



June 5, 2021

Dear North Babylon Community,

Yesterday, June 4, 2021, Dr. Howard Zucker, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Health, sent a letter to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the CDC, informing her that New York State will implement new mask guidance for schools, effective Monday, June 7, 2021.

In the letter, Dr. Zucker references the most recent CDC guidance for youth camps that strongly encourages (but not requires) mask use indoors for non-vaccinated people and also states that mask-wearing is not necessary outdoors. Here is the section of the letter that is most relevant to schools

As many camps take place on school grounds, both serve school-age children, and the end of the school year/start of the camp season both occur in June, New York State plans to align our school and camp mask guidance as follows. In both settings, as a minimum state-wide guidance:

- Indoors, mask use will be strongly encouraged but not required for students, campers, and staff/teachers/counselors who are not fully vaccinated.*
- Outdoors, masks are not required; students, campers, and staff/teachers/counselors who are not fully vaccinated are "encouraged" to wear a mask in certain higher-risk circumstances.*
- Both indoors and outdoors, students, campers, and staff who are fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks.*
- Schools and camps may choose to implement stricter standards.*

Dr. Zucker states in his letter that pending data or science from the CDC that would contradict this change in mask requirements, New York will plan to implement this new guidance Monday, June 7, 2021. It is my hope that at some point during this weekend school districts will receive communication regarding guidance from the New York State Department Health (NYSDOH).

As North Babylon has been consistent with implementing all NYSDOH guidance as it relates to schools, it is my intention to implement the new guidance upon receiving verification of the change. Please look for communication from the district prior to the start of school Monday with an update.

Sincerely,

Glen Eschbach
Superintendent