



MONOMOY

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



MRSD Mask Policy Survey

Sent to all Monomoy parents/guardians and staff on February 11, 2022, closed on February 16, 2022

Overview:

219 responses

85.4% parent/guardians

21% staff members

(6% of both respondents identified as parent and staff member)

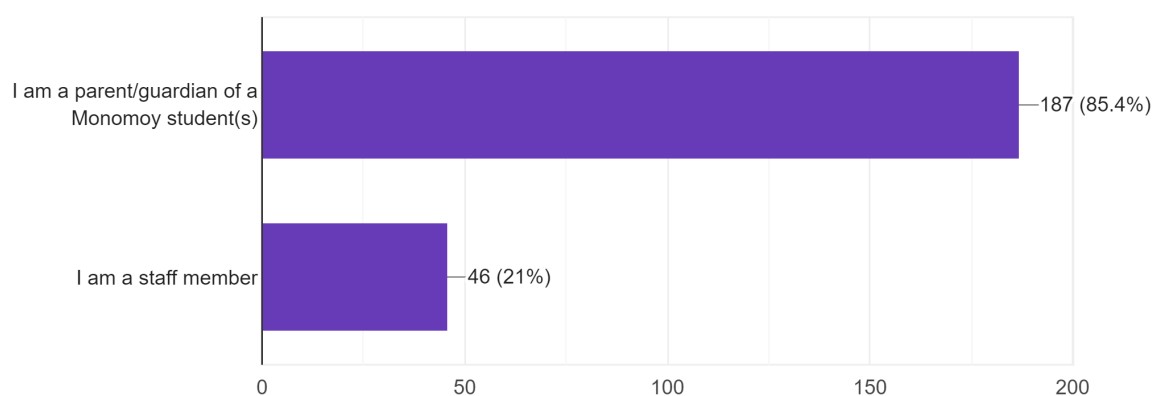
69.4% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.

20.1% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

10.5% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

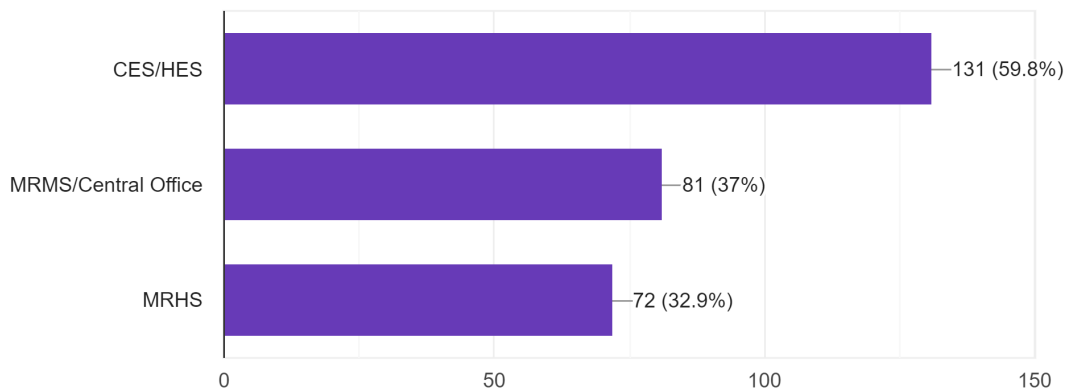
What is your connection to Monomoy Regional School District?

219 responses



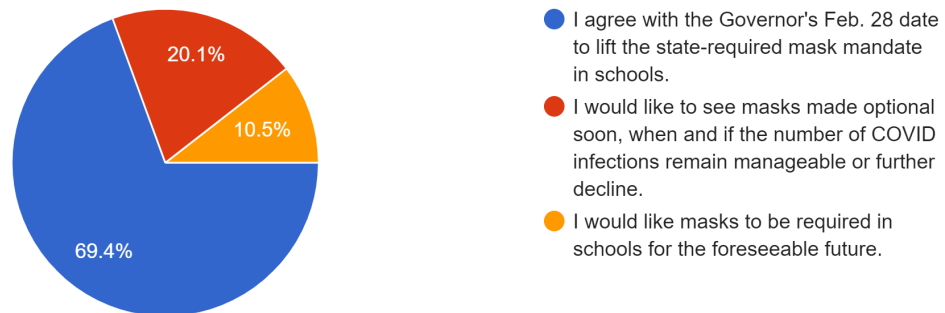
I have a student in or work in:

219 responses



Please select the option that most closely reflects your perspective:

219 responses



Breakdown by category:

Parents

74% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
16% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.
9% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Parent/Staff Members

36% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.

57% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

7% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Staff Members

61% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
23% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

19% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

By Location:

Elementary Parents

75% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
14% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

11% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Middle School Parents

58% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
32% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

11% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

High School Parents

66% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
17% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

17% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Parents with students in multiple schools

80% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
17% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

2% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Elementary Staff

80% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.

13% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

7% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Middle School/Central Office Staff

13% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
63% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

25% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

High School Staff

63% agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.
0% would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

38% would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

Comments (shared verbatim, except where personal details were redacted)

Parents/Caregivers who agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.

As human beings we need to breathe unrestricted air in order to function and live. I have been mortified at the dehumanizing, trauma and psychological abuse these masks may have caused our children. It's been 2 YEARS. It's time to move on.

As much as I want the kids and teacher to be protected from harm, I also believe the masks themselves are harming students, especially young ones learning how to read and learn social cues. Learning social cues/facial expressions is very important at the elementary school age and learning to read and talk correctly is being made much harder for students when there are masks on everyone's face. I agree with them being optional for parents who feel they would like to continue masking their children, but I still believe it is important for their social wellbeing to start taking the masks off in social settings.

As we approach the second anniversary of Covid shutdowns and mandates I believe it's time to actually follow the real world science that shows kids suffer from being masked at school. The social and emotional benefits far outweigh the slight risks my children face from contracting Covid. Many states have ended masking in schools and shown little if no difference in Covid cases with students. Furthermore, the recent Omicron surges have come and gone with no impacts to almost all children. My youngest, <redacted>, has not participated in a class without a mask, ever. My oldest <redacted> has had masking as the defining issue of his high school experience. It's time that all healthy children be given the choice to mask at school.

At the very least masks should be optional
Children don't need masks in most public indoor spaces, school should consider following suit. We appreciate your balanced leadership through these past few years.
Covid, while very transmissible, presents very little risk to our students, and the overwhelming majority of the population. Never in the history of the country have we burdened our children with the task of protecting others and asking them to protect the adults in their lives that are entrusted to protect them. It's time for the adults in the room to stop leading out of fear and teach and allow our children how to be children again. Natural immunity, vaccinations, and the incredibly low risk to almost everyone makes this a no brainer. My children's masks will be coming off, and you will think their smiles are the best!
Definitely want my kids to be mask free!
End mask mandate, make optional
End masks now! Enough.
Enough with the masks. The psychological damage this has caused has gone on long enough. If this continues, be prepared for legal action against the district.
First I must commend the Monomoy School District, the school board, Dr. Carpenter, our principle Mrs. Oldach and the wonderful staff at HES. Given all the challenges of the last two years our children have continued to thrive and be excited for all of the opportunities within their school. At this point I concur with the governor and the DESE that the time has come to take the next big step out of this pandemic. I know there is a desire for caution due to the timing of our winter break. I think it's smart to consider that, however after observing how the Omicron variant has dropped off exponentially, reading the latest from the CDC about the actual effectiveness of cloth masks and the fact that nearly our entire community has developed immunity through vaccination or natural exposure the cost benefit analysis in my mind favors removing the health protection measures as briefed by Gov. Baker. There is a cost to wearing masks, lathering up hand sanitizer and avoiding social/casual contact for young kids who are trying to develop into smart, critical thinking and independent adults. Of course that cost has been dramatically outweighed by the cost of ignoring the risks to our community by COVID and as I said in my opening I've been very impressed with how Monomoy has handled this very tough situation. Thank you for your consideration.
Follow the science. Unmask the kids immediately.
For kids mental health please allow kids to remove masks in school
He is fully vaxed.

