

BROOKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 167

February 6, 2022

Dear Brookwood School District 167 Community,

As you may have heard, on Friday, a court ruling in Springfield resulted in a temporary restraining order enjoining the Governor from enforcing his executive orders that require masks for all students, teachers, staff and visitors, as well as requiring mandatory vaccinations or COVID-19 testing. Approximately 150 of Illinois' 840 school districts are named in the lawsuits. Because Brookwood School District 167 was not one of the districts named in the lawsuit, this order has no impact on our COVID mitigation strategies. We are aware that an appeal will be swiftly filed. Gov. JB Pritzker said late Friday he is seeking an expedited appeal. An Appellate Court decision will likely come quickly and will very likely provide a ruling that will have a broader and more definitive impact for all Illinois public school districts.

The Brookwood School District 167 mask requirement will not change at this time. Our school district's Return to Learn/School Plan includes requiring masks for all who enter our buildings or ride buses to and from school. I anticipate that there will be clarity provided regarding the future of mask wearing and other mitigation measures in schools along with a decision that will come from the legal appeal process (most likely on February 17th). We are actively focusing on maintaining a commitment to safety, health, emotional, and educational wellness as we let the legal process play out.

We will remain consistent with our mitigation strategies while the appeal process is in motion. I will keep you updated as we receive more information.

Sincerely,



Bethany A. Lindsay
Superintendent