



Opportunity Through Education

Jillian Balow – *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2021-028

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jillian Balow, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: March 8, 2021

SUBJECT: Health Orders for Schools Remain in Effect

HEALTH ORDERS FOR SCHOOLS REMAIN IN EFFECT

Governor Mark Gordon's [press release](#) today announced new health orders beginning March 16. In these new orders, mask requirements and other restrictions are lifted. However, health orders for schools, including mask-wearing in areas where physical distancing is not possible, remain unchanged. Schools should continue to implement the current and approved Smart Start plans that align with current health orders. The hope is that keeping school-related health orders in place will ensure we can continue to have in-person schooling, activities, and end-of-year events. Continuing to provide in-person education and activities in every county is our top priority.

We have been national leaders in our successful opening of schools this year and we want to keep it that way. The current health orders require mask-wearing at all times - educators and parents to re-familiarize themselves with the current health orders, which can be found [here](#). We understand that masks can be challenging for some, and therefore, students and staff are only required to wear face coverings when physical distancing is not possible, not at all times.

Governor Gordon believes this is the right step to take at this time. It is important to him that we have a successful end of school year with proms/graduations, which didn't occur last year in many communities. All year long, we have successfully modeled that schools are not epicenters for community transmission of COVID-19 - we are on-track to finish the year strong.

The Governor has employed a step-down strategy to intentionally and thoughtfully remove health orders as their removal is warranted. The Governor will continue that strategy and his actions this week move the state forward toward defeating COVID-19 in Wyoming.

For more information, contact Linda Finnerty, Communications Director, at 307-777-2053 or linda.finnerty@wyo.gov.