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## Important Indoor School Mask Requirement Update

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March 1, 2022

Dear Irvington School Community,

Today, I write to follow up on my communication from Sunday, February 27th in which I shared the news that New York State has lifted the requirement for face masks to be worn indoors in school buildings effective Wednesday, March 2nd. Therefore, **beginning tomorrow, mask wearing will be optional in the Irvington schools.**

*However, we need to be reminded that if the level of COVID-19 prevalence increases dramatically and Westchester County falls within a “Red Zone” or “High” prevalence, the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) has the authority to again require mask wearing indoors.*

While the State has lifted the requirement for students, staff members and visitors to wear masks indoors in school buildings, we have to understand that many members of the school community may still choose to wear masks. This personal decision will be met with a welcoming and supportive faculty and staff. At no time will the District permit anyone to be critiqued, penalized, or bullied should they choose to wear a mask or not. As a school community, we must come together to support one another’s right to wear a face mask or their choice not to. Parents are encouraged to speak to their children about being understanding of individuals’ choices. In doing so, we have to reflect on the concerns that still remain for some and make certain that we, as a school community, are supportive and maintain a welcoming environment for everyone.

In the near future, the NYSDOH has advised school districts that further guidance related to topics such as social distancing will be released. If this guidance affects our operations in any significant way, I will provide the community with an update as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued support and your partnership over the past two years. Together we have surely navigated this very difficult period of time in the best way possible. Had it not been for our shared commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff members along with a great deal of flexibility, our school community would not have been as successful as it was in managing the pandemic.

My best regards,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison  
Superintendent of Schools

