



1620 Applegate Street
Philomath, Oregon 97370
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March 3, 2022

TO: Students and Families of the Philomath School District
FROM: Susan Halliday, Superintendent

Re: Mask Mandate – Optional Face Covering Beginning March 12, 2022

On March 13, 2020—almost two years ago—our schools were closed as we entered the unknown of COVID-19. Through this time of trial and, sometimes, error, we have continued to learn. We have greatly appreciated your patience during these years. It has been imperative to listen to and line up all information prior to announcing decisions and any possible implications.

Thank you to those of you who provided input related to this decision. I appreciate the thoughtfully prepared comments that came from both parents and students.

In alignment with recommendations from the Benton County Health Department, the Oregon Health Authority, and the Oregon Department of Education, effective March 12, 2022, face coverings will be optional in the Philomath School District. This will include travel on school buses.

The District will continue to monitor data in collaboration with the aforementioned partners. From the beginning, we have followed the requirements set forth by the Benton County Health Department. We will continue to follow their recommendations as they have this authority.

For those individuals choosing to continue wearing face coverings, we will continue to have masks available in each school and district location. We support and respect the individual decisions of all students, families, and staff as we make this change.

We felt it most important to get this initial message out to inform families. Additional information will be shared in the coming days, including answers to commonly asked questions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions.

Continuing to learn together-

Susan