



Masking Update

Implementation of the Removal of Mandated Masking in the School Setting

The state requirement for universal masking in P-12 school settings ended on March 2, 2022. The NYS DOH has provided new masking guidance for schools to consider moving forward. Unlike past guidance from the state, these new guidelines contain many areas that are termed as “shoulds,” “recommended,” and “strongly recommended.” There are very few areas that are required. The following information is a relatively short summary of the pertinent details.

NYSDOH recommends students, staff and teachers wear masks when:

- They feel more comfortable wearing a mask for personal reasons.
- They were in the same room within the school as someone diagnosed with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or longer.
- They are known to have been exposed to COVID-19 in any setting within the previous 10 days.
- They are moderately-to-severely immunocompromised and have discussed the need to mask with their healthcare provider(s).

Those who choose to wear a mask

- Anyone who chooses to wear a mask – for any reason – should not be made to feel out of place or uncomfortable by others.
- Similarly, those who choose to wear a mask should not make anyone feel uncomfortable if they choose to not wear a mask.
- If someone is required to wear a mask or chooses to wear a mask, masks may be removed when eating, drinking, singing, going outside, or playing a wind instrument. When masks are removed for these purposes, physical distancing of 6 or more feet should be maintained to the extent possible.

School Buses

- Masks are no longer required to be worn on school bus or in transportation vehicles.

Positive case of COVID

- Please report any positive cases of COVID to Mrs. Porter – our school nurse.
- Isolate for 5 days – day 0 is positive result.
- Can return to school on day 6 as long as symptoms are resolving.
- REQUIRED to wear a mask for days 6-10.

Exposed to a COVID positive person

- Recommended to mask for 10 days following last exposure.
- Recommended to test periodically during the 10 days.
- Testing will still be available in the district and home testing kits are available for pick-up.
- There is no requirement to be quarantined after an exposure and may attend school, ride a school bus, and attend extra-curricular events. Please diligently monitor your health and any symptoms.

Continued mitigation measures

- Current spacing within classrooms will continue.
- Students may be placed in small groups if instruction warrants bringing students together.
- Current breakfast & lunch seating will continue.

Contact tracing

- Numerous regions previously halted contact tracing when the county health departments stopped contact tracing for the general public.
- At this time, the district will no longer perform formal contact tracing.
- If there are reasons to go back to detailed contact tracing we may consider that in the future.
- We encourage COVID positive students and staff to contact those who may have been in close contact with them.

District reporting of COVID positive results

- Schools must remain current on their reporting of all COVID test results that they conduct or that they become aware of, including results of home testing, to the New York State COVID Report Card.

In case of illness

- No change from current practice. Symptomatic students who are **not tested** must isolate for 5 days, be fever-free for 24 hours without medication and then upon return to school be masked for days 6-10.

Visitors to the Building

- Visitors will continue to be limited. If an in-person meeting is necessary, please make arrangements in advance with a teacher or the main office.

NYS DOH Guidance Documents Available for Review

- The most recent documents can be found at the website listed below
- *New Masking Guidance Update for Schools*
- *New School Masking & Testing Guidance FAQs*

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>