



Mask reminder and bus update

1 message

February 27, 2022

Dear DCS Students and Families,

In a [press release](#) issued by the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) on February 11th, the department stated that they would be lifting their remaining COVID Health Orders **effective** February 28th. This includes two orders, one requiring masks and another for isolation and quarantine. The press release went on to say that universal masking remains strongly recommended in K-12 educational settings. **Starting on Monday, February 28th, masks are recommended but not required in DCS schools and buses.**

On February 16th, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) updated their [masking guidance for Michiganders](#). Their update stated, "Based on current conditions, MDHHS is expiring the Public Health Advisory on Masking in Indoor Public Settings, including school settings." MDHHS also supports adjusting mask recommendations as the state cycles through periods of response, recovery, and readiness and following local health department decisions based on local conditions.

Based on the expiration of the MDHHS's Public Health Advisory, the rescission of the WCHD's COVID Health Orders, stakeholder feedback, and other local factors, **DCS will be following this guidance by lifting the mask requirement and strongly recommending the wearing of masks beginning on February 28, 2022.**

While we encourage students and staff to continue to wear masks, considering the wide availability of vaccines for school-aged children and adults and the high vaccination rates across the county, masks will not be required. Late Friday, the CDC changed its requirement for masks on buses. **Therefore, also starting on February 28th, masks are buses are recommended but not required.**

Please note, in collaboration with the local and state health departments, DCS reserves the right to alter this recommendation based on current health conditions.

We expect that all students, staff, and families will respect the choices that each individual at DCS makes and will be diligent in our efforts to protect personal choice.

We know that many of you welcome this change and feel a sense of relief that we can lift our requirements. We also know that not all of our staff, students, and families are ready for this change. Please be respectful of each individual's choice to wear a mask or not.

Thank you for adhering to the District's requirements over the course of the pandemic. We know that this has been a difficult situation to navigate and that our staff has gone above and beyond for our students and DCS.

Thank you for continuing to adhere to the WCHD mask requirement and for staying diligent with our students in following this requirement up to this point and for your continued support of our students, our staff, and each other.

Sincerely,

Christopher Timmis, EdD
Superintendent