



## COVID Mask Use Guidelines for Colorado SKIES Academy August 14, 2021

The Board of Directors and administration at CSA has strived to find a balance between effective learning, individual choice, and student safety where COVID protocols are concerned. We are also committed to keeping students in the classroom by whatever means necessary. On August 13th the Cherry Creek School District (CCSD) Superintendent issued a District-wide mandate that all students PreK through 6th grade, as well as any staff who interact with them must wear masks.

This mandate was issued after consultation with Dr. John Douglas, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department (TCHD) which CSA also falls under. Dr. Douglas noted that conditions are not safe for unvaccinated children, particularly those under 12 years of age. In consultation with Superintendent Smith, Dr. Douglas shared these key points:

- Transmission of COVID-19, exacerbated by the more transmissible Delta Variant, is highly likely in the school setting without high levels of mask wearing.
- Transmission in this setting would pose considerable risk, including:
  - Risk to the health of children, especially those not yet eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
  - Risk of transmission to family and friends outside of the school setting, especially for those at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.
  - Risk of interference with in-person learning due to isolation of positive cases and quarantine of children exposed in outbreak situations. This is particularly important toward our shared goal of maintaining a high-level of in-person learning with its positive impact on education, mental health, and social-emotional development of our children.

The letter between TCHD and CCSD is also available at this link:

[https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/cms/lib/CO50000184/Centricity/Domain/4/CCSD\\_Masks%20in%20Schools\\_Tri\\_County\\_letter.pdf](https://www.cherrycreekschools.org/cms/lib/CO50000184/Centricity/Domain/4/CCSD_Masks%20in%20Schools_Tri_County_letter.pdf)

In addition to the District mandate, we believe a public health order requiring masks issued by TCHD is probable in the imminent future. **Based on these orders and recommendations and due to the school's age makeup, open instructional nature, and low student-wide vaccination rates that have been voluntarily shared by parents, the CSA Board of Directors will require masks for ALL learners,**

**staff, and visitors until further notice.** The Board and administration will routinely re-evaluate this policy and return to a family-choice mask guideline once conditions permit.

CSA will also continue to follow our other disease control protocols as determined by the School Director, and in consultation with our health representatives. Please continue to monitor email communications sent by CSA such as the Monday Message to understand how these will affect your learner as they may change throughout the school year.

We sincerely thank you for being a part of the CSA community, and for your cooperation as we navigate another school year under COVID. None of us wish to enforce these protocols any longer than necessary, and look forward to putting this behind us as soon as possible.