

# Sayville Public Schools



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December 10, 2021

The Honorable Kathleen Hochul  
Governor of New York State  
NYS Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Hochul,

Thank you for your continued leadership of New York State during these unprecedented times. For the past several months, the Sayville Public School District has received numerous inquiries and complaints concerning the universal indoor masking requirement for all students, staff, teachers and visitors to K-12 schools. Our community is asking, "Has New York State established indicators for when pandemic precautions may be adjusted, in particular at the local level?"

In addition, our community continues to express their concern about any future COVID-19 initiatives under consideration by the State as well as their desire that these plans provide clear criteria for when precautions can be modified. Further, our community requests that these criteria be transparent, measurable and communicated in a timely manner so that we can properly plan for the future.

In regards to the COVID-19 vaccine for students, members of our community strongly believe the decision to obtain a COVID-19 vaccine for a child should be made by the parent/guardian upon consultation with the child's health care provider. Will NYS consider a COVID-19 vaccine opt-out with regular testing if a decision is made to require the vaccine for students?

The health and well-being of all students, staff and visitors present in our buildings is our first priority. Throughout the past twenty months, the Sayville School District has carefully followed all Centers for Disease Control (CDC), New York State and local Department of Health guidelines to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. As we finish the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, we look for guidance from the state as to how best return our schools to normal conditions.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully,

Sayville Board of Education

John Verdone, President, Thomas Cooley, Vice President, Maureen Dolan, Trustee, Kelly Sack, Trustee