



Holmes, Donna <dholmes@palisadesd.org>

Community Message Masking Update August 18, 2020

1 message

Dr. Bridget O'Connell <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Tue, Aug 18, 2020 at 6:45 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

Dear Palisades Community,

As you may be aware, the Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education amended the state's face covering order yesterday, now requiring all individuals to wear a face covering when they are indoors, regardless of distance. This changes the original order issued which allowed individuals to remove their face covering in situations where 6' feet of distance could be maintained.

The link for the order updated on August 17th can be found here: <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/Waivers/MaskWearing/Pages/default.aspx>

What does this mean for our students and staff?

1. All students and staff will be required to wear a face covering at all times while inside our buildings. The only exceptions are while eating lunch and for those students who qualify for a medical exemption (covered by a 504 Plan).
2. All students and staff will receive a mask and face shield. They can wear either or both.
3. While seated in the classroom, either a face mask or face shield that covers both the nose and mouth continue to meet the requirements of a face covering. A mask that has an exhaust valve is not permissible, since according to CDC guidelines released last week, this type of mask does not prevent the person wearing the mask from transmitting COVID-19 to others (source control). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
4. While in common spaces (buses, entry, dismissal, hallways) all students and staff must wear a face covering.
5. The new order does provide for face covering breaks that last no longer than 10 minutes if a distance of at least 6 feet can be maintained. We will be working with our staff on guidelines for providing these breaks where possible and appropriate, especially while in classrooms where 6' distancing is being accommodated.

We will update our Health and Safety Plan to include this new requirement; however, this clarification to the universal masking order will go into effect immediately. The Plan continues to be available on our website.

Thank you for your continued support of our reopening efforts.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget O'Connell".

Dr. Bridget O'Connell

Superintendent

Call in information for upcoming Board Meetings:

POLICY MEETING: Wednesday, August 19 at 5:30 PM - (US) +1 769-208-5358 PIN: 206 429 204#

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING: Wednesday, August 19 at 7PM - (US) +1 419-869-2058 PIN: 475 305 732#

Agendas for both meetings can be found on our website under Board Docs/Meetings:
<https://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pali/Board.nsf/Public>

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