

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COLIN BYRNE, D.P.S.
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

February 27, 2022

Update on Mask Mandates for Schools

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

I hope that you took time over the past week to rest and enjoy yourselves. The warmth of the middle of the week was ideal for being outdoors while the snow and ice at the end of the week provided a great opportunity for enjoying indoor activities. Regardless of what you did, I hope that it reenergized you!

As we come back to school after vacation, I would recommend that students and staff take a COVID test before returning. Tests were distributed prior to the break and were made available this afternoon for pick up. Any COVID case that can be detected before we are back together will help prevent the spread of the disease in our buildings.

This afternoon during a press conference Governor Hochul announced that the mask mandate for New York State schools will be lifted as of Wednesday, March 2nd. This follows a recommendation made by the CDC on Friday that mask wearing in schools be made optional in areas with low COVID risk.

Additional information will be coming over the next day. The Board of Education and I will be consulting with the Medical Advisory Committee and our school doctor with respect to mask wearing on Monday night. We will also be communicating with the Westchester County Department of Health as the District must follow their guidance in relation to mask wearing. I will keep you updated as information becomes available.

When mask wearing becomes optional in our schools, I want every child and adult to be comfortable with their choice as to whether or not to wear a mask. The decision around masking is a personal one involving many factors that only a person's family would fully know. No one should feel bullied or harassed based on their decision to wear or not to wear a mask. I am asking for everyone's help to support our students and staff no matter what their decision is.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Interim Superintendent of Schools