

From: Lutz Prep Administration <administration@lutzprep.org>

Sent: Tuesday, August 24, 2021 2:11 PM

To: Lutz Prep Administration <administration@lutzprep.org>

Subject: Lutz Preparatory School: Important Information for Families - Board of Directors Emergency Meeting Mask Mandate

Dear LP Community,

At an Emergency School Board meeting held August 23, 2021, the Lutz Prep Board of Directors approved a motion to adopt Hillsborough County Public School district's requirement of mandatory face coverings for all students and staff through Friday, September 17, 2021.

To help understand the board's decision and what it means for our families, please review additional information below that will be updated as guidance from local, state, and federal agencies becomes available.

1. Why is Lutz Prep requiring a face covering at this time?

Lutz Prep began the school year by mandating masks with a parental opt out in accordance with **Emergency Rule 64DER21-12 titled Protocols for Controlling COVID-19 in School Settings**. However, due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and quarantines in our school and increasing positivity in Hillsborough County, on August 23rd at a Special Called Board Meeting, the Board of Directors voted to mandate masks for all students and staff through Friday, September 17, 2021.

2. What happens after the mask mandate ends?

At the end of the mandate, the LP Board of Directors will reassess the COVID-19 cases and quarantines in our school and through guidance with our public health partners, determine whether the mask mandate should be extended or simply default back to the mandatory mask requirement with parental opt out.

3. Why is there no parental opt out form?

Due to the increasing number of COVID-19 cases and quarantines in our school and increasing positivity in Hillsborough County, and in order to try and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the LP Board of Directors voted to eliminate the parental opt out form. Our school will allow for a **medical exemption opt out*** from a licensed physician for verification purposes.

***In order to claim a medical exemption to the face mask covering mandate, Lutz Prep will require medical documentation from a licensed physician that the student has a medical, physical, or psychological condition that prevents the student from being able to safely wear a face mask.**

4. Will employees be required to wear a face covering/mask?

Under the mask mandate, all employees are required to wear a face covering/mask when indoors.

5. If a student or employee is fully vaccinated, do they still need to wear a face covering?

The CDC indicates/advises fully vaccinated people can still be carriers of COVID-19 and can still contract the virus, despite the symptoms typically being less severe than those of an unvaccinated person. Our school will still require all vaccinated students and employees to wear a mask for the mandated days.

6. What are the quarantine procedures for a student with a confirmed case of COVID-19?

Per the Florida Department of Health, the confirmed positive student will be required to isolate as per below: Until the student receives a negative diagnostic COVID-19 PCR test and is asymptomatic;

OR

10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms or positive test result (if asymptomatic), the student has had no fever for 24 hours and the student's other symptoms are improving;

OR

The student receives written permission to return to school from a licensed medical professional.

7. What are the quarantine procedures for a student who came in close contact of a positive COVID-19 case?

Per the Florida Department of Health, the close contact of a confirmed positive case will be required to quarantine for the length noted below:

Students will be quarantined for 7 days from the last date of contact with the confirmed positive case. As long as they remain symptom free, they can return to school on day 8. Students who are in the same household of a confirmed positive case may result in extended quarantine dates based on infectious period (school will provide clarification and guidance in these instances);

OR

An individual can end quarantine with official proof of a negative PCR test performed on day 5 of quarantine, provided no symptoms have appeared during daily monitoring;

OR

Students who are vaccinated or who have tested positive in the last 90 days do not need to quarantine; **Contact school administration for verification process that a quarantine is not necessary.*

OR

Students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student where both students were wearing face coverings will be excluded from quarantine.