



Will County School District 92
"Empowering each student with a love of learning"

Walsh Elementary School
Reed Elementary School
Ludwig Elementary School
Oak Prairie Junior High School

August 4, 2021

District 92 Staff,

The Board of Education met yesterday to approve our COVID Safety Plan for the upcoming school year. **Our priority is in-person learning for each of our students.** We will do everything we can to protect the continuity of learning and even though we are still learning during a pandemic, we are in a much better situation now than we were 12 months ago ~ we are making progress!

The two key COVID mitigation strategies that the Board of Education approved are universal masking and optional Shield Saliva Testing for students and staff. You are invited to participate in **Staff Informational Zoom with the Superintendent on Monday, Aug. 9, from 10:30-11:30 a.m.** to learn more about these and other mitigation strategies. Details for joining the Zoom session are provided on the next page. The presentation will be recorded and emailed to staff. Additional information on universal masking and Shield Saliva Testing are provided below.

Universal Masking: We ended last year with full-day in-person learning and universal masking. Given the increase in COVID cases over the past month, we believe that it is important to begin the 2021-22 school year the same way. The Board of Education approved a progressive plan that adjusted our masking requirements based on student/staff COVID data. However, this afternoon Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced a state-wide mask mandate for schools. **As a result, masks will be required for students, teachers and staff at pre-kindergarten-12th grade schools.** The new measure is part of the state's ongoing effort to combat a new surge as the Delta variant rapidly spreads.

The mask requirement is inclusive of youth sports and activities, with masks now required for all indoor extracurriculars and sports. In line with CDC guidance, masks are not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower.

Shield Saliva Testing: We are implementing **optional Shield Saliva Testing as a mitigation strategy** because it will enable us to "catch" positive cases earlier – even before students and staff are symptomatic. For additional details, you may [review this information](#) prior to the Staff Zoom with the Superintendent on Monday, Aug. 9. Shield Saliva Testing will greatly reduce the transmission of COVID in our classrooms, which will preserve in-person learning for the greatest number of our students. Participating in the Shield Saliva Test is **OPTIONAL** for all students and staff. **If you do not want to participate in Shield Saliva Testing, you need to complete [this form](#) and return it to the District Office at Will County School District 92, 708 N. State Street, Lockport, IL 60441.**

As always, we will continue to monitor the situation and update you on any changes or developments. Thank you for your support of our students, and I look forward to a new school year that will hopefully continue to improve as the year progresses!

Sincerely,

Tim Arnold, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Learning During a Pandemic

D92 Staff Informational Zoom with the Superintendent

Monday, Aug. 9, 2021

During lunch from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://d92.zoom.us/j/85149953951>

Meeting ID: 851 4995 3951

One tap mobile
(312) 626-6799