I am strongly in favor of lifting the mandate for the Monomoy Regional School District. Our children have carried the burden of regulations put in place to protect the senior and vulnerable population from Covid. While there are certainly segments of the population who need to take precautions, the majority of children do not fall into that category. For nearly two years, they have done their due diligence, but as the number of Covid cases declines and vaccines are widely available, it is time for parents, not government, to decide whether their child should remain masked. The repercussions of Covid regulations on our kids are immeasurable. When my six year old daughter tested positive for Covid in the school pool testing, she asked if I was ashamed of her when I picked her up from school. The stigma of Covid has scarred kids. They have fallen behind in school, lost valuable years of learning social graces, and missed out on once-in-a-lifetime experiences like prom, graduation, and sporting events. It's time to begin to build their childhoods again. We can start by letting them see their friends smile.

I believe that at this point in time all parents have had adequate time to decide if vaccinations are the right choice for them and their children. Clearly the virus strains seem to be weakening and the mental health of our children needs to be focused on now. Individuals who choose to wear a mask can continue to do so if that choice is right for them.

I believe this school district has done an excellent job managing the pandemic. We have been cautious, but all policies have been well thought and backed by data. That data is now trending in a positive direction with both number of cases and severity of cases. Mask mandates are being lifted everywhere, and I think the same courtesy should be extended to the kids. Mask mandates can always be reinstated if needed. We are screening kids with pool testing and at home testing. People are getting vaccinated. I feel that these precautions are sufficient at this point in time. Thank you!

I do not agree with mask mandates. There is zero science to support their efficacy; especially in children. It has only harmed their development.

I feel it is time for children to be allowed to choose whether they should wear a mask or not. People now have the choice to vaccinate themselves and their children, and I do not feel that children should be asked to wear masks when many of us do not wear them at work, home or socializing. I do not believe children thrive in an environment that require masks, and with so many options to safe guard against COVID, I do not think it is fair to require them to shoulder this burden any longer.

I feel that the students have been through enough and it is time for life to return to normal. Most have had Covid and it has shown that students are not at high risk for severe disease. If adults want to wear them that's fine, but students should not be required to.

I have a family of 7 and all of us have worked throughout the pandemic with the public and not one of us has ever had a symptom or tested positive . I do not want Greg wearing a mask anymore . If the governor can finally realize this isn't the answer and lift this mandate then surely the committee can do the same . They should not have that type of control over my/our children .

I really hope you all make the RIGHT choice and lift this unnecessary mask mandate. Masks should always be left to the parents to decide. Kids have suffered enough.

I strongly agree with removing the mask mandate for children as soon as possible. Statistically kids have over a 99-99.5% chance of not having any difficulty from COVID. The masks & isolation have been detrimental to our youth psychologically. I have seen it first hand as a medical professional who works directly with all age groups throughout Cape Cod. In all of my nursing career I have never seen as many psych related admissions and suicidal ideations& attempts as I have these past 2 years. I believe we will see a very positive change in our youth and that people will remain healthy. We have a wonderful, caring community.

I think it's important for the mental health and well-being of the kids to have masks be optional. They're causing speech delays, and mental challenges for a minimal risk of infection, from a virus that has a 99% survival rate. It's time to unmask the kids

I think it's time to allow our children to attend school without a mask. I believe parents will be responsible in being certain their children stay home if they are showing signs of illness. Our children will be so happy to see the faces of their beloved teachers and friends!!!

I think lifting the mask mandate is the best move for both the physical and emotional health of our children. We need to return to normalcy.

I would like to see the mask mandate dropped as soon as possible - the limited protection they offer has proven to be questionable, regardless of the what the CDC says, and the impact on our society of being "masked" is creating further isolation and side effects on the minds of our youth that we may not see resolved for years. Let's use common sense, and go back to normal as soon as possible.

I would love for my children to be in school without masks. Their entire elementary school experience has been with masks and I think they are missing out on important social skills/cues.

I'd like to see masks go but agree with keeping up on testing to keep everyone safe.

If the school committee decides to delay by a few weeks after February vacation, I think that is a prudent decision.

It is time for it to be a personal choice not a government mandate.

