

South Lewis Central School District

Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

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June 6, 2021

Dear South Lewis School Community:

Yesterday, I communicated with our school community regarding the “intended” change to the mask mandates in schools expected from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Pending final review by the Center of Disease Control (CDC), it is expected that the NYSDOH will no longer require masks to be worn in schools. However, it would still be strongly recommended and encouraged for those not fully vaccinated.

With this information in hand, the District immediately took action to obtain feedback from our stakeholders. Specifically, the District wanted to learn the support level of our school community in conducting all school operations without a mask. Overwhelmingly, with 91% of the over 600 responses, the South Lewis Community is in support of eliminating the mask mandate.

Therefore, once this potential and expected new guidance is released by the NYSDOH, South Lewis will be modifying its mask mandate in kind. It is expected that our new mask requirements will be as follows:

- Fully vaccinated individuals will not be required to wear masks.
- Non-fully vaccinated individuals will be strongly encouraged to wear masks, but it will not be required.
- Anyone choosing to wear a mask may continue to do so, regardless of vaccination status.

However, please note that at this time there has been no change to the mask mandate. In fact, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) sent a communication to schools today indicating that the mask mandate is still in effect and that mask mandate modifications, at this time, are not to be made.

Therefore, we will continue to operate under our existing procedures until further notice. Also, it is important to recognize that any change in the mask mandate does not have any impact on the other health and safety measures in place such as physical distancing, daily temperature checks, periodic health screenings, quarantining or cleaning and disinfecting protocols.

I would like to thank our entire school community for the excellent response rate to the survey on mask mandates. The information and feedback to our surveys continues to be valuable and helpful. We will be sure to communicate with our school community once resolution has been reached on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Mr. Douglas Premo
Superintendent of Schools