Governor, DHSS, DESE, and the St. Francois County Health Department listening to the concerns of districts locally and across Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashley McMillian". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ashley McMillian, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Central R-III School District