



# NEWS

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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**For Immediate Release**

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## **Board Approves Changes to the District’s State-Required Health and Safety Plan**

***Provides for Mask Optional Usage during Low COVID-19 Community Level***

PITTSBURGH PA April 27, 2022 – This evening the Board of Directors for the Pittsburgh Public Schools approved changes to the District’s state-required Health and Safety Plan. Communications to staff and families, sharing the changes to the Health and Safety Plan, the COVID-19 Decision Tree and effective date will be shared this week. Pittsburgh Public Schools will utilize the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s COVID-19 community level and indicators to provide for Mask Optional Usage for all staff, students, and visitors during Low COVID-19 Community Level. Masks will remain required inside District facilities during Medium and High COVID-19 Community Levels. Students and staff are welcome to continue wearing masks indoors at any time.

Additional changes to the plan include updates to the District’s Decision Tree, which will decrease the number of days of isolation from 10 days to at least a full five (5) days until symptoms improve and no fever is present for at least 24 hours, without fever-reducing medication. Students and staff who end isolation may return to school with the strict use of a well-fitting mask on days 6-10. It is preferred that individuals do rapid antigen testing upon return on day 6, if possible, especially if they cannot wear a well-fitted mask. Today’s approval additionally allows for the reopening of facility permitting to community members and providers during low and medium COVID-19 community levels.

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