

November 5, 2020

USD 345 Staff and Families:

[Please click here to view the Community Transmission and Severity Scorecard for the Period of 10/25 – 10/31 from the Shawnee County Health Department \(SCHD\).](#) The index score has increased seven points from 14 to 21 this week and is now in the “Uncontrolled” index.

Shawnee County is experiencing a sharp increase (70%) in the number of cases diagnosed last week with the percentage of positive tests increasing from 5.4% to 10.7% (the first time it crossed the 10% mark). Both hospitals report an increase in the level of utilization of testing and inpatient services, and the health department is currently unable to follow up timely with every new case diagnosed. As a result of these developments, I wanted to reiterate the mitigation strategies we are using in our schools to reduce the spread.

1. Masks
2. Handwashing Breaks
3. Physical Distancing (Secondary Schools)
4. Cohorting (Elementary Schools)
5. Temperature Checks
6. Contact Tracing
7. Cleaning and Disinfecting

I am providing a [link of a recent letter from the county health department](#) urging schools to limit our event sizes to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19. In light of the county’s increase in positive cases and this recent letter, I have made the decision to limit the Friday, November 6 football game to 500 people. This gathering size will include all participants, so tickets will be limited to essential personnel and family members. The district will be live streaming this game, and all additional home games, so fans have the option of viewing postseason football games from home. Follow the link below to watch the Seaman Vikings take on Blue Valley Southwest in a second round (Regional) playoff game on Friday, November 6 at 7:00 pm.

Live Stream Link: https://youtu.be/RUPt9Csr_Ik

We ask our community to partner with us in helping reduce the spread of COVID-19. The mitigation strategies implemented in our schools are only effective if these same strategies are utilized outside of our schools. Thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work together to keep our students, staff, and community as safe as possible throughout this pandemic.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Noble

Superintendent