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Mask Mandate Still In Effect for School Districts

Over the past 24 hours, a lot of information has been disseminated via the news and social media on the topic of masking in schools. Regardless of where you stand on this issue, I ask that you continue to be patient, respectful and understanding as we navigate another challenge in what has been an extremely complicated school year.

Background:

Yesterday (1.24.22), the Supreme Court of Nassau County ruled that the mask mandate imposed by the New York State Department of Health is unconstitutional. This is the opposite of a recent ruling in the Albany County Supreme court which upheld the mask mandate.

Response from New York State:

Governor Hochul has stated that New York State Department of Health (NYDOH) will appeal the decision immediately. If an appeal occurs, a "stay" will be placed on the mask mandate, which means the mandate to mask in schools will remain in place until a higher court rules on the appeal.

On January 24, 2022 around 8:19PM, all New York State School Districts received the follow information from the New York State Education Department (NYSED):

"The State Education Department understands that Nassau County Supreme Court has ruled that the Department of Health exceeded its authority in enacting the mask regulation, 10 NYCRR 2.60, in Demetriou et al. v. New York State Dep't of Health et al. This regulation is the subject of conflicting decisions, insofar as Albany County Supreme Court recently upheld the regulation in Massapequa UFSD et al. v. Hochul, et al.

*It is SED's understanding that the Department of Health will appeal the Nassau County Supreme Court decision, which will result in an automatic stay that will unambiguously restore the mask rule until such time as an appellate court issue a further ruling. Therefore, **schools must continue to follow the mask rule.**"*

Response from the Canaseraga Central School District:

NYSED oversees our school district, and we must follow their direction on this topic until we are directed otherwise. As I have said throughout this pandemic, thank you for your patience and understanding. I ask for your continued positive attitude and understanding of the tough position the district is in. If mandates from the state change, we will be sure to notify of the details.

Thank you

Chad C. Groff, Superintendent of Schools