



Will County
Health Department &
Community Health Center
501 Ella Avenue | Joliet | IL | 60433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2022

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUES RECOMMENDATION FOR MASK WEARING IN SCHOOLS

JOLIET, IL – Aware of the most recent judicial rulings regarding schools and their practices with respect to COVID-19 mitigation strategies, Will County Health Department [WCHD] wants to reaffirm its recommendation that schools follow the most recent Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] school guidance concerning masking, testing, quarantine and isolation.

Not all school districts are affected by this temporary restraining order. The ruling only applies to the specific individuals and school districts named in the suit. Any school district that has questions or concerns about these rulings and their local implications will need to work with their respective legal counsel.

WCHD's position is that any school districts not affected by the temporary restraining order, should continue to follow and to enforce current IDPH school guidance. Additionally, for those school districts required to continue enforcing existing IDPH guidelines, WCHD is prepared to offer its support.

While WCHD recognizes that schools have the authority to determine what mitigation strategies will work best in their schools, WCHD strongly recommends that schools continue to use a layered approach to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

For more information:

<https://dph.illinois.gov/covid19/community-guidance/school-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-contact-tracing/about-quarantine.html>

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NEWS release

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Will County Public Health dates back to 1942 when \$50,000 was allocated for local Environmental Health, Maternal-Child Health, and Infectious Disease Control initiatives. In 1940, roughly 115,000 people called Will County home; in 2020, nearly 700,000 do. Today Will County Health Department strives to bring its vision—to deliver sustainable programs and policies in response to the public health needs of the community—to all of the people of Will County.



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