

## Updated Mask & COVID Quarantine Policy

We just received notification that Jefferson County Public Health Department's (JCPH) county-wide mask order expires Friday, February 11 at 11:59 pm. This includes school (preschool-12th grade students) and child care settings.

### **What this means for Abiding Hope Preschool and Kindergarten:**

- Effective Monday, February 14, masks will be optional for students and staff.
- Masks are still highly encouraged for all persons
- Until JCPH announces that classrooms with young children who are not vaccinated no longer require quarantine after exposure the following conditions are applicable:
  - Children and staff who are fully vaccinated will not require a mask and will not need to quarantine after exposure unless they have symptoms –
    - If there is an exposure in the classroom fully vaccinated children may continue attending school even if they do not wear a mask, as long as they remain symptom free
  - Children who cannot be, or are not, vaccinated but continue to wear a mask will not be required to quarantine if there is an exposure in the classroom.
  - Children who cannot be, or are not, vaccinated and opt not to wear a mask will be required to quarantine 5 days (returning on day 6) if there is an exposure in the classroom.
- No proration of tuition will be given for days missed due to illness
- No make-up days are available for days missed due to illness or vacation

Over the past two years, Abiding Hope Preschool and Kindergarten has aligned health and safety decisions in schools on guidance from local public health. JCPH's decision to allow the mask mandate to expire is due to rapidly improving COVID-19 conditions, vaccine availability, as well as a wide range of effective prevention measures available to our schools and community — including the availability of high-quality masks for those who choose to wear one, rapid testing, good ventilation, and having people stay home when they are sick.

**Effective Monday, February 14, masks are no longer required, but highly encouraged in all classrooms.**

- Masks **continue to be required on district buses**, as required by federal law.

We recognize some staff and students may choose to continue wearing a mask while in school. As always, our school and classrooms will provide a safe and welcoming environment for all students and staff.

### **Layers of Prevention & Accommodations**

As a reminder, we have implemented multiple layered prevention strategies in our building. Additional strategies that will remain in place include, but are not limited to:

- Increased air ventilation and filtration
- Frequent hand washing and sanitizing
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces
- Reinforcing the importance of staying home when sick
- Communicating public health quarantine recommendations

The safety of all of our students and staff is our priority. Consistent with applicable law, accommodations are available for students and staff based on disability or medical condition.