



Dear Northwood Academy Charter School Parents & Families,

The first day of school is Monday, August 29th and we are excited to welcome our students and staff back to our classrooms for in-person learning. Northwood Academy Charter Executive Team and the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) have been working closely throughout the summer, monitoring local COVID-19 conditions, and following federal and local public health guidance to determine the best health and safety measures to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 as students return to school.

For the first 10 days of the new school year – from August 29 through September 9 – all students and staff will be required to wear masks while in school, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level. This is an extra precaution for everyone's health and well-being since increased end-of-summer social gatherings may heighten the risk of exposure to COVID-19. Masking **may** then become optional under specific circumstances.

Masking	<p>Masking will be <i>optional</i> for students and staff except:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- for the first 10 days of the new school year – August 29 through September 9.- when the COVID-19 Community Level is high according to the CDC COVID-19 Community Level Indicators. In this instance, the School will notify families and staff that indoor universal masking will be required in school, school buses and offices until the Community Level returns to medium. At a Community Level of medium, masking is strongly recommended.- in specific instances where universal masking may be required, regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- classroom- or school-wide outbreak,- or upon return from extended breaks and holidays when increased social gatherings may heighten the risk of exposure to COVID-19. <p>Students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, are no longer required to quarantine at home unless COVID-like symptoms are present. Instead, they may return to school but are required to wear a mask for 10 days.</p>
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