

September 7, 2021

Dear Nebo District Families:

Utah government and health care officials are increasingly concerned about COVID-19 case counts, particularly among K-12 students. There have been a number of reports about the stress and impact on our health care system, but not a lot has been said about the stress and impact on teachers and staff in our K-12 schools.

Our school employees truly are frontline, emergency workers who are dedicated to the physical, mental, and academic health of our students. Sadly, rising COVID-19 case counts lead to increased absenteeism among students and staff, making it very difficult to provide the quality of education we desire. Therefore, we need each individual to do their part to help stem the rising tide of COVID-19 cases in our schools.

It is possible we will get additional direction from state leaders in the coming days. When we do, we will implement and follow those guidelines as given. Until that time, and in the spirit of Utah's current "personal responsibility" plan, we highlight the following protocols and recommendations from our public health officers ([click here](#) for links to COVID-19 information, including a **Letter to Parents from the Utah County Board of Health**):

- **Feel sick, stay home** – Students who have COVID-like symptoms should stay home from school and get tested. Having symptomatic individuals stay home will significantly reduce the possibility of having to implement "test-to-stay." Additionally, *anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 will not be permitted at school or any school activities during their isolation period.*
- **Face masks** – **Most health officials encourage wearing face masks** to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Face masks are not mandatory, so *families will need to make individual decisions about when and where to have students wear face masks.*
- **COVID-19 vaccination** – Currently, about 29% of eligible Utah County students have been fully vaccinated. While vaccination is not a requirement to enroll in school or join an extracurricular team, **vaccinated students are not subject to quarantine protocols.** *Parents should talk to their health care provider when making decisions about vaccinating eligible students (currently those 12 and older).*
- **Quarantine** – Specific quarantine protocol recommendations are outlined in the guidelines from the state. In summary, students receive a quarantine notice if they spent more than 15 minutes in the same indoor classroom as someone who tested positive for COVID-19. **Students will be able to remain at school if they:**
  - *are immunized, or*
  - *have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 90 days, or*
  - *choose to wear a face mask at school for 10 days after the exposure.*

Students who do not meet these criteria will be asked to remain at home for up to 10 days.

- **Remote Learning** – Students who are exposed to COVID-19 and choose to remain at home during their quarantine period will be moved to "Remote Learning" for up to 10 days. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will also be moved to "Remote Learning." For these students, the classroom teacher will make learning resources and assignments available through Canvas and/or other platforms, with primary learning support coming from the parent.
- **COVID-19 testing** – COVID-19 testing will be required under "Test to Stay" law **if a school has more than 30 positive COVID-19 cases.** If this occurs, students must be tested to remain at the school for their learning and extracurricular activities – unless they have been immunized or have had a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the previous 90 days.
- **COVID-19 Case Counts** – Nebo District will continue to post COVID-19 case count numbers on its website regularly during the week. The dashboard will indicate which schools are getting close to the "Test to Stay" threshold of 30 students.

We hope that a renewed emphasis on these guidelines will help us to safely accomplish our shared goal:

**"Every child, in-person learning, at the school, every day"**