



# Fairfax R-III School District

500 Main

Fairfax, MO 64446

Home of the Bulldogs and Wolves

Phone: 660-686-2421 Fax 660-686-2848



12/9/21

Fairfax Family,

Good afternoon! I hope this message finds you in good spirits as we approach the Christmas holiday and Winter Break. We are moving quickly toward the end of 2021 and my hope is that we are all able to find some rest and become refreshed as we spend time with our families.

We are contacting you because a recent court case has made it so that the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is no longer in a position to prevent students and staff from attending school due to close contact tracing. While a person who tests positive will still be prevented from attending school, at this time no close contact quarantined students or staff are prevented from school attendance.

According to information from the same lawsuit, the Fairfax R-III School District has been informed that only elected officials have the ability to issue orders that would exclude students and staff from the school setting. The Fairfax R-III Board of Education can fulfill this role. As elected officials, the board of education has the ability to decide how the district is to proceed regarding close contact quarantines and will discuss this topic at the December 17<sup>th</sup> regular session board meeting.

The Fairfax R-III School District does not currently have a policy in place that would allow school staff to quarantine students. While the district has assisted DHSS in identifying close contacts in the school setting, DHSS has always been the organization which placed students and staff in quarantine from school. Since that ability has been removed from DHSS, the district has no process for placing a student in quarantine and no current policy that would exclude a student from school for being a close contact. All of this means that a student or staff member, placed in quarantine for close contact, may still attend school. However, all students and staff should stay home when they are sick.

The district will continue to provide distance learning opportunities for students when their families decide that they should not attend school due to close contact quarantine.

More information will be shared with our Fairfax R-III families after the board meeting on 12/17/21. If you have questions regarding this issue, please feel free to contact the Office of the Superintendent at (660) 686-2421.

Yours in stewardship,

Jeremy Burright Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools  
Fairfax R-III School District

Dr. Jeremy Burright-Superintendent  
Mrs. Laurie Yocum- Sup't. Secretary

Mr. Dustin Barnes-Principal  
Mrs. Karen Burke-El. Secretary  
Mrs. Caroline Peters-HS Secretary