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August 26, 2021

Dear Shelby County Schools Community:

Upon further analysis of data related to coronavirus and the potential adverse impact on instruction and school operations, Shelby County Schools will require universal mask wearing indoors starting Monday, August 30, 2021, at all campuses through October 1, 2021.

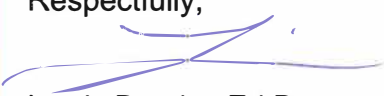
Our goal is to have as traditional a school year as possible, but this health crisis continues to force us to respond and change course in ways that we have never experienced. This temporary change will be welcomed for some and frustrating for others. However, we feel strongly it is necessary if we are going to positively impact the rising number of cases in our community. We also feel that this gives us the best chance to stay in school without a complete shutdown.

Please talk to your child and send your child to school with a mask. Students will not be asked to wear a mask at recess, lunch, or outdoor physical education. Our schools will also make sure that students are given mask breaks during the day. Shelby County Schools has implemented and will continue to implement all other mitigation strategies including frequent cleaning, hand washing, and spacing as much as possible.

According to the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) Back to School Toolkit, only students that test positive or have symptoms related to the virus will be sent home for isolation or quarantine if all are masked. With temporary universal masking, our number of close contact individuals who will have to quarantine will be reduced and more students will be able to remain in school.

Thank you for your willingness to comply with this temporary requirement. We want our school environments to be safe so that our students are in the best position to receive the education they deserve.

Respectfully,

  
Lewis Brooks, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Shelby County Schools