



TO: ISAAC Families and Staff
FROM: Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Executive Director
DATE: July 26, 2021
SUBJECT: Board Mandates the Use of Face Masks to be Worn by Students and Staff

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform all ISAAC stakeholders about the decision made by the Board of Directors regarding the mandated use of face coverings for all students and staff. This policy will be in place for the start of the 2021-2022 school year and continue based upon the feedback and recommendations from ISAAC's chief medical advisor and other health professionals and stakeholders.

Last week, the ISAAC Board of Directors reviewed and discussed the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), our chief medical advisor, as well as the quantitative and qualitative data from the State Department of Education (SDE), Department of Public Health (DPH), and Ledge Light Health District (LLHD). Based on the review of the aforementioned data and due to the large number of students who are under the minimum age for vaccination, the Board along with myself believes it is in the best interest of all students and staff to continue with the use of face coverings for the start of the school year. The mask coverings policy will continue with the same provisions as last school year where the wearing of face coverings must exist for all students while in the school building. In addition, all staff are mandated to wear a face covering while in the presence of students. These mandates are in place regardless of a person's vaccination status.

It is important to remember that although extremely important, face coverings are just one part of the system of procedures that are in place to safeguard the health and safety of our students, teachers, and school staff during this pandemic. The mandate of face masks along with the 3 feet of physical distance in all classrooms, 6 ft by 9 ft of mandated distance in all vocal and instrumental music classes, strategic cleaning schedules, enhancements in our ventilation system, the continued expansion of our nursing and maintenance staff, and the use of cohorting to the best measures possible, are all layers of mitigation strategies necessary to help support the health and safety of all who work, learn, and grow at ISAAC.

Although this policy mandates the use of face coverings for all students and staff regardless of their vaccination status, we continue to promote the vaccination of all students and staff as the '#1 prevention strategy' along with the added advantage of remaining in school through any contact tracing as long as there are no symptoms exhibited by the individual(s). We are currently planning another vaccination clinic to be held at ISAAC sometime in August 2021.

In conclusion, I want to applaud the collective efforts and unwavering commitment towards ensuring the safety of our students and each other throughout the start of a new, in-person school year at ISAAC. I am confident that this upcoming school year will be an absolute success because of the collective efforts and commitment in living the ISAAC Core Values and Beliefs by ensuring a safe and nurturing middle school where all students can succeed.