



Newcomb Central School District

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Secretary to Superintendent Pamela Bush	School District Clerk Melissa Yandon	School District Treasurer Colleen Sage
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June 8, 2021

Subject: Important Update to Mask Policy

Dear Newcomb School Community,

On Friday June 4, Dr. Howard Zucker, New York State Commissioner of Health issued a letter ([click here to read](#)) to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding differing mask policies for summer camps and schools. Media coverage of this letter has led to some confusion and inferred that mask wearing in schools was optional.

On Sunday June 6, the district reached out to you after receiving guidance from the New York State Department of Education which was contrary to the letter from Dr. Zucker. The New York State Department of Education informed schools that the Department of Health's letter has not changed any existing arrangements. "Therefore, schools should continue to operate under their existing procedures until further notice."

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced, that after conferring with the CDC, "school districts can choose to **lift the requirement that their students must wear masks outdoors.** **Guidance on mask use indoors remains in place**". To view the Governor's full press release, [click here](#).

Late last evening, we received final guidance from the Governor's office. Coupled with that guidance, the New York State Department of Health released updated changes to the Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction for Pre-k to Grade 12 Schools. The updated guidance includes 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.**" To view the updated guidance from the New York State Department of Health, click the following link, [Interim Guidance for In-Person Instruction for Pre-k to Grade 12 Schools](#).

Effective June 8th, Newcomb Central School District will lift the mask mandate for staff and students when they are outside on the school grounds. Per the guidance, appropriate PPE is still required to be worn inside of the school building. **“Specifically, appropriate PPE means, at least, an acceptable mask, which is required to be worn by all individuals in all classroom and non-classroom settings, including but not limited to hallways, school offices, restrooms, gyms, auditoriums, etc. All visitors must wear masks.”** Newcomb Central School District will continue to comply with this mandate with the exception of mask breaks each period of the day when extreme weather conditions exist.

Please know that the health and safety of our students continue to be our top priority. Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we make it through these last few weeks of a very difficult year.

Should you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at (518) 582-3341.

Sincerely Yours,

Mrs. Christian Fisher
Superintendent of Schools