



# KELSO SCHOOL DISTRICT

601 Crawford Street • Kelso, WA 98626 • 360.501.1900 • [kelso.wednet.edu](http://kelso.wednet.edu) • #WeAreKelso

February 17, 2022

Dear KSD Families,

Today, Governor Jay Inslee announced the statewide indoor mask requirement for Washington state, including in our K–12 schools, is scheduled to end on March 21, 2022. According to OSPI, this requirement will be lifted for all, regardless of vaccination status. Masks will still be required on school buses per a federal mandate that requires masks to be worn on all forms of public transportation.

**Until March 21, we will continue to follow the mask mandate that is currently in place.** Masks will continue to be provided for those who do not have them, and students who will not wear masks will be sent home. Kelso School District and our Board of Directors do not have local control over this matter. We are legally required to follow the Governor's directive, which currently requires masks in school buildings.

Once the statewide mask requirement lifts, masks will become optional for all in our school buildings. Students and staff will have the choice to wear a mask at school, with the expectation that others' choices will be respected. One should not make assumptions regarding someone's beliefs or health status. In order to maintain our inclusive learning environment where all are valued, this choice should not be a topic of conversation as we continue to be resolute about our commitment to excellence in student academic and social emotional learning.

We thank you for your continued flexibility as we navigate this pandemic together. We know you likely have many questions about this announcement, and we anticipate receiving additional information from public health officials in the coming weeks. We will continue communicating with you as we learn about changes.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to email me.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Tack, Superintendent  
Kelso School District  
[Marybeth.tack@kelsosd.org](mailto:Marybeth.tack@kelsosd.org)