

Hartsburg-Emden CUSD #21

400 West Front Street

Hartsburg, IL 62643

Terry Wisniewski, Superintendent

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Return to School Plan

2021-2022

Amendment II:

On August 4, 2021, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker announced masks would be required for all students, teachers, staff, and visitors at all pre-kindergarten-12 schools throughout the State. The new measure is part of the Governor's and the State's ongoing effort to combat the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus that is rapidly spreading.

The mask requirement is inclusive of youth sports and activities as well, with masks now required for all indoor extracurricular activities and sports. In line with CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidance, masks are still not required for activities outdoors where transmission risks and rates are lower.

The announcement differs from the Phase V Re-Opening Plan Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 recently made public, which was based on the original CDC guidance that recommended mask wearing for all unvaccinated individuals in schools adopted by the IDPH (Illinois Department of Public Health) on July 9, 2021. The CDC also recommended that schools have a leveled plan based on the school community metrics, allowing for some flexibility based on local levels of COVID-19. The CDC then changed its guidance on July 20, 2021 (the day after our plan was made public) to recommending all individuals, regardless of vaccinated status, to wear a mask in schools.

As per the Governor's mandate, students, teachers, staff, and visitors will be required to wear a mask inside the school building regardless of vaccinated status. At this point, the Governor only indicated that the mandate would last until COVID-19 numbers improve. The Hartsburg-Emden C.U.S.D. #21 will continue to review the new rules and will be communicating changes to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support of our school during these challenging times, and I am looking forward to a new school year.

If you have questions, please send an email or call the school.

Sincerely,



Terry L. Wisniewski, *Superintendent*

Hartsburg - Emden C.U.S.D. #21

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