It is time to allow people to make the choice that is best for them. People who would still like

to be masked can.
It's time to allow families to make decisions based on what is right for their children.
It's time to give our children the ability to learn social cues that can only be seen through facial expressions.
It's time!
IT'S TIME! If football stadiums can be full without masks then our kids deserve to be mask free!
It's about time to let our Children go back to normal. It's been 3 years with wearing masks. We need to think about them first instead of us parents taking control. Our kids should use their voice and to be heard.
It's past time to do away with the masks. The kids deserve to see each others facial expressions and socialize in a normal manner without a mask on. The only place my kids wear a mask is at school and I do not think it's protecting them from covid 19. Thank you
It's time to get back to normal.
It's time. Our children need to return to a normal school environment. As we all know, it's been a long two years for everyone, especially our children who have had to make many sacrifices with their social, emotional, and academic development. It's time to let our children into their schools without a face mask, if they choose. Let it be a personal/family choice. Thank you
Kids will see smiles again!
Let's start actually following the science. Masks do not work to protect our kids. It is like throwing sand through a tennis court net. Let's start letting our kids see each other.
Masking had made little to no difference most vax and masked people got it anyway.
Masks are detrimental to the health and learning of our children.
Masks doesn't work! Masks do more harm than good!!! Decision about the masks please leave up to the parents. This is our right to choose what is right for our kids.
Masks should be made optional feb 28th
Most kids have already had covid, shown to be resilient. To be honest shrugging of the fittest. Kids don't seem to get as sick they need the antibodies. I'm also tired of paying for masks.

Most kids have had Covid there will be no spike. All the teachers have had it. It is immoral to continue for your selfish purposes. Parent and teacher choice!!!!

My children do not need a mask. It's harming them more than protecting them.

My choice represents science. I'd rather the masks come off now like many many other places. And dump the pooled testing, as we all know they are inaccurate.

No matter what you people "deem" during your meeting my children WILL NOT be wearing a mask after 2/28.

Our kids are suffering more than people realize, the masks are hiding so much of the emotional language between students and staff, it's hiding their smiles, their body language. This is a state mandated lift on masks and I as a parent stand behind Gov. Baker with this lift. Our kids deserve to go to school without having to physically mask, it's gone on long enough.

Our kids need to breath! Our kids are becoming angry and this is no way to keep our kids muzzled up

Per the CDC the masks that most are wearing do little to nothing to stop the spread of Covid. Additionally it is a 99% survivable virus for anyone 80 years of age or younger with no pre-existing conditions. Many Boston doctors have spoken out and said kids should no longer be masked in school citing delayed development in children, anxiety, and depression. Furthermore, with no State of Emergency in effect the EUA of masks (which are medical devices) no longer allows them to be used in such a capacity. I urge you all to allow parents to make the choice that they are comfortable with as of the 28th per the Governor's orders.

Please allow our kids to be mask free if they choose. My child's anxiety is so high and I want her to be able to try to get back to normal

Please allow the children to have a choice, they have put up with so much and many have lost so much during these last two years!! This should have always been a choice!

Please end mask use in the MRSD. Allow it to be an individual choice.

Please give parents the choice. Let us get back to normal.

Please make mask wearing, parents choice. These children deserve it. The mental health of our youth is becoming the new pandemic, and something needs to be done about it soon.

Please remove the school masks mandate immediately. Outside of school the kids are riding in cars together, going to restaurants together, playing sports together, hanging out together, and having sleep overs all with out masks. Also both the CDC and WHO have both reported that paper and cloth masks do not work. It is time to get back to normal.

The CDC has made it clear that cloth and other masks are ineffective at preventing the spread of Covid and that k95 masks are the only effective type. These masks are expensive and unattainable by a substantial portion of our student population. Sweeping mandates across districts create division and segregation. Children are not the main spreaders of covid, let the faculty keep their masks if they choose. The kids are not ok with their faces and voices being suppressed. America = FREEDOM! Let the parents choose for their own children. WE ARE THEIR ADVOCATES. Only parents/guardians know what is best for their own children.

The masks need to be removed. The social and emotional toll on the children is horrible. This is the only place they have to wear them. We need to follow the 2/28 date and let them come back from February vacation mask free forever.

