

Mark E. Doody  
Interim Superintendent of Schools  
SALEM CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
41 East Broadway  
Salem, New York 12865  
518-854-7855  
mdoody@salemcsd.org

February 27, 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

As you may have heard from numerous media reports over the weekend, the CDC issued new guidance on Friday, February 25 that loosened its recommendations for masking on school buses and in schools that are located in areas that have low and medium community levels of COVID-19. This is welcomed news from the CDC and a hopeful step to a return to normalcy.

On Saturday, February 26, WSWHE BOCES and 31 superintendents of schools in Washington, Saratoga, Warren, Hamilton and Essex counties [wrote a letter](#) to urge the Governor and the Department of Health to adopt the CDC's new recommendations immediately.

The Governor announced today, Sunday, February 27, that the Department of Health will adopt the CDC's new recommendations for school districts in New York State, effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022. This is pending final determination of county health officials where schools are located that the county has low or medium community levels of COVID-19.

At this time, we anticipate being able to relax the masking requirement in our school buildings and on our school buses unless otherwise directed. That being said, on Monday and Tuesday, the same masking rules that were in effect immediately prior to the February break remain in place until we have the final word from our county health partners.

On Wednesday, March 2, when we anticipate that masking will become optional, some people will choose to continue masking in environments where it is not required. They will be supported. It is crucial that we respect each other's decisions and continue to be cautious about close contact. We will be in contact again with you in the next few days with updates.

I want to thank you again for your patience, understanding, and support as we have navigated through this pandemic. This has been a long, difficult journey and I am so proud of how well our students, families, and staff have worked together throughout it all.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Doody  
Interim Superintendent