



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Melissa Bielonko
Executive Secretary

February 18, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff:

At last evening's BOE Special Meeting, an update was provided to the Suffield Public Schools community regarding the steps the district will take as we make the utilization of masks optional while attending school and school-related functions. I have attached the presentation that has been provided, and the link to the meeting minutes and video recording will be posted on our website.

[SPS Safety Protocols Update – February 17, 2022](#)

As highlighted during last night's meeting, our entire school community has worked together throughout this pandemic to keep our students, families, faculty and staff safe. Further, our collective efforts have enabled our schools to move beyond many milestones in which there was shared concern. The decision to make masks optional and the elimination of the facemasks policy may be viewed by many families in a very similar way – another moment when our operational status is changing in a way that brings some uncertainty. However, through the phased-in approach we are taking, the safety measures we have in place, the guidance we will continue to receive and follow from our health experts, and making responsible decisions for ourselves and others, I believe that making masks optional beyond February 28th is a reasonable next step as we learn to live with the virus.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to district or school administration.

Sincerely,
Tim
Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools