
[4j_priority_mail] Update on face mask rules for staff

From : Cydney Vandercar <vandercar_c@4j.lane.edu> Fri, Aug 06, 2021 04:14 PM
Sender : 4j_priority_mail <4j_priority_mail-bounces@4j.lane.edu>
Subject : [4j_priority_mail] Update on face mask rules for staff
To : 4J Staff <4j_priority_mail@4j.lane.edu>

Team,

The State of Oregon this week followed up with the Oregon Health Authority's anticipated new statewide rule ([OAR 333-019-1015](#)) and updated the ODE [Resiliency Framework for 2021-22](#), requiring face coverings in all indoor school settings for everybody two years and older. The aim is to help slow the sharply increased spread of COVID-19 including the highly transmissible delta variant, and to help keep students in school rather than out for quarantine.

The actual change this rule requires for our practices in 4J is small but important:

In school buildings, during the school day, all staff must wear face masks at all times, even if students are not nearby. "School day" includes the student supervision time when many students are in the building shortly before and after instruction hours, after buses drop off in the morning and before buses leave in the afternoon. The exceptions are brief mask removal while actively eating or drinking not in the presence of students, and when alone in an office or other room completely enclosed by full walls and with the door closed.

At this time, we will continue with our other established protocols for face masks outside the school day and outside of schools.

- Outdoors, staff and students are *not* required to wear face masks.
- Indoors, students *are* required to wear face masks. There are brief exceptions for actively eating or drinking, or playing wind instruments.
- In schools, during the school day, staff are required to wear face masks. This also applies to off-campus indoor educational activities such as field trips (*with [approval process](#)*).
- In schools, outside the school day, if students are present, staff are required to wear face masks.
- In schools, outside the school day, if students are not present, staff who have been verified by 4J Health Services to be fully vaccinated may remove face masks.
- In non-school facilities, if students are not present, staff who have been verified by 4J Health Services to be fully vaccinated may remove face masks.
- Staff and students may still choose to wear face coverings in situations where they are not required.

At this time, we will also continue the specific exception for high school sports: Student athletes and coaches who have been verified by 4J Health Services to be fully vaccinated

may remove face coverings indoors while engaged in athletic activities outside the school day.

We urge you to continue physical distancing, including between vaccinated adults and including when masks are worn. A face covering is not a substitute for distancing. Public health authorities including the CDC and OHA also recommend wearing masks in indoor public places.

The state rule change is in effect immediately, and it is important for all staff to understand the change and make adjustments to your practices if needed. Please understand that the rules may and will change again in the future, in response to changing pandemic conditions.

Thank you for your flexibility, your attention and adherence to changing protocols over time, and your grace and patience with yourselves and each other.

Be well,
Cydney

Cydney Vandercar
Interim Superintendent
Eugene School District 4J

From: "Cydney Vandercar" <vandercar_c@4j.lane.edu>
To: "4J Staff" <4j_priority_mail@4j.lane.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 30, 2021 3:01:48 PM
Subject: [4j_priority_mail] State rule coming for face masks in schools

Team,

You've likely heard the news that Oregon will return to *requiring* face coverings indoors for everyone in K–12 schools, to help slow the sharply increased spread of COVID-19 including the highly transmissible delta variant, and to help keep students in school rather than out for quarantine (see below for more information). Previously the state had shifted to strongly advising, not mandating, that school districts should require face masks at least for unvaccinated individuals.

While the governor has [announced](#) the coming change, we do not know the details of the new rule yet. We expect to receive more information in the coming days, including when this statewide rule will go into effect and whether it will apply to staff when students are not present.

We will share an update with staff when more information is available.

In the meantime, we will continue with our currently established face mask protocols:

- Outdoors, staff and students are *not* required to wear face coverings.
- Indoors, students are required to wear face coverings.

- Indoors, when students are present, staff are required to wear face coverings.
- Indoors, when students are *not* present, staff who are fully vaccinated and [verified](#) by 4J Health Services may remove face coverings if they choose.
- Sports exception: High school athletes and coaches who have been verified by 4J Health Services to be fully vaccinated may remove face coverings indoors while engaged in athletic activities.

Staff and students may still choose to wear masks in situations where they are not required. Public health authorities ([CDC](#), [OHA](#)) do currently [recommend](#) that in areas with [substantial or high transmission](#), which includes Lane County and nearly all of Oregon at this time, everyone (including those who are fully vaccinated) should wear face masks indoors in public.

Thank you. The frequently changing rules in response to changing pandemic conditions can be confusing, frustrating and tiring. What I know is that we are all in this together. We are all here to serve and support our students, families and community—including each other—and together we will do everything we need to safely get kids back to school and keep them in school as much as possible for the in-person learning and support they need this year.

Cydney

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Interim Superintendent
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