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February 18, 2022

Dear Canterbury Families and Faculty,

The district has received official notification that the requirement to wear a mask in a school setting is being suspended effective February 28, 2022. Therefore, the Board's Face/Masks Covering policy 4118.237 is also suspended. Effective February 28, it will not be required to wear a mask in a school setting.

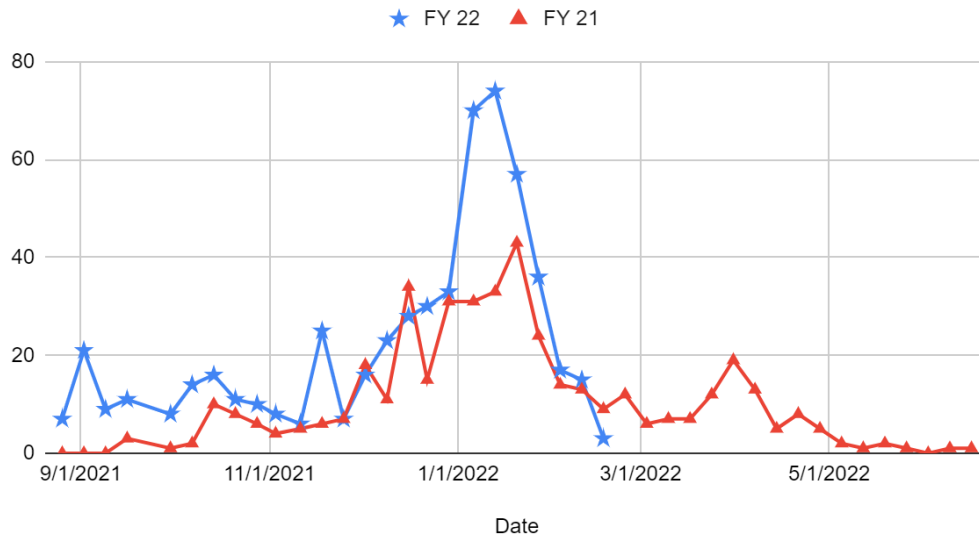
As we begin the next steps in reducing the number of mitigation strategies in schools, it will be important to continue to monitor ourselves for COVID-19 symptoms. If a student or staff is feeling ill it is important to remain home. As a reminder, the school nurse has home test kits for any family or staff that needs one.

Over the next week it will be important to begin having conversations with your child regarding this transition. Some families will want their child to continue wearing a mask at school and some staff will continue to wear a mask at school. This may be confusing for our youngest learners. We support an individual's decision, as it is no longer mandated, as each of us has our own circumstance at home that may necessitate the wearing of a mask in a school setting. Families who wish for their child to continue wearing masks at school should clearly communicate their expectations to their child. It is not practical for teachers and administrators to be responsible for monitoring mask wearing as each family will have their own opinion, which will vary greatly in a classroom setting.

It is our understanding that as of today it will still be required to wear a mask on a school bus. The rationale for this requirement can be confusing for children, and even myself, but it is important that we continue to follow the required regulation. Our hope is that this requirement will also be eliminated soon. It is my understanding that the requirement has been extended until March 18, but I have not confirmed that information yet. I specifically asked the legal counsel at the State Department of Education if these federal regulations apply to districts that manage their own transportation system. Their answer was definitive, any transport of the public is subject to the regulation. Your patience in this area is appreciated.

Reported cases of COVID in our community continues to decline at a rapid rate. Below is a table that reflects the estimated weekly cases in Canterbury during this school year and last school year. The blue line reflects the cases experienced this year. As you can see in the table there was a slight spike in cases last year during the month of May.

Estimated Weekly COVID Cases in Canterbury



The State Department of Education is required to provide districts with updated guidance for managing the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. Specifically, on how we manage confirmed COVID cases in a school setting and the possibility of isolated outbreaks. It is expected that this guidance will become available any day. Once we receive the guidance we will share it with the community.

I understand this is an anxious time for many families and staff. It is important that the information I share with you is accurate. Sometimes this information may not be provided as quickly as we would like, but I feel accuracy is more important. Your continued support of the school system is greatly appreciated.

We hope you have a pleasant extended long weekend.

In Partnership,

Steve Rioux