

From: Lutz Prep Administration
Sent: Sunday, August 8, 2021 10:44 AM
To: Lutz Prep Administration <administration@lutzprep.org>
Subject: Lutz Preparatory School: Important Face Covering Update

Dear Lutz Prep Parents and Guardians,

Our teachers, staff, and administrative team are excited to welcome students back for the 2021-22 school year. We understand many of our parents remain concerned as COVID-19 continues to spread in our community, but please know that our leadership team has been working tirelessly to ensure we are prepared to provide proper health and safety protocols when students and staff return.

On Friday, the Florida Department of Health adopted a new [Emergency Rule, 64DER-21-12](#), which states "Students may wear masks or facial coverings as a mitigation measure; however, the school must allow for a parent or legal guardian to opt-out the student from wearing a face covering or mask."

With that said, we are announcing today that Lutz Prep will require face coverings but will allow parents or guardians to opt their child out from wearing a face covering or mask. This requirement will continue until at least September 3rd. We will continue to work with our health partners at Tampa General Hospital and the Department of Health-Hillsborough to monitor conditions in our community at that time to make further decisions.

While the outcome may be the same whether we make face coverings optional or required with an opt-out, we believe this decision continues to emphasize that Lutz Prep makes safety and wellness a top priority. We want to ensure we are doing all we can to help community wide efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. By taking this position today, we hope this provides our families the next few days to talk with their children before the start of school on Tuesday, August 10.

Parents will be expected to have conversations with their children so that students will follow through with their parents' expectations regarding wearing masks while at school.

If you wish to opt-out your child, please fill out the **Lutz Prep 2021-22 Opt Out Form** through this link: <https://forms.gle/iQxLcNAVL6L1PGAL8>.

The only parents who should fill out the form are those who do NOT want their child to wear a mask. Parents must fill out a form for each child.

We are excited for the new school year, and we thank you for trusting and partnering with Lutz Prep with your child's education.

Respectfully,

LP Admin Team