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October 11, 2021

Dear TCSS Colleagues:

I want to thank you for your support of the Troup County School System as we continue to navigate the unknowns of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your continued support of safety practices such as wearing masks, social distancing, temperature screening, and restricting visitors in our schools have led us to where we are now. We now have extremely low positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff at TCSS. As of 4:00p.m. today, there are 14 positive student cases and no positive staff cases.

At the beginning of August, we promised to monitor the COVID-19 positive numbers closely and re-evaluate our current limitations and restrictions. The numbers have steadily declined since early September. Without knowing the reasons for the substantial decrease, we hope this is a return to normal.

Therefore, beginning October 18, wearing masks in schools will be optional, but highly recommended. Please note that masks are still required on all school buses per the CDC's recommendations. As we move forward, we will monitor each school's positivity rate. The 'Highly Recommended' status will remain in place unless a school's positive COVID numbers become greater than 1% of their total student enrollment. For example, if the school's enrollment is 500, the school will continue to have the option of wearing a mask until they have 5 or more positive cases within the school. Once that threshold is reached, that particular school will return to required masks until cases decline to the half-percent mark, which in this case would be 3 or less. If multiple schools across the county have reached their one percent threshold and we reach a critical mass, all schools will return to the mask requirement.

As always, the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and families are our top priority. We ask for your continued support and cooperation as we maneuver through this process.

Sincerely,

Brian T. Shumate, Ph.D.
Superintendent

Brian T. Shumate, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

shumatebt@troup.org | troupp.org
100 North Davis Road, Building C | LaGrange, Georgia 30241
Office: 706.812.7900 | Fax: 706-812-7904