The negative social/psychological affects of the mask mandate at this point far out way the benefits.

There is substantial evidence that these masks do not work. Let our children be just that. Children. Let them see one another's smiles.

There was a time and place for masks. When we didn't know much about the spread of the virus and we didn't have a vaccine available to combat it. Those two things are no longer true. Kids are really struggling mentally and emotionally right now. We need to do something to support them or we will truly regret it. The time for masks mandates is over. It should be optional. Thank you.

We are at a point where everyone is living life fairly normally outside of school, unmasked. It seems like we are only masking at this point to check that box. I have been an advocate of masking during periods of high transmission. But even during these times, masks aren't going to stop Covid from spreading because of unmasked activity outside of school. The measures that have been taken for two years lessened the severity of Covid and relegated it to the likes of other common viruses. It is time to take this important step toward normalcy. Let's see the kids' smiles.

We have been abiding by all of the mandates and we will continue to abide by the mandates even when they become lesser.

We have reached the end of this and it's time to return to normalcy.

We're done with the masks, my children are so unhappy wearing them all day at school.

Where the numbers have been increased after vacations, having masks worn the first week back after each vacation would make sense, otherwise I think having them optional is a good at this point.

Parents/caregivers who would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

Feeling hopeful with the numbers declining and warmer weather on the way. I do think we should wait until a bit past the winter break to remove masks. Also hoping the vaccination rates continue to increase! We are fortunate enough to all be fully vaccinated in our household but are also sensitive to community members who may be elderly, immunocompromised, or live with someone who is. If need be we are happy to keep masking until the coast is clear for the health and safety of everyone!
I agree with Carpenter that we should wait a few weeks after February vacation to ensure we don't have a big spike in cases.
I agree with Dr. Carpenter, let's see how the numbers are after February break. I'm sure many people will be traveling. But if the numbers keep going down, most definitely make masks optional sometime in March.
I believe if it becomes optional that the kids who chose to wear masks will be bullied by those whose parents are anti maskers
I believe that lifting the mask mandate immediately following a school vacation is poor timing. But agree that it should happen soon after.
I feel masks should be required until 2 weeks past spring break. This allows the surge after vacations and also for when the weather is warming up for open windows and outside time to be more manageable. Thank you.
I feel that Superintendent Carpenter has shepherded the school district well throughout this pandemic. His decisions seem measured, thoughtful and sound. I agree with his idea of wearing masks after vacation until we can assess the cases. If they remain low, then we could lift the ban.
I think it's time to lift the ban but I think we should wait a week or two after school break since that's when all of the worst outbreaks have happened. I personally know several families flying both domestically and internationally. I think it only makes sense to be proactive and cautious.
I think lifting the mandate right after February vacation is not a good idea. The #'s spiked after Christmas break and could spike again after February break. Poor timing
I think masks should be optional per student

I think the mandate should be in effect at least a week after school vacations to monitor infection rates. I would also be interested in seeing a specific tie between relaxation of the mandate and local positivity rates, for instance $< 10\%$

I also have lots of respect/empathy for unioned staff and teachers and would like to see their needs/demands be met to the fullest extent.

I would like to see masks as optional as cases are in decline. I do prefer to see this change after the holiday break, after our pooled test results show we are indeed headed in the right direction.

Removing a mask mandate right after School vacation seems pretty illogical, I would like to at least wait a week or two to see if there is a rise in cases. Also I would like to see higher vaccination rates for kids to ease the spread. With a 30% vaccination rate for each grade, it seems people are still not taking covid seriously. And if people aren't taking covid seriously, I assume every day life will resume with no masks and covid will spread again, sadly.

While I'm inclined to say keep masks on because of all we have been through in the last couple of years, I know that the return to normal (whatever that is now) is a good step forward, and it will be good for parents/students to have the choice to wear it in school. In an added comment, I think our school district has done wonderfully in navigating all of this and it hasn't been an easy couple of years. Thank you.

