

Clarkson Public Schools
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September 23, 2020

Dear Clarkson Patriot Families,

As a result of Governor Rickett's newly released Directive Health Measure (DHM), which is aimed at achieving consistency between all health districts statewide, Clarkson Public Schools will be switching from recommended masks to masks being required for visitors and K-12 students and staff in our building. If needed, masks will be provided for students and visitors.

Main Points in the new DHM:

- 1) If everyone is wearing a mask, only the positive person has to quarantine.
- 2) If a positive person is not masked, everyone has to quarantine.
- 3) If a positive person is masked and others aren't, both positive and unmasked must quarantine.

In making the change we looked at two main facts, one being Governor Rickett's new DHM and the second being the increasing number of cases across our area which has caused schools to either close down for a period of time or postpone/cancel student activities due to COVID cases.

When we started this school year we had three main goals. First, we want to keep all students in the building and avoid remote learning at all costs. Remote learning is tough on both students and teachers and this year it would be increasingly difficult, especially for our younger students, due to the fact that parents are now back in the workplace. Our second goal was to keep staff and students safe and healthy which we have been able to do so far this year. We will continue doing temperature checks and requiring students to regularly hand wash. We appreciate parent's help by keeping sick kids home and closely monitoring your child's health. Our third goal was to make sure our students are able to participate in activities during the school year. We have been successful so far but with the new DHM and what we are seeing happening in other school districts we need to move ahead with the change to mandatory masks to keep these three goals intact.

We will work with staff on getting opportunities during the day to make sure they spread out their classes in different areas in and around the school which would allow them to unmask for a period of time. Thank you for your cooperation!

Clarkson Public School Administration