



# GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

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February 18, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With the announcement that Governor Lamont is lifting the mask mandate as of February 28, 2022, and hearing from our families through email and the parent feedback survey, the decision for Groton Public Schools will be one of choice by families and staff. While the CDC still recommends the use of masks, particularly for those who are not fully vaccinated, students and staff will not be required to wear masks in school as of Monday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. **Students will need to continue to wear masks on school buses until federal guidelines are lifted.**

In making a district decision on mask wearing, many factors were considered, including collaboration with the regional Superintendents, the Commissioner of Education and CSDE, and the health experts at the CDC and LLHD. We are appreciative of the overwhelming number of our school community who participated in the Parent, Student, Staff surveys. The survey gave all members of our community equal opportunity and access to share their voice. Board members and Principals will receive a detailed report with all comments from our constituents.

Parents who wish for their children to continue to wear masks in school should communicate their expectations to their children. Administrators and teachers will not be responsible for monitoring student mask wearing beginning February 28<sup>th</sup>. The school district will not discriminate against any student or staff who chooses to wear or not wear a mask, nor will the district tolerate any bullying or harassment of anyone for their choice.

Groton Public Schools will continue to update the [COVID Dashboard](#). As a precaution, students will be provided a mask if they are in the nurse's office with potential symptoms. Students or staff who test positive for COVID will still need to isolate from school for 5 days from the onset of symptoms or 5 days after testing if asymptomatic. Students or staff may return on day 6 if there are no symptoms; however, it is still recommended by the Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control that students wear a mask during day 6-10 upon return after a positive case. Athletes will be subject to all CIAC guidelines following a COVID case.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Austin  
Superintendent of Schools