



# Craig City School District

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## Memorandum Item 8b

FOR: School Board Members  
FROM: Chris Reitan  
DATE: September 22, 2021  
SUBJECT: CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan

The CCSD Board Mitigation Advisory Committee met on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 to consider updates to CCSD's ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan. Additional language the Committee is recommending is noted by **Bold Green** and deletions are noted by ~~Red Strikethrough~~.

Due to recent confirmed positive cases in CCSD schools and a number of grade levels needing to quarantine, there has been quite a bit of community conversation concerning universal masking and removing language within the plan related to quarantining. Optional amendments for the Board's consideration regarding universal masking and quarantining are provided for the Board's consideration.

Additionally, one component of the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan that received a lot of attention from the Committee, but the Committee could not come to consensus on, is the District's mask policies in relation to school busses. Optional amendments for the Board's consideration are noted below.

**Suggested Motion:** Move to approve the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan as presented.

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### Optional Amendments for Board Consideration Regarding Masking and Quarantine Language

**Option 1 Regarding Universal Mask Policy and Quarantine Language** - Leave the language as it is currently presented in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan. No Board amendment is necessary. This language has already been approved during the June 23, 2021 CCSD Board meeting and the August 25, 2021 CCS Board Meeting.

- Pro - Keeping the language as already approved honors the majority of our stakeholders' wishes for mask choice. We now have a better understanding of what the consequences are for mask choice in relation to students and staff members being identified as direct contacts and having to quarantine.
- Con - Without universal mask language all students and staff members who are not vaccinated or have not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days could be considered a direct contact for known positive COVID-19 cases within our schools, as a result they would be required to quarantine for 10 days.

**Option 2 Regarding Universal Mask Policy and Quarantine Language** – Modify the language on page three to include universal masking for all students and staff members. [Move to amend the language in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan regarding masks to include new language that reads, “Face coverings are required for all students, staff, and visitors while inside CCSD schools and buildings. Some exceptions may apply for educational purposes, or when a staff member is in their work space with no other students or employees present,](#)

**and for cohorting people who are fully vaccinated. Face coverings are not required for outdoor activities,”** and remove all language related to mask choice.

- Pro - Adjusting the language to include universal masking in all CCSD schools and buildings would eliminate the need for students and staff members who are not vaccinated or have not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days to have to quarantine if positive COVID-19 cases are confirmed within our student and staff populations.
- Con - Adjusting the language to include universal masking is a significant shift away from the majority of public comments the district has received/heard during school board meetings. It will also increase CCSD’s management requirements for potential student dress code violations and ultimately insubordination which could lead to more severe student consequences.

**Face coverings are required for all students, staff, and visitors while inside CCSD schools and buildings. Some exceptions may apply for educational purposes, or when a staff member is in their work space with no other students or employees present, and for cohorting people who are fully vaccinated. Face coverings are not required for outdoor activities.**

~~CCSD Strongly Recommends Following CDC Guidance; However Respects Mask Choice.~~

~~In consultation with state and local public health representatives, CCSD strongly recommends that students, staff, and all school visitors follow the CDC guidance of universal indoor masking in all school facilities during school hours. However, CCSD also recognizes individual Employees have the right of “mask choice.” Parent(s)/guardian(s) also have the right of “mask choice” as it pertains to their children while in school. CCSD will encourage staff, students, and all school visitors follow the suggested CDC guidelines, but will respect individual rights and decisions regarding “mask choice.” Once a parent, guardian, or student has expressed or demonstrated a preference concerning masking, CCSD employees are to refrain from attempts to change the student’s choice.~~

~~Mask Choice does not apply in the following circumstances:~~

- ~~Mandated mask wearing as recommended by Public Health Representatives.~~
- ~~CCSD mitigation plans for athletics or special events/activities requiring mask wearing. To allow for transparency, CCSD highly recommends “mask choice” be carefully considered given the current Public Health “Close Contact Tracing Process” as detailed on page 7-8 of the CCSD ARPA Mitigation and Prevention Plan~~

~~Per CDC Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention Updated March 19, 2021, nonessential visitors and volunteers shall be limited. Visitors and volunteers will be permitted upon approval, on a case-by-case basis, when the use of volunteers is essential for the safety and supervision of students (i.e. outdoor field trips). All visitors and volunteers will be temperature screened and are required to wear masks when working directly with staff and students and six-foot social distancing cannot be maintained.~~

