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November 5, 2021

Dear Bulldog Families,

I am writing to provide you with an important update related to protective facial coverings. This communication is to inform you that *protective facial coverings will continue to be optional*. As a reminder, facial coverings will still be required at all times while riding the school bus as this continues to be required by federal law.

The data and sources that were used to aid in this decision are located in the table below. The data obtained originates from a few different sources. Data are not reported in real time as there is always a lag between what actually exists and what has been reported.

The COVID-19 metrics that I have been tracking have been on the decline and they show a trend of evidence that demonstrates spread is on the decline. The number of new cases, the PCR positivity rate, hospital admissions and so on, led me to make this decision. As I've indicated in the past, I recognize that some may like this decision and others may not. I can assure you it was a difficult one, and one that will continue to be reassessed every Friday until such time that we have a very stable set of low metrics.

Data Points	Previous Data Point (10/29/21)	Most Current Data Point as of 11/5/21*
New Cases in CuyCo (past 2 weeks)*	2,125	2,223 (+)
New Cases in 44138 (past 2 weeks)*	69	68 (-)
Case Rate in CuyCo*	172.05	179.99 (+)
Case Rate in 44138*	308.3	303.9 (-)
PCR % in CuyCo*	7.84%	8.33% (+)

^{*}These numbers represent a snapshot and are the most current numbers available on the date of consideration (in this case, 11/5/21).

To conclude, the decision to continue with optional protective facial coverings was influenced by two factors: (1) the change in the quarantine guidelines provided by the State Department of Health which improve our ability to keep students and staff in school, and 2) negligible increases and decreases of the metrics we have been tracking. We will re-evaluate the implementation of the facial covering policy again

on Friday, November 12, 2021 and will continue to do so until the data becomes stable. I do want to state that I am a little concerned about the case rate demonstrated in our zip code compared to the county average. That being said, the number of student and staff cases and exclusions over the past week continues to remain low.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

James L. Lloyd

Jim Lloyd, Ed.D. Superintendent