



September 3, 2021

Greetings from Buckeye Central:

Undoubtedly, we are all seeing the impact that COVID continues to have on schools in Crawford County, the region, and state. Here at Buckeye Central, we continue to diligently monitor COVID cases and exposures on a daily basis. Depending on specific circumstances, many students and staff need to quarantine as a result of being exposed.

Our primary goal in our schools is to provide a quality education in an environment that protects the health and safety of our students and staff. As we continue to partner with the Crawford County Health Department, their guidance and direction informs the decisions we make. Additionally, we work in close partnership with all of the Crawford County and regional districts.

Although we are not currently mandating masks in our district, we continue to **strongly recommend** that everyone, regardless of vaccination status, wear a mask. Obviously, this recommendation is in place to help promote the safety of all of our students and staff. We cannot emphasize enough: as the current Crawford County Health Department guidelines outline, students who wear masks in school are less likely to be quarantined. If your student is wearing a mask and is exposed to someone with COVID, your student would NOT be subject to quarantine. I can't emphasize enough how significant this information is. At the end of the day, we would be able to decrease the number of students and staff who are quarantined **significantly** if they were wearing masks.

We understand parents have strong feelings about COVID and COVID mitigation strategies. We know that not everyone will agree with this recommendation. We do, however, ask that you carefully consider how this mitigation strategy impacts in-person learning. **Right now, the biggest, potential obstacle to having our students in school where they belong is not necessarily COVID, but quarantine.** The solution to overcoming this obstacle is clear: Please have your students wear a mask so that they are not required to quarantine should they be exposed.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Robinson
Superintendent