



Holmes, Donna <dholmes@palisadesd.org>

Community Message - December 8, 2021

1 message

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

Wed, Dec 8, 2021 at 4:00 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

Dear Palisades Community,

On Monday, December 6th, the Board revised the Palisades Health and Safety plan. The key provisions of the plan on masking (section a) include:

1. As of Thursday, August 19, 2021, masks are required on buses due to CDC order. Students will be required to wear masks on school buses until the CDC order expires. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

2. The district will continue to adhere to the state masking mandate until the mandate expires.

3. The day following the expiration of the state order, masks will be optional for students, employees and visitors in school buildings.

4. Masks will be required in the event the Bucks County Department of Health has provided guidance to an individual, a classroom or building for TTM (targeted, temporary mitigation) in the event of an exposure or localized outbreak of COVID-19.

An outbreak is defined as three (3) or more infectious cases of COVID-19 while at school, within a single classroom within five (5) days. The Bucks County Department of Health will conduct case investigations and external contact tracing related to the outbreak.

Palisades medical exemption process:

Parent/guardian submits Palisades medical exemption form which includes consent to complete a 504 evaluation to determine student eligibility under the law. A parent/guardian may sign and submit this form without the child's medical provider's diagnosis, treatment plan, duration and signature; however, any information or evaluations regarding the student's diagnosis, treatment plan and duration that the parent is willing to provide will be considered during the course of the evaluation.

The new provision on contact tracing (section e), which will also go into effect once masks become optional, includes:

1. Use strategies similar to those used with influenza, other infectious diseases in the event of a confirmed case of COVID-19. Policy 203 Immunizations and Communicable Diseases: <http://go.boarddocs.com/pa/pali/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BSTJPH4D5692>

The district does not contact trace in the event of a student or staff member that is diagnosed with the flu; therefore, the district will cease contact tracing for confirmed positive cases of COVID-19. The district will continue to communicate positive cases with the BCDH and follow their guidance in the event of an outbreak. Students, employees and visitors are encouraged to monitor symptoms of illness and stay home if sick.

Additionally, while this is not a change, the district dashboard will continue to be updated with known positive student cases. Updates will only occur on days in which school is in session. Cases reported on weekends or holidays will be included once school is back in session.

Today, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court is hearing arguments regarding the state masking mandate. In the event the court issues a ruling ending the state mask mandate, masks will be optional in the district the following day. I will communicate the Supreme Court's ruling when it is issued. Until the state mandate either expires on January 17th by the governor's order or earlier by the PA Supreme Court, masks are required while inside of school buildings both during and outside of school hours.

[PSD Health and Safety Plan 12.06.21](#)

As a reminder, the district will host AMI to run a vaccine clinic at Palisades Middle School on Saturday, December 11th from 9AM to noon. All vaccines and boosters are available. Walk-ins are welcome.

Wishing you a happy holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget O'Connell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot over the 'i' in "Bridget".

Dr. Bridget O'Connell

Superintendent

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