

February 27, 2022

Dear Manhasset School Community,

We hope that you and your family have enjoyed the winter break. You may have heard that earlier today, Governor Hochul announced that the Statewide indoor mask mandate affecting schools will end on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. This announcement is consistent with the CDC's revised guidelines for counties with relatively low COVID-19 levels and is supported by the decreasing positivity rate in our area. In accordance with the resolution passed by the Board of Education earlier this month, mask wearing will be optional in our school buildings for students, faculty and staff effective Wednesday, March 2. **Importantly, the indoor mask requirement remains in effect for Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1.**

We recognize that the decision to wear or not to wear a mask is a personal decision based on many factors, including an individual's health and comfort level. We support the individual decision of each student, teacher, staff member and administrator. We encourage families to discuss with their children their expectations regarding mask wearing with the understanding that other students, teachers, staff members or administrators may choose differently. Bullying, shaming, or questioning an individual's decision to wear or not wear a mask will not be tolerated.

The Governor has indicated that she will share more information with schools in the coming days. In addition, we are in the process of preparing FAQs to answer questions regarding a mask optional environment in our school buildings, and we will share that document with you shortly.

We once again thank the school community for their partnership and patience throughout these unprecedented times.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Acting Superintendent of Schools