



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**LPSD Updates COVID-19 Precautions Policy**

**LONOKE, Ark.** - The Lonoke Public School District School Board voted to adopt a COVID-19 Precautions policy update during a special board meeting Monday, August 23. After consultation with local medical professionals and district counsel and consideration of the current stakeholder survey, LPSD's policy concerning masks is as follows:

Should the COVID-19 positive cases and/or quarantined cases meet or exceed 50 people enrolled in or employed by LPSD, including outsourced employees, the district will implement a mask requirement for all school employees and students for no less than 5 business days. Furthermore, the mask requirement will remain in place until the positive cases and/or quarantined cases decrease below 50 people of the Lonoke School District.

Masks shall be properly worn by all school district employees, students and visitors while inside any school district building, bus, van or other vehicle. Properly wearing a mask for purposes of this policy means covering the mouth and nose with a mask at all times, except while eating, drinking, or taking medication.

District administration shall promptly provide notification to all employees, students and parents/guardians of students, that the mask requirement is in effect or being discontinued.

Superintendent Jeff Senn said this decision was made with the health and safety of our students and staff in mind.

"I realize there is a great deal of debate and differing opinions among community members as to whether the masks are beneficial; however, it is our responsibility to try to keep our students and staff safe and in school," said Senn.

Each day, the Point of Contact will provide the total number of positive cases and quarantines within the school district. The collected data will be posted on our school website daily.

*The Lonoke Public School District serves approximately 1600 students and their parents in the city of Lonoke, Arkansas. You can find more about our district, along with all state required information, on our website [lonokeschools.org](http://lonokeschools.org).*