



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Timothy M. Van Tassel
Superintendent

Laura Guerrette
Executive Secretary

May 25, 2021

Good afternoon Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff,

Beginning June 1, 2021, we will be easing the mask mandate during outdoor physical activity. As the weather gets warmer and due to the guidance we are receiving from the DPH, the following will apply:

- Students and staff in PreK-12 will not be required to wear masks while participating in outdoor activities in which they are physically engaging, such as:
 - Recess;
 - Physical Education;
 - Field Day Activities;
- Students and staff who are standing/sitting together/close proximity while participating in outdoor activities will need to continue to wear masks;
- Masks will need to be worn by students and staff while lining up, and entering/leaving the school facilities to participate in outdoor activities.

Please note that Executive Order 12A issued by the Governor on May 19, 2021, and further defined by the Department of Public Health in the following correspondence, sets forth situational conditions that continue the expectation of mask wearing inside school facilities.

Conditions and Environments Requiring Universal Masking for the Prevention of COVID-19 on and after May 19, 2021

As we have done with every protocol that has been lessened, the district will continue to monitor our success with each step we take in what we hope will lead us to our post-pandemic school operational status. We do recognize that many of our students, families, faculty and staff may still be uncomfortable without wearing a mask outdoors. As a result, we will continue to support and respect their decisions to remain masked until they are comfortable not doing so. This will provide us with yet another very important teachable moment on empathy within each of our schools.

Please note that if circumstances suggest unmasking outdoors is leading to a COVID-19 spread in any of our schools, then we will consult with our local and state health officials on the appropriate measures we should take to further protect our students and staff.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools