



CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

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Theodis Lamar Goree, Ph.D.
Superintendent

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Dear Caddo Families,

On Tuesday, Governor Edwards announced he would be ending the mask mandate for most individuals across the state while continuing to strongly encourage unvaccinated individuals to continue to wear masks. At the same time, the Governor did leave the mask mandate in place for the K-12 setting with the option of an opt-out possibility for districts continuing with the appropriate quarantining policies.

In Caddo Parish, local medical advisors have been reviewing data related to childhood cases of COVID-19 and the percent of students who are vaccinated. At this time, approximately 25 percent of new cases are in children locally. Further, less than 30 percent of students ages 12-17 are vaccinated and 5-11 year olds remain ineligible at the current time for vaccination.

Thus, Caddo will continue current mitigation protocols, including masking, which continues to be recommended by the Louisiana Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Quarantine guidelines also have remained unchanged from the CDC and LDH, and Caddo will continue to adhere to our current guidelines.

Additionally, Caddo has worked closely with our local medical community to safely lift some restrictions. Starting this week, after successful pilots, visitors will be permitted to visit campuses and music programs will resume indoors with appropriate protocols in place for both. We greatly value the role our parents and community partners play in successful schools, and thank you for your patience as we have worked to develop methods to safely bring visitors back onto campuses.

We are working with our medical experts on opportunities for student vaccination clinics upon the FDA's approval of new age groups, and we are hopeful the increase in vaccination eligibility will provide an opportunity for safely operating schools without masking protocols.

Please understand, Caddo's COVID-19 protocols and procedures are supported by local medical advisors who have noted the mitigation efforts in place are allowing for safe learning environments for in-person instruction as we know in-person instruction is critical to learning and remains our focus.

We are aggressively working to return our schools to normalcy as quickly as possible. As such, we will continue to review all protocols and guidance based on the latest information from our local medical advisors, the CDC, and LDH as appropriate.

In service,

T. Lamar Goree, Ph.D.
Superintendent
Caddo Parish Public Schools