



NISD

NORMANGEE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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3/9/2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

At the March 8th board meeting, the NISD Board of Trustees reviewed feedback and input from teachers, parents, and administrators regarding Governor Abbott's Executive Order (GA-34) and the potential effect on operating procedures at Normangee ISD. The Texas Education Agency has stated that regardless of GA-34, all previous requirements would remain in place, including the mask mandate for all students and staff, unless formal action was taken by the local board.

In deciding on Normangee ISD's operating procedures, specifically regarding the mask mandate for students and staff, the board reviewed data on positive case counts and close contacts in grade levels where masks are and are not mandatory. They also heard statements read from teachers and reviewed data from teacher and parent surveys. Other factors that were discussed were the district's new ability to offer free rapid tests on campus to students and staff, the vaccine opportunities now available to district staff, the recently reduced timelines for close contact quarantine, and our local data.

After reviewing the data and feedback, the board voted unanimously. Effective Wednesday, March 10th, students, staff, and parents have the opportunity to make the personal decision whether to continue to wear masks at school. Effectively making masks optional for all students, staff, and visitors during school and at UIL competitions or school-related activities that are hosted at NISD.

It is important for parents, students, and staff to understand that masks have been a critical component of keeping students and staff from being in close contact and requiring individuals to quarantine. If someone around you tests positive, the decision to not wear a mask does increase the possibility of being identified as close contact and requiring you to quarantine.

Though masks are no longer mandatory, Normangee ISD believes it is important to acknowledge the opportunity for everyone to respect others around them and their individual situation in which their decision to wear a mask provides them the highest level of comfort. Other procedures and practices remain in place and unchanged such as restricting visitors to campus when possible.

Thank you all for your continued support of our students and staff!

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