

Dear Peace Valley Community,

At their meeting on Monday night, in an effort to keep our school community safe and healthy, our board approved an amendment to the School Reopening Plan. This amendment has added some clarification around mask usage, and specifically the exemptions that go along with them. Starting on November 2nd, anyone visiting our building who is claiming a medical exemption must provide a note from a practicing MD, DO, or NP stating that they are medically exempt. This is applicable to students, volunteers, and anyone else who enters the school building. For privacy, we do not require the reason behind the exemption to be included in the doctor's note. We will make reasonable accommodations for those who are medically exempt (such as providing them with a face shield to be worn instead of a mask), and those without exemptions will be required to wear adequate face coverings while on our premises. You can find the updated School Reopening Plan, with the pertinent updates highlighted, [here](#).

In addition to the Reopening Plan updates, we will also be implementing new measures to ensure each student has a completed health screening at the beginning of each day. Starting on Monday the 26th, teachers will review the list of their students whose daily health screening has been completed for the day. All students who have not had their health screening form submitted for the day will be sent to the office where the students will be screened by our staff. This will give teachers a sense of peace knowing that none of their students are likely to be sick, however it will impact the student's learning, which is why it's more important than ever to ensure the health screening is submitted each morning no later than 7:30 AM (previously the deadline was 7:45) by you, the parents.

If you're wondering about the legality of this, rest assured that we are well within our rights to make these changes. The Idaho School Board Association (ISBA) legal team has informed us that public schools are not considered public places, and so are not included in the "Public places" mask exemption. "Public places" are generally defined as "any place open to all members of the public without specific invitation." As you know, members of the public are not allowed to enter Peace Valley at will. According to the ISBA legal team, Idaho Code § 33-512 grants the power under which School Districts and Charter Schools can govern themselves in regards to mask requirements and health screenings.

This amendment is an example of the very first CDH School Preparedness Checklist Item in the school reopening plan - we are reviewing and updating our operations to reflect the current health situation in the Valley, and to keep our community as safe as possible. Our top priority is still to maintain a safe, nurturing, embracing, united, and warm school environment while following CDH guidelines. We love being able to offer in person Waldorf education to your children, and we want to keep seeing their lovely faces and the light they bring here at our school. These updates were made in an effort to support this goal of remaining open, and remaining safe and healthy.

By supporting this critical safety measure, we have our greatest chance to keep our classrooms open. As a school, our mission remains to give an outstanding education to our students. It's so important that our teachers and staff are able to focus on educating our students, and by remaining vigilant together in mask usage and health screening we can provide the best, least distracting atmosphere for both our students and our teachers.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

Together We Serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andrew S. Ross  
Principal