



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 6, 2021

Dear East Lyme Parents and Guardians:

It's my hope you are enjoying the summer and time with your families. We are quickly moving towards the start of a new school year which we are all very excited about.

I know there are many questions regarding what mitigation strategies we will have in place at the start of the year, specifically around mask wearing for students and staff. At this time, we do not have a final answer. We are still awaiting final recommendations from the Department of Health and the CT State Department of Education as it pertains to appropriate mitigation measures for students and staff. We are also coordinating once again with Ledge Light Health District and our Medical Advisor on appropriate safety measures. Once I have this information, I will share out correspondence regarding the protocols that will be in place. I plan to have this information out no later than Monday, August 23, 2021, and I appreciate your patience as we work through these challenging decisions.

At the current time, we have reinstated our mandate for mask wearing within our buildings for all staff working this summer. This includes any visitors or community members entering one of our buildings at any time during the day or evening. Please take note of this if you need to visit a school building or are attending a Board of Education meeting. **Individuals will not be permitted into any of our buildings without a mask.**

Again, we appreciate everyone's ongoing patience as we work through and prepare for the reopening of schools. Much more information will follow, and please know that we remain focused on safely returning all students to full in-person learning on August 30, 2021.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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