



(sent June 10, 2021)

Summer School Families,

We wanted to take a moment to reach out and provide you with an update, as we are now in the middle portion of our summer school session.

We have remained in close contact with the Clay County Public Health Center, other health officials, and neighboring school districts since receiving notice that the county's emergency order had been lifted last month. Earlier today, the Clay County Public Health Center released updated school guidance regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies. To view this updated guidance, [click here](#). Following this guidance, **Liberty Public Schools will no longer require the use of face coverings in our District facilities, effective Monday, June 14, 2021.**

Below, are a few important reminders to take note of related to this announcement:

- According to the most recent guidance from the Clay County Public Health Center (CCPHC), evaluation of in-school transmission data collected in partnership with Clay County public school districts, widespread availability of the COVID-19 vaccine, expanded age eligibility of COVID-19 vaccination for adolescents, and low case rates indicate that students are at very low risk for COVID-19. **Therefore, CCPHC recommends optional masking for students and vaccinated adults. Unvaccinated faculty, staff, and visitors should still wear a mask.**
- The CCPHC now supports schools who adopt the CDC's option of ending quarantine after day 7 for unvaccinated individuals, provided the exposed individual remains asymptomatic and has a negative PCR or NAAT test on or after day 5. LPS will follow this option provided by the CDC.
- The [federal mandate](#) requiring the wearing of masks on all public transportation is still in effect. Accordingly, since our school busses are considered public transportation, **all staff and students will be required to wear a mask while on LPS busses as long as this mandate remains in place.**
- Following the most recent guidance provided by the CCPHC, LPS will continue to socially distance our staff and students as much as possible while at school, while adhering to health official guidance. We also have significantly upgraded our ventilation systems since the start of the pandemic, with HEPA filters installed in each of our classrooms throughout the district.

Since we anticipate that some of our staff and students will continue wearing masks, it is our expectation that everyone is treated with respect, regardless of the personal decision made by our staff and families. As evidenced by our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#), transmission rates in LPS have greatly decreased in recent weeks. In the event we would see any upticks in positive cases this summer in our District and community, we would re-evaluate our health and safety protocols, as necessary.

We thank you for your continued patience, grace, and flexibility as we have worked through this entire school year. We cannot thank our entire team enough who have worked hard to ensure that we were able to complete this school year without any major disruptions. The Return to Learn plans in place, including mitigation strategies, were effective and we appreciate everyone's support in making this possible. We look forward to a successful final few weeks of our summer school session, and will continue to be committed to providing you with any additional updates, as necessary. We will also plan to share with all LPS families later this summer any updates regarding the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

Thank you for your attention, and have a great rest of the week!

Office of Communications
Liberty Public Schools