**A Message from the Superintendent--September 8th, 2021**

Dear SEL School Community,

The opening of the 2021-2022 school year went well.  I thank everyone for their commitment and cooperation in making the start of the school year a positive one.

As mentioned in previous communications, our focus continues to be on the health and safety practices that keep students and staff safe and for our schools to remain open for in-person learning.

Our district has experienced some positive cases, which is to be expected. However, the required contract tracing procedure has been difficult for principals to implement as not all students and staff are masked. Again, our goal is to minimize the necessary quarantine of your child, your child’s class, and/or your child’s school**. Since the wearing of a face mask consistently and properly is a key factor in minimizing the number of potential quarantines, the SEL district will be requiring facial coverings for all students, staff, and visitors until further notice. This requirement will begin on Friday, September 10.**

As time moves on, we must stay committed to the health and safety protocols recommended by our health officials.  To meet our objective of schools remaining open for in-person learning we must minimize the number of students and staff that require a quarantine period.  Below is quarantine guidance based on Ohio’s COVID-19 Health & Prevention Guidance for Ohio K-12 Schools and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Quarantine is **not necessary** for students and adults possibly exposed to COVID-19 in K-12 school settings, regardless of vaccination status, if ALL the following prevention measures have been in place:

* Masking for students and staff (regardless of vaccination status).
* Physical distancing is maximized (at least 3 feet between desks).
* Documented COVID-19 prevention policies (e.g., identification of individuals experiencing symptoms, strategies to increase ventilation, protocols for cleaning, etc.).

In addition, if not all prevention measures listed above were in place, quarantine is **not necessary** for students and adults who are not fully vaccinated if the person who was exposed was **wearing a face mask consistently and correctly and physical distancing was maintained.**

The big debate in our county is whether to mask or not to mask. I am sure this debate also exists within our school district between families and friends. However, each guidance document from health officials states that **the** **wearing of a face mask consistently and properly is a key factor for staff and students not having to quarantine if exposed, regardless of vaccination status.**

Again, our goal is to minimize the necessary quarantine of your child, your child’s class, and/or your child’s school.

As always, we will continue to evaluate our health and safety protocols on an ongoing basis.

Sincerely,

Dr. Reid

Superintendent

South Euclid Lyndhurst Schools