

Hamilton Community Consolidated School District No. 328

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February 6, 2022

Hamilton CCSD #328 Families, Students and Staff

As you may be aware, there is a lawsuit pending in Sangamon County involving numerous plaintiffs suing many school districts across the state, including Hamilton School District #328. The lawsuit challenges various aspects of the State's Covid-19 requirements for schools, including mask requirements and the exclusion of close contacts.

Arguments on a temporary restraining order (TRO) concluded in both cases and the judge released her decision at 5 pm on Friday, February 4, 2022. I thank our families and staff for their patience as we conferred with our legal team and other regional districts determining how to discern, communicate and implement the findings of this decision.

This is a temporary restraining order, which is by its very definition "temporary" and is not a final disposition of the issues. A TRO temporarily enjoins the actions of the parties, but it is not a permanent injunction and is not necessarily a reflection of the final merits of the case. Please take note to recognize that this is a temporary status at this stage in litigation.

In compliance with the court's order, beginning tomorrow, the use of universal masking is recommended for all staff and students but is not required within the building.

An appeal was expected by either side after the decision was released. The Attorney General is appealing this decision at the appellate court level on Monday. A decision by the appellate court will be made within ten days or less after the judge's decision. A stay could be granted which would extend the Governor's Mandates until a decision by the appellate court. The appellate court could uphold or reverse this court's decision. Whatever the ultimate outcome, as always, Hamilton School District #328 will follow the law.

Finally, the last couple of years have been rough, to say the least. Hamilton School District #328 is proud that we have been able to keep our schools open and in-person this year. We are proud of all of our employees who have sacrificed extra time and effort for our students during this global pandemic.

Thank you for all that you are doing to help us help your students!

Joe Yurko, Superintendent
Hamilton CCSD #328