



ORCHARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

HOME OF THE BRUINS | SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1856

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Dear Orchard School District Community,

Today Santa Clara County public health officials [announced](#) they are recommending mask-wearing indoors in public spaces for everyone, regardless of vaccination status, in an effort to curb the spread of COVID-19 and other highly transmissible variants in our community. In addition to vaccination, masking is our most effective strategy to protect ourselves and others against COVID-19 and other more transmissible variants.

As we prepare for the 2021-2022 school year, the latest [California Department of Public Health guidance](#) also states K-12 students and staff will be required to mask indoors. The recent increase in cases, which are attributed to more contagious variants, highlights the importance of wearing face coverings indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Universal masking reduces the frequency of required quarantine and minimizes the need for physical distancing, allotting more in-person instructional time for students. As was the case throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year, the latest CDPH guidance states students who have a medical or behavioral contraindication are exempted from this requirement.

If we receive new guidance or recommendations from public health officials, we will communicate it to our full community. Thank you for your continued efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Bowman

Superintendent

Orchard School District