**Option 3 Regarding Universal Mask Policy and Quarantine Language** – Modify the language on page 8 to delete language related to quarantining. Move to amend the language in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan regarding quarantining to delete the language that states, **“Students and staff members who have had direct contact with a confirmed, positive COVID-19 case are required to quarantine for 10 days. The students and staff member will be allowed to return to school upon receipt of a release from quarantine notification from Craig Public Health.”**

- Pro - Adjusting the language to remove quarantine language for all students and staff members reduces the potential number of students and staff members out of school due to being considered a direct contact to a known positive COVID-19 case. The only students and staff members who would not be allowed in school would be any student and staff members who are confirmed positive COVID-19 cases or are showing symptoms related to COVID-19.
- Con - Adjusting the language to remove quarantine language for all staff members increases the likelihood that more students and staff will contract COVID-19 while within CCSD school buildings due to the fact we could

have asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic students and staff members shedding their viral load while on school grounds.

~~Students and staff members who have had direct contact with a confirmed, positive COVID-19 case are required to quarantine for 10 days. The student and staff member will be allowed to return to school upon receipt of a release from quarantine notification from Craig Public Health.~~

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## Options for Board Consideration Regarding Masks on CCSD Busses

**Option 1 Regarding Masks on Busses** – Leave the language as it is currently presented in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan. No Board amendment is necessary. This language has already been approved during the June 23, 2021 CCSD Board meeting and the August 25, 2021 CCS Board Meeting.

- Pro - Keeping the language as already approved provides an environment of universal masking, at least on district busses. As a result if there are positive confirmed COVID-19 cases that can be connected to a student or staff member on district busses, the students and staff members on district busses would not be considered direct contacts, at least during the time they are riding district busses.
- Con - Without universal mask language all students and staff members who are not vaccinated or have not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days could be considered a direct contact for known positive COVID-19 cases within our schools, as a result they would be required to quarantine for 10 days.

**Option 2 Regarding Masks on Busses** – Modify the language and remove the mask mandate on CCSD school buses. [Move to amend the language in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan regarding bus service by deleting the sentence that reads, “Students and bus drivers are required to wear masks at all times when boarding, exiting, and riding the bus.”](#)

- Con - Without universal mask language all students and staff members who are not vaccinated or have not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days could be considered a direct contact for known positive COVID-19 cases within our schools, as a result they would be required to quarantine for 10 days.
- Pro - Keeping the language as already approved provides an environment of universal masking, at least on district busses. As a result if there are positive confirmed COVID-19 cases that can be connected to a student or staff member on district busses, the students and staff members on district busses would not be considered direct contacts, at least during the time they are riding district busses.

CCSD will provide bus service during Yellow/Low Risk scenarios. CCSD will provide service to downtown Craig, Port St. Nick, Klawock and Hollis. ~~Students and bus drivers are required to wear masks at all times when boarding, exiting, and riding on the bus.~~ During Red/High Risk scenarios when the district has moved to a distance instructional model bus service will be cancelled.

**Option 3 Regarding Masks on Busses** – Modify the language and remove the mask mandate for CCSD staff members but enforce for students to wear masks and sit at least six feet behind school bus drivers. [Moved to amend the language in the CCSD ARPA 2021-2022 Mitigation and Prevention Plan regarding bus service by deleting the language that reads, “...and bus drivers,” and adding additional language to read, “Students are to sit at least six feet behind the bus driver.”](#)

- Con - Without universal mask language all students and staff members who are not vaccinated or have not had a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days could be considered a direct contact for known positive COVID-19 cases within our schools, as a result they would be required to quarantine for 10 days.
- Pro - Keeping the language as already approved provides an environment of universal masking, at least on district busses. As a result if there are positive confirmed COVID-19 cases that can be connected to a student or staff member on district busses, the students and staff members on district busses would not be considered direct contacts, at least during the time they are riding district busses.

CCSD will provide bus service during Yellow/Low Risk scenarios. CCSD will provide service to downtown Craig, Port St. Nick, Klawock and Hollis. Students ~~and bus drivers~~ are required to wear masks at all times when boarding, exiting, and riding on the bus. **Students are to sit at least six feet behind the bus driver.** During Red/High Risk scenarios when the district has moved to a distance instructional model bus service will be cancelled.