



May 16, 2021 Announcement Summary

Introduction

- ★ **Our priority during this unprecedented pandemic continues to be the safety of our students and staff. Since the start of the year, every effort has been leveraged to allow safe onsite instruction.**
- ★ **Each and every consideration impacting this priority for safety is carefully considered, including current and changing guidance, incidents of COVID-19 in our community & our student body, and feasibility of applying mitigation strategies in a school setting.**
- ★ **We make these decisions based on careful consideration of current local, state, and national guidance, not politics, media influence, petition or individual opinion.**

Last Friday afternoon (May 14), The IDPH released the following updated guidance to schools: [LINK](#). Key changes in this guidance included:

- Approach COVID-19 like other childhood illnesses (see: [IDPH Common Child Illnesses and Exclusion Criteria for Education and Child Care Settings](#))
- Schools urged to provide parents and students with the option to make their own decision about mask usage (optional masking)
- Asymptomatic children who have been exposed to COVID-19 will no longer be required to quarantine, regardless of mask usage

Summary and Timeline

CCSD will not make significant adjustments on Monday, May 17.

We will proceed with the following plan to respond to this new guidance:

The following will continue in full through June 4, 2021

- We will continue to strongly encourage all people to abide by developing CDC guidance related to masking and mitigation in and outside of school.
- Mitigation strategies such as modified student transitions, seating assignments/tracking, “sanitize in, sanitize out”, classroom arrangements for distancing, enhanced cleaning, lunch mitigation, exclusion of positive individuals for 10 days etc. will continue.
- All students should have a face covering with them while on school grounds during the school day.
- Face coverings will continue to be required on all district transportation (busses and vehicles).
- Policies for visitors not being allowed on campus during the day will remain in place.
- All previously announced mitigation strategies for events beyond the school day, including crowd size and seating arrangements for events occurring prior to the end of the school year will remain in place for on-campus events.

At this time, we do not have additional information on how current state guidelines will impact off-campus activities like graduation. If there are changes, graduates and their families will be notified. Many mitigation strategies are directed by the venue.

Effective Immediately (May 17, 2021)

- Students will no longer be required to wear face coverings while outside or engaged in heavy physical activity in large indoor areas like gyms.
- Contact tracing protocols per the new guidance will be followed.
- All CCSD staff will be required to wear face coverings (mask or shield) when interacting with students or the public through at least June 30, regardless of vaccination status, if not interacting with the public, staff are encouraged to follow latest CDC guidance on masking for vaccinated individuals.

May 17 - May 19

- **All mask requirements for indoors classrooms and common spaces will continue as we consider available options to respond to the recent IDPH guidance**
- **Any changes to indoor masking protocols in alignment with this guidance will be announced no later than May 20 and will take effect no earlier than May 20 and no later than May 24**

June 5, 2021 and beyond (subject to change based on updated guidance and local conditions)

- In response to the May 17 guidance, face coverings will be optional (by individual choice) at College Community Schools for students and visitors
- All CCSD staff will be required to wear face coverings (mask or shield) when interacting with students or the public through at least June 30, regardless of vaccination status, if not interacting with the public, staff are encouraged to follow latest CDC guidance on masking for vaccinated individuals.
- Visitors will be allowed on campus during work hours