

FAQ on Changes to NYS Mask Mandate effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022

MASKING

Q: Do I have to wear a mask on the bus or in any part of the school on Wednesday, March 2?

*A: No. Students or staff are **not** required to wear a mask on our buses or in the school buildings once the state mandate is lifted effective March 2 but may still choose to do so.*

Q: What if I want to wear a mask only in certain areas where there are lots of people, but not in others? Do I have that option?

A: Yes. Although masks are not required by the state or county as of March 2, students, staff, and visitors may still choose to wear a mask at any time.

Q: If students in a classroom choose to wear a mask, will the teacher and other staff also wear a mask?

A: Teachers and staff will have the choice of wearing a mask, but this will not be required.

Q: If I want my child to wear a mask during the day, will staff reinforce this?

A: Parents should discuss this with their child and set their expectations. While staff will assist where they can, this is not something that the district will expect of our staff members.

Q: Will we be required to wear masks again if the [Community Level](#) goes to Medium or High?

A: We do not have the answer to this question yet but anticipate receiving guidance from NYS and/or the Saratoga County Public Health Services Office on this.

Q: Will KN95 masks be available for my child on Wednesday?

A: Yes. Each school will have a supply of adult and youth masks that can be provided to your child. Parents of students in K-5, please contact the school nurse if you would like your child to be provided with one of these masks.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Q: Will social distancing still be required on Wednesday?

A: There are no changes to the social distancing protocols currently in place at this time. This may change once we receive guidance from NYS and/or Saratoga County Public Health Services Office.

Q: If I am immunocompromised and not comfortable having my child in school when others are not wearing a mask, will a remote option be made available?

A: The District is not providing a remote option this year, but given the change to the masking requirement, we are exploring remote options for students in K-6 who have immunocompromised family

members at home. One such option provides access to remote learning through a special program from the Capital Region BOCES. If you are immunocompromised and are interested in this option for your K-6 child, please review the information available at <https://www.capitalregionboces.org/about-us/cvla/>. If you are still interested after reviewing the information, please contact your school principal.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Q: As a student, if I am uncomfortable during the day with others not wearing a mask, what can I do?

A: Please feel very comfortable seeking out and speaking with your school counselor about this. After wearing masks in school for two years, we know there will be an adjustment period and students and staff may feel anxious or scared being in this “new” environment.

Q: As a parent, what should I tell my child to get them ready for school on Wednesday when masks will not be required?

A: Your child has the choice as to whether they will wear a mask during the day and we expect that a number of students and staff will continue to do so. While this is a big change, no other changes are being made to our current procedures and so there will still be a feeling of caution in our schools. Please encourage your child to talk to their teacher, counselor, or someone they trust about how they are doing during the day.

QUARANTINING RULES

Q: If students are not wearing masks in the classroom and a student tests positive, will all unmasked students be required to quarantine?

A: We do not have the answer to this question yet but anticipate receiving guidance from NYS and/or the Saratoga County Public Health Services Office on this.

Q: Will the district continue the Test-To-Stay program if my child is exposed to a positive case?

A: This is a Saratoga County-based program and we do not yet have information as to whether this will be continued. Please check back to this site as the answers will be updated as new information becomes available.

Q: If my child tests positive for COVID and is able to return after day 5 of quarantine, will they be required to wear a mask for days 6-10?

A: We do not have the answer to this question yet but anticipate receiving guidance from NYS and/or the Saratoga County Public Health Services Office on this.

Q: If my child is quarantined, will they still have access to remote instruction (at grades 6-12) and/or tutoring while they are quarantined?

A: Our Quarantining and Exclusion Plan will continue at this time. Should our case numbers continue to drop, we will revisit this decision.

Q: Is the district still seeing positive cases in students and staff?

A: Yes. We continue to report the positive cases on our [COVID-19 Cases in BSCSD](#) page. We encourage parents to continue to utilize the COVID-19 testing kits provided by your child’s school should they have any symptoms and to continue to report any positive cases of COVID-19 to our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox and to the Saratoga County Public Health Services at this [link](#).

Q: Will my child still have to have an assigned seat on the bus now that the mask mandate has been lifted?

A: Yes. We still do not have information as to whether quarantining rules will change and so it is important for us to maintain our seating plans. Once we have this information from NYS and/or Saratoga County Public Health Services Office, we will update this document as necessary.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q: What if I have a question that is not addressed here?

A: Please send any additional questions to our Schoolopening@bcsd.org mailbox and we will review it.

Q: Will this document be updated when the new guidance is received?

A: Yes. As soon as we are able to fully review the guidance we will update this document as well as other, related documents.