

August 24, 2021

Dear KISD Parents,

We are excited to welcome our Lions, Leopards and Cubs back for the 2021-2022 school year! So far we are off to a great start, and with your help, we can keep the momentum going to ensure we provide a safe and healthy environment for students and staff. The following information is a synopsis of our back to school plan for health and safety based on the latest information we have from the Texas Education Agency and last night's KISD Board of Trustees meeting:

FACE COVERINGS/MASKS

The following text (in blue) is guidance that KISD utilized last year and will utilize once again as a guide for face coverings/masks.

The District will rely on COVID-19 data from KISD, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and Karnes County Public Health to determine the disease activity level and utilize the appropriate protective measures for students and staff.

As of today, August 24, 2021 all students and staff are REQUIRED to wear face coverings/masks while indoors at all KISD facilities. This decision was made by our Board of Trustees in a proactive approach to keep our students and staff healthy and safe. We will review all available data on a monthly basis and make changes to this requirement as needed.

Face coverings include cloth masks, gaiters, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth. Masks must be appropriate and approved by campus administration.

Students and staff are encouraged to provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE will be provided as needed.

Adults:

- All adults are REQUIRED to wear masks when in the buildings, classrooms, and/or offices with others.
- Exceptions to this requirement include lunch breaks with appropriate social distancing.
- Classroom teachers may use face shields and social distancing when providing direct instruction in the classroom.



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- All visitors who enter the building will be required to wear a face covering.

Students:

- All students (Pk-12) are **REQUIRED** to wear masks during the following times:
 - riding the bus,
 - entering school during arrival
 - leaving the school during dismissal,
 - when transitioning in the hallways (going to library, restroom, office or any other location other than the classroom they came from).
- Students in grades PK - 1 will only be required to wear masks during times listed above and in special circumstances as designated by teacher/principal. Masks are optional in the classroom if students are not working in groups.
- Students grades 2 - 12 will wear masks/face shields while in the school building. Exceptions to the mask requirement include during meals and other activities where students are able to sit apart.
- Sharing of masks is extremely risky and discouraged.
- Individual needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.
- Requests for accommodations should be submitted to campus administration.

New this year: Students who are not able to mask may be asked to sit/work socially distanced.

Thank you for trusting us to continue to keep your children healthy and safe while in our care. Our intent in requiring masks is to be proactive in fighting this virus that has affected our students and staff. We will continue to do what we can to make sure we all stay #KenedyStrong!

Respectfully,



Dr. Diana Barrera Ugarte
Superintendent of Schools