Parents/caregivers who would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future

As a mother I work in the public every day and I hate wearing my mask. I do so because I can't control what other people do outside the building but while I am at work wearing a mask and being vaccinated are the best ways to keep people safe. So many people I work with have gotten quite sick despite being vaccinated so the mask becomes the best defense against the spread of the virus. There's too many people that have to be in your schools and you can't guarantee the 100 percent safety of my child and your staff until you can do that masks are a must to slow the spread. I think if you do away with masks then parents should have the option for online learning again. You will never be able to control what people do when they aren't in school so you can never keep your staff and students protected all the time so instead of dropping the ball by getting rid of masks and going backwards with this virus let's go forward keep the masks in place and not loose the progress we've made in fighting this virus and trying to keep all of the students and staff safe and protect them as much as possible.

I don't want kids in masks forever but it seems completely unfair to remove masks until the whole population can be vaccinated. Kids under 5 are STILL waiting to get vaccinated. It really feels like the world just doesn't care about them and it makes me sad. This isn't my fault. I don't want masks on my kids as much as anyone else, I just want my under 5 to be vaccinated before we take them off.

I have another child at home (11 months) whose yet to be vaccinated. I want nothing more for our kids to go back to normal, but, I also need to protect my family/little one.

It's too soon - we are likely to have a repeat of big numbers - just be patient and proactive a little while longer.

<redacted> told me about a close friend! She is not vaccinated because her parents don't want her to be. <redacted> says she is so use to it and feels safer now, wearing one. Mostly because she thinks allot of her peers have not yet been Vaxed I do believe she is right on how she feels. We have been all Vaxed. As her custodian guardians (parents) we are older and more suspable to causing issues if we were to get it.

None of the choices provided fit my perspective. I urge you to add a third option, "I would like to see masks made optional after a/some specific parameter is met."

Personally, I would like to see masks be required not "until the forseeable future" but ideally once the following parameters have been met:

- 1) Ideally once a COVID vaccination mandate is passed for schools, similar to the many vaccines students must currently have to attend public school (like Measles, Mumps, Rubella) -or-
- 2) When 80%+ of the schools' population is confirmed vaccinated

Understanding the above is unlikely to happen, I would definitely urge Monomy to wait for all three of the following:

- 1) Till the vaccine for the 5 and under set has been released. This has been announced as coming soon and this vaccine will provide extra protection to our Kindergarten set, as well as for the many younger siblings at home and in turn the at-risk populations in those households/classrooms.

- 2) Till the spring when its warmer out (infections decrease, windows can be left open, more activities can be held outside)

- 3) Till the week after spring break (masks should be made mandatory, for one week following all school vacations when infections peak)

I also have lots of respect/empathy for unioned staff and teachers and would like to see their

needs/demands be met to the fullest extent.
Not 3 weeks ago we needed to not only have our children wearing masks, but surgical or n95 grade masks. To go from that to lifting the mask mandate is nonsensical. The reason we have seen lower numbers from omicron and past variants have been due to mask wearing and social distancing/less social interactions. I have agreed with how the school district has handled the pandemic until now. We should keep being diligent AT LEAST until the school year ends!
SCIENCE
The CDC continues to recommend masking in close contact, the State House is requiring masking and proof of vaccination or negative Covid test prior to visit. NO Monomoy student population has reached a vaccination rate of 80%+, the MRHS staff rate is only just 81%. Masking should remain at MRSD, particularly through these winter months and school vacation weeks. In addition, the new testing protocols should be opt out, not opt in. With only half the student population participating, and the removal of masks, how can the school system ensure the safety of all the students?
There is no mention in Dr. Carpenter's email about vaccines or vaccination rates. How can the School Board consider removing the mask mandate when so few students have been vaccinated? Monomoy's vaccination rates are abysmally low, in many classes at the elementary schools only in the 20-30% range. Failure of parents to vaccinate their children shows that Monomoy is not ready to lift the mask mandate. If parents would like to see the mask mandate lifted, they should vaccinate their kids and bring up the vaccination rate before the School Board approves. If masks are made optional right now, few children will choose to wear them, which will subject those students to teasing and put everyone at risk. I hope the School Board will take the low vaccination rates into consideration when making this important decision and postpone lifting the mask-mandate.
With many students still not vaccinated, we feel it's not safe to have the kids go unmasked.

