



Update on Face Mask Requirements

June 8, 2021

Dear Irvington School Community,

I am writing in follow up to my recent communications regarding the anticipated revisions to the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) mask wearing requirements. This much anticipated guidance was released on Monday night and states the following:

“Effective June 7, 2021, face masks are not required to be worn outdoors on school grounds, including during outdoor school sports. However, Responsible Parties may choose to require face masks outdoors on school grounds, subject to the parameters of this guidance. No student, teacher, staff member, or visitor may be prevented from wearing an acceptable face mask voluntarily on school grounds.”

Please note that the revised guidance also indicates that **mask** **must continue to be worn indoors** while on school grounds. [The complete NYSDOH guidelines can be found here.](#)

Following a thorough review of the revised guidelines and, after consultation with the Reopening Steering Committee, it has been determined that **effective Thursday, June 10, 2021, while mask wearing will still be encouraged, the District will no longer require masks to be worn outdoors on IUFSD grounds.** This is inclusive of adults and students and covers all outdoor activities, including outdoor athletics, as described in the NYSDOH guidance. Those who wish to continue to wear masks outdoors will be welcome to do so. However, it is important to note that proper social distancing still remains of great importance and the school staff will make every effort to enforce it.

Also effective Thursday, June 10, 2021, barriers will be removed from the Middle School and High School classrooms as they are no longer a NYSDOH requirement and impede students' visual and auditory experiences in the classroom. In both schools proper social distancing will be enforced. Unfortunately, the removal of barriers is not possible in the elementary schools at this time due to furniture configurations that don't provide the required distancing.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated.

All the best,

Kris

Dr. Kristopher Harrison
Superintendent of Schools

