

January 21, 2022

Dear West Salem Staff and Families,

Over the past two weeks, we have made a couple of changes and modifications to our procedures as it relates to our COVID protocols here within the district. To review those changes here is what we have done:

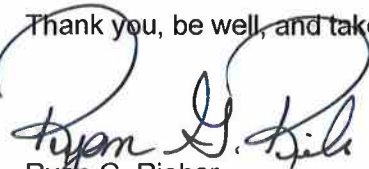
- 1) We have stopped contact tracing. As a parent/guardian, you will no longer be receiving a message about your child's possible exposure. We are confident that discontinuing contact tracing will provide staff with the capacity to monitor actual cases of COVID more effectively. We ask that you continue to help by increasing your vigilance in monitoring your child(ren) for symptoms and keeping them home if they are ill. If your child(ren) develops symptoms, please inform your child's building, stay home, and get tested.
- 2) We have reduced isolation to a five-day period, with a student or staff member being able to return to school on day six as long as you or your child(ren) are fever and symptom-free. Those who return to work or school on day six are strongly encouraged to wear a mask. Since masks are currently required in the district, all individuals need to follow the current practices within the district.

Both of these are positive steps as we want as many of our students in our building as possible. As we continue to move forward with all students, families, and staff, vaccination status will no longer be a determining factor in the length of time an individual is quarantined. We trust our families and staff to make the best decisions for their families or themselves.

We need your continued help and assistance in keeping your child(ren) and others as healthy as possible by staying home when not feeling well; this is a community effort! By keeping your child(ren) or yourself home when sick, reporting positive tests to your school, and continuing to be mindful of those around you, we will be able to work together to continue moving forward in a positive direction.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we continue into this second semester of the school year. We have been successful in maintaining face-to-face instruction and the continuation of all of our school activities and events. These will all be able to continue with us all working together!

Thank you, be well, and take care!



Ryan G. Rieber
Superintendent