



LUFKIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 16, 2021

Dear Lufkin ISD Family,

As many of you are aware, COVID-19 positive cases are continuing to rise at an alarming rate. Even though we are only three days into the school year, we are beginning to see a continuous rise in the number of students and staff being impacted by this highly contagious disease. Schools throughout the country are already closing their doors to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, and we would like to avoid a similar fate.

Many of our federal, state, and local medical experts as well as local health officials suggest that universal mask wearing is a simple and effective way of reducing the spread of this virus. As a result, going forward, we are highly encouraging all of our students and staff to wear masks to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, especially when interacting with or in close proximity to others. We recognize that we cannot mandate the wearing of masks at this time, but again, we strongly encourage mask wearing because we all have a responsibility to care for ourselves, our colleagues, and the students who have been entrusted to us.

We are also asking our staff to take more restrictive measures to keep students from mixing together and to ensure that students are frequently washing their hands and engaging in other effective hygiene practices. We will be re-installing many of our barriers in our cafeterias, etc. and will continuously re-evaluate our protocols to help keep our students and staff safe.

Finally, we still believe that becoming vaccinated is the most effective way to fight this pandemic. Therefore, we highly recommend that individuals 12 years and older get vaccinated.

Until these numbers start to decrease or more people (including our younger students) are able get vaccinated, I'll be wearing my mask when interacting with the public and with our students starting tomorrow, and I hope you will do the same!

Sincerely,

Lynn Torres
Lufkin ISD Superintendent of Schools