

February 7, 2022

Dear Manhasset School Community,

Last week we were informed that a three-judge panel has given the NYS Attorney General's office a deadline of March 2 to respond to arguments in their appeal of the Nassau County Supreme Court ruling on the mask requirement. If the Attorney General does not respond on or before March 2, the court states that it may end its stay.

Meanwhile, the emergency regulation that empowered the NYS Commissioner of Health to require masks in schools is currently set to expire on February 21. The mask requirement could end on that date unless the Department of Health rescinds the mask regulation before that date **or** extends it past February 21.

As we have stated in the past, the District shares in the frustration that a clear off-ramp for the criteria to lift universal masking has not been communicated by State officials. As we have reiterated, the District does not have, as of this writing, the legal authority to make a local decision to remove the mask mandate.

In an effort to gain clarity, the Manhasset Board of Education sent a letter to Governor Hochul, Acting Commissioner of Health Dr. Basset, and Commissioner of Education Dr. Rosa asking for information when, and under what circumstances, school districts can expect to transition to a mask optional school environment. The Board's letter is attached [here](#).

Internally, we have begun the process of preparing the District for a mask optional environment so that our community is ready when the mask requirement is no longer in effect.

We will of course, continue to keep the community informed of developments as they occur.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gaurav Passi
Acting Superintendent of Schools