

Dear Manchester Public Schools Community,

As you may be aware, Governor Lamont announced a plan to end Connecticut's school mask mandate effective Monday, February 28, 2022. The governor also stated the decision to continue the requirement for masks to be worn in school would be made at the local level. At Monday evening's Board of Education meeting, I will recommend an end to the mask mandate in Manchester Public Schools effective Monday, February 28, 2022.

Given that the governor and Department of Public Health have indicated the state-wide mask mandate is no longer needed and our local data suggests Manchester is no different than anywhere else in the state, masks will be optional in Manchester Public Schools beginning on February 28.

Due to federal guidelines covering public transportation, masks will still be required on school buses and for all students, staff, and families who enter Manchester Preschool Center (Head Start federally funded).

Finally, students or staff who test positive for COVID-19 will quarantine for 5 days and wear a mask for five days following their return to school as stated in the current CDC guidelines.

We will continue to work closely with our local health department to monitor COVID-related metrics in the event changes need to be made to ensure the safety of our students, staff, and families.

Mitigation strategies, including handwashing, quarantine and isolation, and social distancing when possible will remain in place. In the near future, we will update our Health and Safety Protocols document and share a revised version on our website.

I again want to thank our entire school community for their patience and flexibility as we have navigated the past 2 years. It is my sincere hope that with positive cases decreasing and mandates easing, we are on track for a safe and healthy spring and a strong finish to the school year.

Sincerely,

Matt Geary

Superintendent