



**Hillsboro Community
Unit School District #3**

1311 Vandalia Road
Hillsboro, IL 62049

Phone: (217) 532-2942
Fax: (217) 532-3137

David E. Powell, Superintendent

dpowell@hillsboroschools.net

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Member of the HCUSD3 Community,

Today a Montgomery County Judge issued a temporary restraining order preventing the School District from requiring masks to be worn by students. Therefore, beginning Monday, September 20, 2021, students will not be required to wear masks on school buses or at school.

An immediate ramification of this decision is the loss of our ability in many cases to offer the Test to Stay alternative to quarantines. If a COVID-positive student comes to school without a mask, any student masked or not who is identified as a close contact will be quarantined by the Health Department without the Test to Stay option. The unwillingness of other school districts to participate in extra-curricular contests with our teams is also a possibility. Other effects and the long-range consequences of the removal of the mask requirement remain to be seen.

We will continue to implement other mitigation strategies to try to reduce the likelihood and severity of potential COVID outbreaks in our schools.

I will share information on these issues, and others, as we work through them.

Respectfully,

David E. Powell

The Hillsboro Community School District fosters a student-centered culture with high expectations for each student to reach his or her full potential.