Dear Pleasant Hill School District (PHSD) Community and Staff:

As you may be aware, PHSD is currently conducting a survey to gather your opinion about face coverings for the start of the 2021-22 school year.

PHSD will continue to follow the mandates set forth by Governor Brown, Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and Lane Public Health Authority. Since we are being issued specific guidance on this issue that overrides our local control, we have suspended the survey.

Please see the attached News Release dated July 29, 2021 that stipulates that face coverings will be required indoors in schools at this time.

NEWS RELEASE

July 29, 2021

Media Contact:
Charles Boyle, 503-931-7773

Governor Kate Brown Directs State Agencies to Align K-12 Mask Guidance with CDC Recommendations to Prevent Disruptions to Return to In-Person Instruction

(Salem, OR) — Governor Kate Brown today directed the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Education to create a rule to require masks indoors for K-12 schools statewide for the 2021-22 school year, in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's recently updated guidance, and based on the latest science on the spread of the Delta variant.

"The science and data are clear: the Delta variant is in our communities, and it is more contagious," said Governor Brown. "My priority is to ensure our kids are able to safely return to full-time in-person learning this fall, five days per week and with minimal disruptions. With many children still ineligible to be vaccinated, masks are an effective way to help keep our kids safe in the classroom; the learning environment we know serves them best.

"In the meantime, as we ask Oregonians statewide to mask up in public indoor spaces, we will continue working hard to vaccinate more people so we can finally beat this virus once and for all. Vaccines remain the most effective and best way to protect ourselves and our families."

From the ODE

Today Governor Brown directed the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to **create a rule requiring face coverings in all indoor school settings, both public and private, for all individuals two years and older, including all students, staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors**. This decision is in response to the sharp

uptick in the spread of COVID-19 in Oregon and the emergence of the highly transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19.

Maintaining Continuity of Learning By Maintaining Health And Safety

Universal and correct use of face coverings keeps kids learning in person, which we all agree is best for students. Two of the most important tools the state has to control COVID-19 are vaccination and face covering. However, currently children under the age of 12 are not eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines authorized for emergency use. In order to protect students under age 12, individuals who are not vaccinated, and those with underlying health conditions that make them more susceptible to complications from COVID-19, as well as to minimize the disruption of student education in schools because of exposure to a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19, requiring universal use of face coverings inside schools is necessary.

The rule will include provisions for:

- Eating or drinking.
- Playing a musical instrument that requires using the mouth.
- Swimming or other water sports.
- Engaging in a sport in which wearing a mask could be a strangulation hazard such as gymnastics or wrestling.

- Nothing in the rule is intended to prohibit a school from complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Rehabilitation Act, or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- A school that violates the rule will be subject to civil penalties.

As the superintendent for Pleasant Hill, I will keep you apprised to the best of my ability with our goal to bring individuals back on campus as safely as possible, as soon as possible.

Respectfully:
S.A. Linenberger
Superintendent
Pleasant Hill School District