



Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner

October 28, 2021

Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent
Norwell Public Schools
322 Main Street
Norwell, MA 02061
Matthew.keegan@norwellschools.org

Re: 80 Percent Vaccination Rate Threshold Approval Request for Norwell High School

Dear Superintendent Keegan:

I am writing in response to your request seeking approval to lift the mask requirement for vaccinated individuals in Norwell High School per the guidelines set out in the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Policy on Vaccination Threshold Rate dated September 27, 2021 (Department's Policy). Specifically, in the attestation form you submitted on October 26, 2021, you confirmed that this school has met the 80 percent threshold rate as set out in the Department's Policy.

Based on the information you provided, Norwell High School's request has been approved. Vaccinated individuals in this school are not currently subject to the Department's mask requirement, although they may certainly choose to continue to wear a mask while in school. Please note that in alignment with statewide guidance, unvaccinated students and staff are still required to continue wearing masks. Please note further that the Department reserves the right, following consultation with medical experts and state health officials, to re-institute the Department's mask mandate at Norwell High School, if it becomes appropriate based on state and local public health data.

Thank you for your continued work on behalf of students in the Commonwealth. Please contact Rob Curtin at robert.c.curtin@mass.gov if you have any questions regarding this response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey C. Riley".

Jeffrey C. Riley
Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education