

**UPPER ARLINGTON CITY SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
August 10, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Board remains committed to considering the guidance from federal, state, and local health experts as well as the Superintendent's Medical Advisory Team as it relates to COVID-19 in order to maintain the most appropriate mitigation strategies for the safety of students, staff, and the school district community to provide our students a safe face-to-face classroom learning experience for the 2021-2022 school year;

WHEREAS, on May 28, 2021 the Board suspended its face mask policy following an encouraging decrease in COVID-19 community spread and notice from both the Ohio Department of Health and Franklin County Public Health that the face mask mandate in the school setting was rescinded, effective June 2, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Board's May 28, 2021 resolution declared that the Board continued to believe that facial coverings offer protections to individuals and that the voluntary wearing of facial coverings in the school setting remained recommended;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Franklin County Public Health and Columbus Public Health Departments have recommended universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status;

WHEREAS, the CDC has ordered that passengers and drivers must wear a mask while on school buses, subject to the exclusions and exemptions in its January 29, 2021 Order;

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Health strongly recommends that those who are unvaccinated wear masks while in school;

WHEREAS, wearing masks has been proven to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets that are created when people talk, laugh, sing, cough and sneeze and the medical experts from the authorities referenced above have advised that wearing masks combined with distancing is effective in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in schools;

WHEREAS, the highly transmissible Delta variant has become dominant in Ohio and presents an increased risk of severe illness or death to those who are unvaccinated;

WHEREAS, vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic and eligibility currently is limited to individuals 12 years and older;

WHEREAS, ensuring students have access to in-person learning is a key priority of the Board and masks are an important prevention strategy to reduce the spread of illness and help limit the instances of isolation and quarantine;

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.67 authorizes boards of education to make and enforce such rules to prevent the spread of communicable diseases among the students attending or eligible to attend the schools if the district, as in its opinion the safety and interest of the public require;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Upper Arlington City School District Board of Education will require:

- (1) Universal indoor masking during the school day for students in preschool through grade eight and the teachers, staff and visitors in those schools as well as the District's School-Age Child Care program (SACC), regardless of vaccination status.
- (2) The district will make exceptions for the following: (1) individuals with disabilities who cannot wear a mask or cannot safely wear a mask for reasons related to the disability; (2) when wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety or job duty; (3) when mask wearing is not appropriate in the school setting, such as when actively eating or drinking or when instruction so requires (e.g., band, choir); and (4) when otherwise required under the law, health orders, or regulations.
- (3) Passengers and drivers on all school transportation shall wear masks when required by applicable laws, health orders, and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly recommends that all others not required to wear a mask under this Resolution wear a mask when indoors on school property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the use of facial coverings shall continue to be recommended and optional on a voluntary basis in grades 9-12 and that no person in that setting shall be subject to discipline, harassment, or other mistreatment for choosing to voluntarily wear or not wear a facial covering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board directs the Superintendent to implement the actions set forth in this Resolution, to maximize outdoor time for the purpose of mask breaks and socialization, to provide clear direction to the staff on appropriate implementation, and to update the community regarding the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board will continue to monitor preschool through grade 12 COVID-19 data in the community and consider state and local guidance as well as the advice of medical professionals as it evaluates preschool through grade 12 COVID-19 mitigation strategies for the 2021-2022 school year.