Staff who agree with the Governor's Feb. 28 date to lift the state-required mask mandate in schools.

As a parent, <redacted> masking makes it incredibly difficult for her to appropriately receive proper accommodations in line with her IEP. Despite the hard work her teachers put in everyday, there is no question that her education has suffered because of it. I also fear for the emotional and psychological side effects for both my girls, considering the dramatic rise in depression, drug/alcohol abuse, and suicide rates amongst children in this country since the pandemic began.

As a teacher, everyday I see and talk to my students and hear their confusion and sadness as to why they can essentially live every other aspect of their lives without masks, yet are still required to wear them in school. I personally find it to be hypocritical and unfair. Seeing as children are the least vulnerable part of our population in regards to this virus, it should not fall upon them to have the most restrictions. Some students have told me they still plan to wear masks if the restrictions are lifted, but the vast majority of them want the choice.

As a person, I am vaccinated and healthy. If I find myself in a situation where I would be more comfortable wearing a mask I will. The CDC has recently come out with the information that the only truly effective masks for preventing the spread of Covid are the medical grade N95 or KN95 masks, but that is not part of the requirements of the mandate. The vast majority of students wear cloth masks, and if the CDC admits they don't really do much, what is the point?

I'm confident that our community is ready to transition to 'mask optional'. Thank you for your time.

The CDC has concluded that cloth masks make NO difference. Students and staff who want to be vaccinated, are vaccinated. Children have the lowest risk of hospitalization and serious illness due to COVID. The face masks are cruel and unnecessary.

I am happy to discuss either in person or by phone, but I strongly urge you to rescind the mandate on February 28th and move to a "mask optional policy".

I feel confident that we are ready to transition to mask optional at this point. The kids need to go back to normalcy.

Numbers are down, most teachers are vaccinated; I think we're fine until another variant

The children have suffered enough--unmask them! Also, it would be excellent for teachers to be able to breathe freely while teaching, for the first time in two years. Scott's email suggested the 28th is an "arbitrary date," yet many have considered masks themselves to be "arbitrary."

We know how to manage the virus, it's time to breath again

Staff who would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.

I feel unvaccinated students should mask, my children included.
I trust our district leadership!
I'd like masks to be required when Covid rates increase beyond a certain threshold, but optional when Covid numbers are low. I understand the complexity of that type of procedure in the schools.
I'd like to see how the numbers look after February vacation. I would feel comfortable losing the masks by mid March if things look like they do now.
We ALL want these masks off. But I don't want to rush into it at the first possible opportunity. Young children do not have high vaccination rates, and we have seen that transmission CAN happen in the elementary level (not a lot, but it does happen). I definitely don't think right after February vacation is the right time to make that change. I feel that probably mid March, after we have settled from February travel and we can hopefully keep classroom windows open or get outside for learning opportunities makes more sense. I don't want to keep my mask on just for kicks - but I definitely don't want to finally go mask free only to have to put them back on due to a spike in cases.
I would like to see masks made optional soon, when and if the number of COVID infections remain manageable or further decline.
I feel we should wait a few weeks after winter break to see .
I would like to see mask wearing beyond February 28th. Returning from vacation without masks carries too many risks.
It makes sense to keep masks in place for a couple of weeks after returning from break.
Until masks mandates are completely lifted (busses, nursing office, and five days post infection), I do not want the mandate lifting. It will be nearly impossible to reinforce masking in some places and not in others. I think that when masks come off, we need to be sure that we are not asking children to put them back on.

Staff who would like masks to be required in schools for the foreseeable future.

I feel we should wait until at least 2 weeks after February vacation travelers return to see how the numbers are after the break.
Currently the CDC does not recommend dropping the mask mandate in schools. I believe we are doing well now because we are taking precautions and wearing masks. Death rates are still high in Massachusetts.

Masks are designed to protect OTHER people. So the option to continue to wear masks while others don't serves no purpose to protect those who are vulnerable and need to be in a room as free from COVID as possible. Please. Please continue to require masks. Better that people be inconvenienced than risk others dying. Thank you.