

June 4, 2021

Dear Spackenkill Community,

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) issued a memo to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today indicating a new expectation to reduce mask wearing requirements in schools. [Please read the memo here](#). It appears NYSDOH is waiting for the CDC to weigh in. This news could help the Spackenkill community get closer to normalcy. As you will see from reading the memo, this new plan is not official yet and we are awaiting the CDC's response.

In anticipation of next week's warmer weather, we will use the following guidelines to support everyone's health, wellness, and our learning environments:

- provide additional mask breaks or give individual students the option for additional mask breaks
- allow extended mask breaks outdoors with proper social distancing
- allow students to drink water in class
- allow students to go to the water filling stations more frequently
- use fans or AC units with safe room ventilation
- if a staff member or a student is unsafely hot, we will send the person to the nurse's office and we will find a cool space, such as the main office, for the person
- teachers will let their Main Offices know if classrooms are unsafely hot

As of now, we are still following our same mask mandate and masks are still required. However, this is an ever-changing environment and our approach could shift quickly. More information from the CDC and/or the NYSDOH could come out over the weekend or early next week. We will process all of the information, including guidance from our local Department of Behavioral and Community Health and adjust accordingly. We will update the community if our approach changes.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this new reality.

Sincerely,

Paul M. Fanuele, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools