



5/19/21

Dear Bryan ISD Parents/Guardians,

You have probably heard that Governor Abbott issued an executive order removing face covering mandates in Texas effective June 4, 2021 for school districts. In light of this new order, Bryan ISD will discontinue requiring masks as of May 29, 2021. We will continue to require that masks be worn through the end of the last day of instruction on Friday, May 28, 2021. This decision was made due to the following two main reasons:

- While COVID-19 cases continue to drop, when there is a positive case, Bryan ISD is still required to contact trace to determine who must be quarantined. With graduation ceremonies for our high schools, pre-kindergarten and 4th grade promotion ceremonies, end of the year concerts and recitals, state testing, and the Bryan High School Softball team now playing in the Sweet 16 (Go Vikings), we do not want to risk having to quarantine students, a class or grade level, due to a positive case occurring and no ability to reduce the number needing quarantined due to face coverings not being worn. It is important that students do not miss out on these important events and the closure of the year.
- Teachers and staff agreed to work this school year with certain safety measures in place, including a requirement for face coverings, and removing that requirement with eight days to go is not respectful to these educators, some who feel safer with masks in place.

Knowing that all four graduation ceremonies are outdoors at Merrill Green Stadium, masks will be optional at each of the commencement ceremonies.

Beginning Saturday, May 29, masks will become optional for all of Bryan ISD, including for Summer School and Summer Power Camps. PPE, such as sneeze guards, hand sanitizer, etc., will continue to be available and we will continue to work with and follow guidance from our local health authority, the Department of State Health Services and the Texas Education Agency.

Thank you again for your support of our school district throughout this challenging year and for working together to finish strong.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christie Whitbeck

Bryan ISD Superintendent