



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 23, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Following the Governor's most recent announcement to eliminate statewide school mask requirement, as of Monday, February 28, 2022, the East Lyme Public Schools will strongly recommend continued mask wearing in our school buildings but will not require it. Please be advised that at any point, the Governor or our district can reinstate a mask mandate based on concerns over high transmission rates or COVID-19 outbreaks that could significantly impact the health and wellbeing of students and staff.

With this upcoming change, the Department of Health recommends, but does not require, that students test in the morning on the first day that mask choice is implemented. We will have kits available at the security station in each school. If you would like a test kit for your child(ren), please stop by the school building during the regularly scheduled school hours either today or tomorrow.

As we move forward with 'strongly recommending' but not 'requiring' masks within our school buildings, it is imperative that we collectively respect the views and decisions of all students and staff as it pertains to an individual's decision to continue wearing a mask beyond February 28, 2022. We will have zero tolerance for any disrespectful behavior or comments towards individuals who decide to continue wearing a mask. Additionally, mask wearing will be required in any nurse's office across our school buildings until further notice.

At this time, mask wearing remains a requirement on any school bus for transportation associated with going to and from school and teams traveling to sporting events. This is a federal mandate which currently remains in place until March 18, 2022.

Please feel free to reach out to my office with any questions. We appreciate your patience and support in the implementation of the change to masks being strongly recommended but not required across our school buildings.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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