

As you know, District 202 was part of an Illinois court case challenging the legality of the governor's mandates for masks and vaccinations for students and staff in Illinois schools. There is currently a temporary restraining order to keep Gov. Pritzker from enforcing these mandates.

Earlier this week, District 202 altered our guidelines for masking, testing, and contact tracing. After further consideration and consultation with our attorneys, District 202 will resume contact tracing to identify individuals who are in close contact with an individual with COVID-19.

When an individual is identified as a close contact, families will have three options:

1. Send your child to school and monitor their symptoms.
2. Send your child to school and register them for SHIELD Test to Stay. Test to Stay is when students take a COVID test at least twice during the 10 days after their exposure to an individual with COVID.
3. Keep your child home for 5 days. Your child may participate in Remote Instruction while staying home.

**Close contact individuals are not required to be excluded unless ordered by the health department.**

District 202 will continue with the following recommendations, understanding that these may change if the appellate court grants a stay.

- Masks continue to be strongly encouraged, but not required in the school setting.
- Masks must still be worn on school and activity buses per the Centers for Disease Control's order.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will still be excluded from school.
- The district continues to recommend that individuals who are sick should not attend school until their symptoms improve.
- Weekly testing is not required for unvaccinated staff.

As you may know, the judge's decision was appealed. This is just the first step of a longer process that may ultimately end up with the state Supreme Court.

Therefore, the situation could quickly change – which means our COVID-19 mitigation plans could quickly change, too.

We will continue to seek further legal guidance as this matter works its way through the courts, and communicate as soon as possible with our families, staff, and community.