

# Hubbard Independent School District

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## Hubbard ISD to Continue Face-Covering Requirement

Last Thursday, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) held a statewide conference call to discuss the Governor's Executive Order GA-34. Following TEA's guidance, Hubbard ISD will continue its current practice of requiring face coverings for all students in grades 4 through 8, as well as all staff members, for the remainder of this school year.

The TEA guidance states, in part: "Schools must comply with the following requirements: Every student, teacher, or staff member shall wear a mask over the nose and mouth when inside a school building, school facility, facility used for school activities, or when in an outdoor space on school property..." This guidance also applies to any adult visitor on a campus or school facility for any event or activity. Hubbard ISD will continue its social distancing and cleaning procedures.

We all desire a return to normal, but the safety of our staff and students will remain the priority in our school district. Hubbard ISD has experienced a relatively low number of positive COVID-19 cases this year, and we believe this correlates to the safety procedures that have been in place for the entirety of the school year.

Additionally, the proper use of face coverings is a mitigating factor in determining the definition of "close contact" during contact tracing, per TEA guidelines. Therefore, it reduces the likelihood of having to quarantine large groups of students at one time. Hubbard ISD is striving to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff while also keeping our campuses open for the remainder of the year.

HISD is grateful that educators have now been included in the phased vaccine rollout. As vaccines continue to be widely distributed to educators and all citizens, district officials will assess and reevaluate the face-covering requirement this summer in preparation for next school year.

We want to thank all of our students, families, and staff for putting the health and safety of our school as a top priority during this unprecedented time. We are looking forward to finishing the school year on a positive note.

Sincerely,

Traci Drake, Superintendent

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**Traci Drake, Superintendent**