

2020-09-28

Rooks County experienced a dramatic increase in COVID-19 activity over the weekend with 32 new positives and three deaths. There are currently 36 active cases within the county, including several that impact our schools. Due to our careful and consistent use of masks and disinfection protocols, we have been able to limit absences due to COVID-19 and are currently working with two cohorts of students in modified quarantine within the county. These students are allowed to continue in-person learning as a group unless they become ill. We continue to see no evidence of COVID-19 transmission in our schools.

After an extensive review of the data and conversation with our local health experts, we will **continue in-person learning for the remainder of this week** and monitor the situation closely.

Due to concerns about the evidence of increasing community-based transmission, we are changing attendance policies at all sporting events in the county. Athletes will receive tickets to disperse accordingly. Each athlete will have a predetermined number of tickets for volleyball and football games. **All spectators must wear masks at all times during sporting events.** If we follow these measures, we will be able to continue having spectators at sporting events. Without these measures, we will transition to no spectators until COVID-19 transmission rates are lower in the county.

These are challenging times for everyone. We appreciate your continued support and trust in our team.