



October 26, 2021
Press Release

Douglas County School District
communications@dcsdk12.org

DCSD Granted Temporary Restraining Order Against DCHB Public Health Order on Masking

As Students Return to Classrooms After Fall Break, the School District's Previous COVID-19 Protocols Will be Enforced

Students with Documented Medical Exceptions Continue to be Exempt from the Mask Requirements

Castle Rock, CO – [Today, the United States District Court for the District of Colorado granted Douglas County School District's \("DCSD"\) motion for a temporary restraining order enjoining enforcement of the newly formed Douglas County Board of Health's recent Public Health Order \("PHO"\)](#), which allowed any person to exempt from the district's masking requirement and limited the District's ability to quarantine individuals if needed. In granting the injunction, the Court concluded that the PHO was substantially likely to cause immediate and irreparable harm to the District and its students with disabilities who have health conditions putting them at greater risk of contracting or suffering harm if they contract COVID-19.

The temporary restraining order was granted after the Douglas County School District, along with nine individual plaintiffs, filed suit last Wednesday seeking to return to its previous masking requirement and quarantining practices. **Corey Wise, Superintendent of Douglas County School District**, released the following statement in response:

"As a school district, we strive to do everything possible to protect the health, safety, and learning of every single child, especially our most vulnerable and those with significant health conditions who are particularly susceptible to COVID-19. Today's ruling allows us to do just that. No parent should be forced to choose between sending their child to school and risking their child's health, and no family should have to fear that their child may face life-threatening illness just to access their right to a great education. Today's ruling was the right one. It will help us continue to make our schools safe for in-person learning.

"As students return to classrooms after the conclusion of fall break, DCSD schools will return to the masking requirements and the quarantining practices in place before the PHO was issued. **This means that all students, staff, and visitors in all of DCSD's PK-12 schools will be required to wear face coverings, except for students who have documented medical exemptions from wearing a mask by a Colorado-licensed medical provider.** We will continue to prioritize the health

and safety of all our students because this is about giving every child--no matter their circumstances--a fair shot to succeed and an equal opportunity to thrive in school.”

###

About DCSD

Douglas County School District is Colorado’s third largest school district and serves 64,000 students. Learn more at www.dcsdk12.org.