



DEPEW UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 2, 2021

Dear Depew School Community,

The purpose of this letter is to let you know how the District will implement COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including masks and physical distancing. As you know, on May 28, 2021, the CDC issued updated guidance for operating youth camps, which essentially makes it optional for individuals to wear masks, whether indoors or outdoors. According to the activities that we have planned for children in our summer programs, there is no material difference in risk levels or populations between our programs and summer camps.

Also important is that as of June 28, 2021, Western New York's seven-day average of new COVID-19 cases per day was at six (6) cases, and there were thankfully very few individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. Consistent with these statistics, Governor Cuomo formally lifted his order declaring a state of emergency in connection with COVID-19 effective June 25, 2021.

Finally, guidance documents issued for schools by the State Department of Health, State Education Department and the CDC concerning the use of mitigation strategies during the 2020-2021 academic school year ended June 30, 2021.

Consistent with the current CDC guidance on summer camp activities, and after conferring with our legal counsel, the follow mitigation strategies will be in place for our summer programs:

- Mask wearing is strongly encouraged, but not required.
- We will maximize physical distance between students based on the number of children in each class and the size of the instructional space.
- We strongly encourage families to keep children at home if they aren't feeling well.
- Every class will have the opportunity to utilize an outdoor space, so that we can maximize the time that students spend outdoors.
- Thorough cleaning of all spaces will be completed daily

If New York State issues guidance to replace that, which has expired, we will assess its impact on how we intend to operate and offer updates as required.

We are looking forward to seeing your children this summer.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Rabey Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Depew Union Free School District

"Inspiring, Challenging, Achieving"