



8/31/2021

Hello Wheatland School District;

Beginning Wednesday, September 1, 2021 all students and all staff are required to wear a facial covering, while indoors when students are present, regardless of vaccination status. This includes while on a school bus. Facial coverings/masks will be available for those that do not have one. This will be enforced at all school sites. All students and all staff are required to wear a facial covering unless they have a medical exemption signed by a doctor.

The district's number one goal is the education, safety and mental health of our students. To achieve all of our goals we must keep students in school and in class! This enforced mandate shift comes after the Yuba/Sutter Public Health Officer has released a flow chart, which is available on the District Website, that is in line with the new CDPH COVID exposure/quarantine guidelines. This allows for a modified quarantine for students exposed but wearing a mask. The modified quarantine will keep your children in school instead of quarantining at home.

How it works - When a student is COVID positive, the quarantine time is determined by public health based on the guidance. The positive student is isolated at home for a minimum of 10 days. If a close contact and the positive student are not wearing masks then the close contacts are all out for a minimum of 10 days and can be longer for the close contact depending on the situation. However, if your child is a close contact and both the positive student and your child are wearing masks, then the positive student still quarantines for the 10 days but the close contact student may continue in person instruction as long as they are asymptomatic, continue to wear a mask and agree to test 2 times a week for 10 days after exposure. In most cases the period can drop to 7 days if all tests are negative and the student has no symptoms. This keeps students, your children, in school!

We are experiencing a significant increase in student cases and currently have had to quarantine a very large number of close contact students for a minimum of 10 days. Given this modified quarantine guidance, if these students were masked they would still be in school.

The District has received a very strongly worded letter from the State, dated 8/23/21, with significant financial and professional sanctions that could take place if we do not adhere to the mask mandate. This letter is available on our District website.

We fully understand that some will not agree with this enforcement, but we need to make sure we keep all students in school as best we can.

If you are interested in an option that is not coming to school daily, then please reach out to the site administration. The District will put together a Long-Term Independent Study option for students who choose to not wear masks in school. Please, also remember, that there is a medical exemption available if your child needs one, but you will need to work with your doctor for this exemption.

Thank you for your support as we navigate this crazy time together! Also, please remember to keep your students' home when they have symptoms to avoid spreading COVID to others.

Sincerely,

Craig Guensler

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Superintendent

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