

# South Fork School District 14

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Home of the Ponies

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South Fork Community,

Recently, the Center for Disease Control issued guidance on mask wearing, and subsequently the Illinois Department of Public Health followed their guidance. In addition, the Illinois State Board of Education recognized the importance of local control for school districts in the process.

With the success of in-person learning during last school year, the district hopes to take what was learned during that difficult year and maximize the learning of South Fork Students in the upcoming school year. We are proud of the mitigation strategies and the efforts of both students and staff in limiting the exposure and spread of COVID-19.

Moving forward, we feel a new tiered approach will maintain the safety and health of our school community. This tiered approach implements a mask-optional policy for all students and staff under Tier I so long as cases do not increase at the local level. Pre-screening and social distancing will be the major focus of the district's preventative strategies under Tier I. One side note, masks are still mandated at all times on public forms of transportation— which include school buses.

In the event of local numbers increasing, the district will implement Tier II. This tier will add the layered protection of unvaccinated individuals being masked.

Tier III will be implemented when numbers continue to increase. In Tier III, all individuals will be required to mask up while at school.

The district also feels the best place for student learning is within a classroom. There will not be an option for remote learning this coming school year. If a student has a medical condition, documented by a medical professional, that limits them to a particular school setting, alternative arrangements will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Please understand that guidance, recommendations, and policies are reviewed on a daily basis at the National, State, and Local levels. We will adjust our policies as it relates to any new guidance to ensure the safety of the South Fork Community.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer!

Chris Clark, SF Superintendent

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