

Dear Eagle Nation,

The trend in COVID data for Joplin Schools and the area we serve is encouraging. Joplin Schools recognizes the move to voluntary masking effective immediately may bring a multitude of reactions. I am reaching out to you to share how this change will impact students and staff when you return tomorrow. For those who may have missed the school board announcement, the following is a brief overview:

Masks will no longer be required in the Joplin School District, pre-K-adult, regardless of vaccination status.

Quarantine guidelines have not changed.

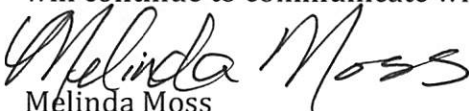
The CDC continues to strongly recommend that all individuals who are not fully vaccinated continue to wear masks, and we encourage all in our school community to adhere to public health recommendations. Fully vaccinated individuals are defined as people who have reached 14 days after their second Pfizer or Moderna shot or the Johnson & Johnson shot.

KU Medical Research states from a health and medical standpoint, it is highly encouraged that individuals not vaccinated continue to wear masks.

Please continue to monitor for symptoms and stay home if symptomatic. As you have done throughout the year, continue to notify the school should a positive test or exposure occur.

Joplin Schools will adhere to the announcement recommending but not requiring mask wearing for non-vaccinated individuals. Individuals may continue to choose to wear a mask while at school. Wearing a mask will be a choice best determined by each person. The district may need to reevaluate its mask requirements should cases spike in the opposite direction.

We thank you for your cooperation and support as we respond to public health orders. We will continue to communicate with you promptly in the event we receive new information.


Melinda Moss
Superintendent

