



MAPLETON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 32

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Jodi O'Mara, Superintendent

December 9, 2021

Dear Mapleton Families,

I wanted to share some important information from Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE).

First, OHA has revised OAR 333-019-1025 and will maintain a statewide requirement for mask use in indoor settings. However, it removes the requirement for everyone age five (5) or older to wear a face covering outdoors where people from separate households gather. Revisions to OAR 333-019-1015 remove the outdoor face covering requirement for K-12 settings.

This means that it will no longer be required for student(s) and staff to remain masked while outdoors, unless the individual chooses to remain masked. Once student(s) and staff return to the indoor setting, they will need to follow the indoor requirements and be masked, unless actively eating & drinking, or engaged in athletics. This takes effect immediately.

Please note that masks are still required in all indoor areas for all K-12 school settings. This includes during all extra-curricular events. *Athletes and referees do not have to wear a mask while actively engaged in a sport.*

Second, OHA has developed a test to stay protocol that allows unvaccinated students to continue to participate in in-person instruction in Oregon's K-12 schools during their quarantine period. The risk of transmission is minimized in school settings because the required testing is combined with several layers of mitigation including universal masking indoors, physical distancing, cohorting, ventilation and increased sanitation.

- Test to stay is available only for unvaccinated, asymptomatic students who were exposed to a close contact within the school day setting. Exposures are reviewed for proximity and duration of exposure.
- Test to stay requires unvaccinated students to be tested twice during the 7 days following exposure. First, as soon as the exposure has been identified, with a second test occurring between days 5-7 following the exposure.
- Test to stay is a form of modified quarantine, which allows students to attend school during their 7-day quarantine period. However, students participating in test to stay are expected to maintain quarantine outside of classroom settings (when at home).

- Students participating in test to stay may participate in school-related extracurricular activities during their 7-day quarantine period but must wear a face covering at all times during these activities.
- The CDC considers test to stay a [promising practice](#) for minimizing quarantine and maximizing school days in school.

Note: Test to stay may not be used following extracurricular exposures because masking in these settings is optional and the risk of transmission within the cohort is greater. Similarly, test to stay may not be used following community or in-home exposures.

The test to stay protocol is optional and is offered at no cost to students and families. Unvaccinated students have the option of following LPHA recommendation for length of quarantine if they do not consent to participate in test to stay. Those of you that wish to participate in the test to stay, parents must fill out and return a copy of Parental [consent](#) for testing.

Implementing the test to stay protocol is an exciting step in keeping all of our students learning in-person.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this information.

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