

SAYVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

March 1, 2022

Dear Sayville Schools Community,

Governor Hochul announced on February 27th that masks will be optional for students, staff and visitors in New York State schools effective Wednesday March 2nd. Given this new development, the District will follow the updated NYS guidelines as we continue to offer in-person instruction in the safest environment possible.

Although individuals will no longer be required to wear masks in school starting tomorrow, there will be some students and staff who choose to continue wearing masks to protect their own health or the health of a loved one. Moving forward there is only one response to an individual's choice regarding masks: respect. To be clear, this respect must apply to students and staff who choose to not wear masks as well as those who do.

Parents and guardians are asked to instruct their children of their choice whether or not to wear a mask. Please understand that classroom teachers cannot monitor each student's mask choice on a moment to moment basis but may remind students to follow their parents' directions regarding the wearing of masks.

Based on expected NYS updates concerning the pandemic response, the district will observe the following guidelines as of March 2, 2022:

- District will continue to engage in rigorous cleaning procedures;
- Practice social distancing wherever practicable;
- Continue to emphasize hand washing and respiratory etiquette;
- Parents and guardians should monitor their children's health keeping them home if they are sick; staff should stay home when sick;
- Offer COVID test kits to families and staff while supplies last;
- Monitor and report transmission rates;
- Continue to maximize ventilation in all learning spaces and offices;
- Masks are also optional when riding the school bus; the transportation company will continue to enhance ventilation and engage in rigorous cleaning procedures on buses;
- The District's Reopening Plan is being updated to reflect the new State guidelines. The updated plan will be posted on the webpage as soon as it is available.

The Sayville Board of Education, educators and staff remain committed to providing our students with the rich educational experiences our community expects, and we look forward to in-person instruction, athletic competitions, student performances and other school events as we move into the spring. The pandemic has been a long and arduous experience for our students, staff and community. While our patience has been sorely tested over the past two years, the resilience demonstrated by our students, educators and families is something in which we can all take pride.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stimmel

Superintendent of Schools