



Holmes, Donna &lt;dholmes@palisadesd.org&gt;

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**Absence Letters FOR 21-22 (COVID related)**

1 message

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

Fri, Jan 28, 2022 at 1:53 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

**Dear Palisades Parents and Guardians,**

**As we embark on the second semester, I wanted to update you regarding student absences and absence letters. Schools are responsible for enforcing compulsory attendance laws which we will continue to do; however, for the 2021-2022 school year, I am going to make an adjustment for COVID specific absences.**

**Families currently begin to receive absence letters once a student is absent from school for seven (7) days and again at ten (10) days. Once a student has recurrent absences, school leaders will meet with families to discuss strategies and supports to increase regular attendance. Students who are frequently absent are considered truant or habitually truant as defined below:**

**A child is "truant" if the child is subject to compulsory school laws and has incurred three or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year. A child is "habitually truant" if the child is subject to compulsory school laws and has incurred six or more school days of unexcused absences during the current school year.**

**All student absences will continue to be reported to the state as required. This information is used by the state to determine if schools are meeting the minimum threshold of 95% daily attendance rate per year. Internally, if a student's name appears on the nurse exclusion list due to COVID (student is COVID positive or a close contact), that student's absence will be re-coded and will not count toward the 7 or 10 day threshold. Our attendance secretaries are currently in the process of re-coding absences from the beginning of this school year and will complete this process by January 31st.**

**Please note the following:**

- **This practice will be in effect for the 2021-2022 school year**
- **Only student names that appear on the nurse exclusion list will be coded as such and not count toward the total student absence count.**
- **If you have questions about your child's absences please contact your child's school attendance secretary at (610)847-5131:**
- **Tinicum ext. 7000**
- **Durham ext. 3000**
- **Springfield ext. 6000**
- **PALMS ext. 1005**
- **PHS ext. 2005**

**Kind regards,**

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

**Dr. Bridget O'Connell**

**Superintendent**

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