



August 27, 2021

Dear parents and guardians:

On August 19, 2021, the Timberlane Regional School Board voted to adopt the safety plan recommended by Administration and which follows the mask protocol decision matrix for employees, students and visitors developed by the NH DHHS and the NH Division of Public Health Services. These protocols apply to employees, students and visitors. The District implemented the plan on August 20, 2021. The guidance and the current Timberlane Return to School Plan can be found here: <http://www.timberlane.net/wp-content/uploads/Return-to-school-plan-UPDATE-8-24-21-1400.pdf>.

Students are expected to comply with the safety rules of the schools as established by the District's plan and wear a mask when dictated by the Covid metrics. Employees and parents will be informed of the masking status via electronic communication.

When masks are required, any student who comes to school without a mask will be provided with one before entering the school. If any student refuses to wear a mask or not comply with the District's plan, he/she/they will be sent home. Refusal to wear a mask and follow the District's plan will be addressed through the District's disciplinary policies as set forth in Policies JIC and JICD, which includes suspension from school. These can be found at: <https://public.timberlane.net/sau/trsb/Policies/Forms/AllItems.aspx>.

There is a process for requesting a medical exemption from wearing a mask. Any parent/guardian who believes that their child may be eligible for an exemption may contact the child's building Principal and provide the associated documentation from a physician. The request and documentation will then be reviewed to determine if the student has an actual disability warranting a mask exemption. The approval process follows specific guidelines and may require parents to provide additional medical documentation before a determination can be made. While the exemption request is in process, the student must continue to follow the mask protocols in effect.

Please know that we hear and understand the frustrations of parents on both sides of this issue. This is a very challenging time for everyone. Ultimately, the District has adopted a plan that it believes is in the best interest of the health and safety of all students and employees in the District, and the Administration and Staff are following that plan. If you have ongoing concerns about this plan, we encourage you to attend the School Board meeting scheduled for September 16th at 7:00pm to share your concerns. You may also submit a written complaint or concerns with the School Board in accordance with Policy KE.

Sincerely,

Brian Cochrane

Dr. Brian Cochrane