



**OAK PARK and  
RIVER FOREST  
HIGH SCHOOL**

Dear OPRF High School staff, students, and families,

Last night, the 4th District Appellate Court in Springfield dismissed an appeal from Gov. Pritzker against a Feb. 4 temporary restraining order, which prohibited him from enforcing executive orders and emergency rules for certain COVID-19 safety mitigations in schools. The court's decision was based on a ruling earlier this week from the Illinois Joint Commission on Administrative Rules (JCAR) which found emergency rules previously issued from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to be null and void.

In its ruling, the court stated that it will now be left up to the discretion of individual school districts on how to proceed with COVID-19 safety mitigations.

As a result of this ruling, we're reviewing the plans we currently have in place and discussing the criteria that will determine when mitigations may be eased or removed. We want to be thorough and thoughtful during this review process, as our layered mitigations have proven critical in allowing us to safely offer in-person instruction throughout this school year.

We've been able to determine that the only action we need to take at this time is to **remove the school exclusion requirement which states that any asymptomatic, unvaccinated student or employee who is identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case must quarantine**. This change is effective immediately. Anyone who was identified as a close contact as a result of SHIELD testing on Thursday, Feb. 17 may return to school on Wednesday, Feb. 23 (the first day back for students following Presidents' Day and Staff Development Day).

**All other COVID-19 safety mitigations, including mandatory masking, will remain in place** until the D200 Board of Education has the opportunity to consider updated direction from the district's legal advisors. This discussion will take place at the Board of Education regular meeting scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 24. Open session will begin at 6 p.m.

Until the time when a decision regarding mitigations is reached, we expect all students, employees, and visitors to continue to comply with our existing measures.

As always, our top priority remains the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate these uncertain times.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Greg Johnson  
Superintendent