



## Federal Order Regarding Face Coverings For Knox County Schools

On Friday, Sept. 24, Superintendent Bob Thomas sent the following message to KCS families:

*Dear KCS families,*

*I want to address an important development concerning our district's response to COVID-19. This afternoon, U.S. District Judge Ronnie Greer issued a preliminary injunction which ordered the Knox County Board of Education to immediately enforce the face covering mandate which was in place during the 2020-21 school year.*

*In conjunction with the Knox County Law Department, the district is reviewing the judge's order and working to understand its implications. However, we do want to provide our families, students and employees with preliminary guidance in preparation for next week.*

*Beginning Monday, Sept. 27, all our students, employees, and visitors will be required to wear a face covering when indoors at one of our facilities or riding a school bus or shuttle, until further notice. Any individual with autism or with a tracheotomy is exempt; however, parents who have students with autism who can wear a face covering are encouraged to do so.*

*Others with a documented medical condition may be exempted from this policy pending court approval.*

*We recognize that this is a sensitive topic and that there are a wide variety of strongly held feelings about COVID-19 mitigation measures. At the same time, I want to make very clear that we are required to implement this order.*

*Thank you for your understanding.*

*Sincerely,*

*Bob Thomas  
Superintendent  
Knox County Schools*