August 16, 2021

Dear Jeffco Public Schools staff, families, students, and community members,

Today, Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) issued a Public Health Order (PHO) requiring masks be worn inside all schools and child care settings, PK-12 for all individuals age 2 and older regardless of vaccination status. Masks are required in any location that serves students age 2 and older (child care settings, public schools, charter schools, and private schools). We must follow this public health order beginning tomorrow, Tuesday, August 17. All Jeffco Public Schools students, staff, visitors, and volunteers must wear masks while indoors in our schools and district buildings.

Here is a copy of the Public Health Order released today from JCPH.

Other previously announced district COVID operations may be impacted by this public health order. We will be communicating any other changes to our operations (example: testing for athletics and activities participation and other required PHO protocols) within the next week.

**Important:** On Friday, August 13, we announced a district-run medical and religious exemption process. According to the PHO, medical exemptions are still allowed; however, JCPH will not allow for religious exemptions from wearing masks in school settings. Only those with a medical exemption will not be required to wear a mask.

We know this announcement is coming very late as we begin school tomorrow. Please understand we are sharing this change requiring everyone age 2 and older to wear masks in our schools and buildings as soon as we received the Public Health Order from JCPH.

The number one thing to know is that starting tomorrow, all students, staff, visitors, and volunteers must wear masks indoors at our schools regardless of vaccination status. There will be a supply of masks available at each school building for those who arrive without a mask.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back to our schools in the morning.

Jeffco Public Schools
#BetterTogether