



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

June 6, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Students and Families:

On Friday, New York State Health Commissioner Howard Zucker released a letter he sent to the Director of the CDC regarding a potential change to the use of masks in school. In the letter, Dr. Zucker indicated that the state intended to align its end of the school year mask guidance with the mask guidance previously released for summer camps. In both settings, as a minimum state-wide guidance the NYSDOH is considering:

- 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.

The Tonawanda City School District has consistently followed the health and safety regulations released by the NYSDOH over the course of the pandemic. Importantly, until NYSDOH fulfills its responsibility to update the state guidance according to its June 4 letter to the CDC, the current guidance remains in effect, including the current mask mandate.

All students and staff must continue to follow our current practice of wearing masks as we await a NYSDOH statement officially changing the mask guidance. We appreciate your continued patience while we wait for the state to communicate with us. If there are any changes to the current guidance we will communicate with you as soon as we receive and interpret this information.

Thank you for your trust, support, and partnership with our proud district. We are committed to providing and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our entire school community. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools