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Mt. Pleasant School District Board of Trustees
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Dr. Elida MacArthur, Superintendent

Dear Mt. Pleasant Community,

The purpose of this communication is to provide an important update about our school district's masks policy and COVID-19 safety protocols. Given the [recent announcement from Governor Newsom](#) regarding updates to masking in K-12 schools:

The statewide indoor mask mandate for schools will expire at the end of Friday, March 11. Beginning Monday, March 14, the [California Department of Public Health](#) strongly recommends the wearing of masks on school campuses. However, as indicated by the CDPH, local health jurisdictions and entities may continue to implement additional requirements that go beyond this statewide guidance based on local circumstances.

Our decision to keep our schools open and our students, staff, and community safe have been based on implementing the safety protocols and guidance from state and local health agencies while considering our local conditions. As of March 3, 2022, at MPESD, **31.8% of parents/caregivers had submitted proof of vaccinations** to the schools, while the percentage of students registered for **weekly COVID testing district-wide is 67%**.

Since vaccination, testing, and masking are an effective means of self-protection, **MPESD will continue to require staff, students and parents/caregivers, and individuals at all our sites, buildings, and classrooms to wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status after March 11.** *However, after March 11, the district will no longer require outdoor masking but will continue to strongly recommend outdoor masking for students and staff.*

The district will revisit the indoor masking requirement after Spring Break or sooner and will lift this requirement if:

- Conditions remain the same
- There are no state or county orders for mandatory masking
- The district's vaccination rate for students is at least 56%, or
- At least 70% of the students are registered for weekly testing

Our number one priority remains the health and safety of our students, staff, and families/Caregivers. A research study released March 9 finds that:

[Mask requirements still offer one of the strongest tools to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in schools, say new studies. The findings come from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and from a nationwide study published this morning in the journal *Pediatrics*.](#)

Indoor masking has been a proven mitigation strategy. This change does not prevent anyone from continuing to wear their mask outdoors as a safety measure beyond March 11th.

We are continuing the prevention strategies we are all familiar with, such as monitoring symptoms of illness, vaccination, and testing, with a great deal of focus on personal responsibility and respect. In addition, students and staff should continue to remain home when sick.

We are asking for community support to help us get through this next stage of learning how to live alongside COVID-19. Thank you for your collaboration in the efforts to keep our community safe.

Best regards to all of you,

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