

February 24, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the issue of masking in schools. On February 7th Governor Lamont announced that he was recommending a plan to eliminate the statewide requirement for masking in schools on February 28th. This decision is now up to school districts to make the final decision.

We would like to share with you that after much consideration and deliberation, we have come to the conclusion that we will continue with the mask mandate in The Webb Schools. The requirement applies to students, staff, parents and visitors. The decision was made based upon guidance from the CDC, DPH and HHC.

We have come to this decision to continue our efforts to keep our school and communities safe. Our local positivity rates and percentage of children vaccinated are important data points that we continue to monitor. At this time, 55% of our students are fully vaccinated. We need to see an increase of children who are fully vaccinated, as well as the community positivity rate decline, in order to consider lifting the mask mandate. To assist in helping students get vaccinated, we are currently working on hosting another vaccine clinic in the near future. We will update you when we have more information.

While the vaccine does not 100% prevent individuals from contracting the virus, it has been proven effective in reducing the severity of symptoms and hospitalizations from the virus if contracted. We continue to learn more information about the virus variants and vaccinations every day; the CDC ([cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)) and State of CT ([ct.gov/coronavirus](https://www.ct.gov/coronavirus)) websites remain the most accurate and a timely source for information as it is discovered. We want to remind you that individuals age 5 and up can receive the vaccine. Booster shots are also strongly encouraged for fully vaccinated individuals either immunocompromised or 6 months from 2nd vaccination.

Also, reminder to families of our current policy on identified close contacts and symptomatic students. If your child is feeling ill or exhibiting any symptoms, they should not be sent to school. In order to return to school a Negative Covid-19 test will be needed and/or an alternative diagnosis (ie; strep throat, ear infection). A PCR test is still the gold standard and would be recommended. At home tests will not be accepted unless it is a positive result. If a test is not provided, a 10 day quarantine would be needed and return on day 11 as long as symptoms are improving and fever free for 24 hours. If your child is identified as a close contact and fully vaccinated then they do not have to quarantine if they are asymptomatic. A test is recommended on day 3-5. If your child is not vaccinated and identified as a close contact a 10 day quarantine is required followed by 4 additional days of close monitoring for symptoms. It is recommended a Covid-19 test on day 5-7.

Thank you for all of your cooperation and understanding,

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