



1820 MAIN STREET  
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80911

CONTACT US AT  
719-391-3000

September 29, 2021

Dear WSD3 Staff & Families,

On [September 7, 2021](#), Widefield School District 3 instituted a universal mask requirement as a means to decrease the number of quarantines in the district.

As you know, all schools are required to quarantine both staff and students when they come into “close contact” with a COVID-positive person. The only exception to this requirement is if all parties during the exposure period were masked. At the time of the mask requirement, there were upwards of 600 students and staff quarantined across District 3 along with a school temporarily placed in virtual learning. **This mask requirement allowed us to eliminate the practice of quarantines for healthy students and staff who were masked.**

We have significantly minimized quarantines across the district, and we want to continue this trend as it meets our goal of keeping schools open for in-person learning. While quarantines are down in our schools because of masking, we are still seeing an increase in COVID-19 transmission in our school district community.

Based on the above, **WSD3 will extend the mask requirement until further notice, and continue to reevaluate the mask requirement based on transmission data that could risk continuous quarantines and/or school closures.** Our intent is to find an alternative to masking, however, at this time masking is the best way to keep schools open for in-person learning.

### **Mask Exemptions**

- Medical documentation with a doctor’s signature is required for anyone not wearing a mask. Please turn documentation into your child’s school or building administration.
  - Students/staff will be required to wear a mask while waiting for a medical statement.

- Accommodations will be discussed for students/staff who cannot physically wear a mask due to a disability. Please speak with your child's school or building administrator.

### **Proper Mask Wearing**

- Masks must cover the nose and mouth.
- Masks must be secured to the head with ties, straps, or loops over the ears or wrapped around the lower face or neck.

### **Upcoming Vaccine Clinic**

- October 15, 2021 - [Register Here](#)
- These appointments are for your first or second dose only, not a booster.
- If you received a dose on September 25, please schedule your second dose.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we navigate the requirements, rules, and obligations levied on all school districts in El Paso County.

Respectfully,

Kevin Duren  
Superintendent