



## Cromwell Public Schools

*"Placing Students First"*  
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February 23, 2022

Dear Cromwell Public Schools Community Members,

I hope this letter finds you all healthy and well. Below you will find updated information regarding COVID-19, from the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (SDE) and how it will be addressed in our schools.

As you know on Monday, February 28, 2022 masks will become optional for students, faculty and staff regardless of vaccination status in Cromwell Public Schools during the school day and for any after-school activities. We have put together some additional information to help families make this transition.

Although we are making masks optional, as a district we will continue with other mitigation strategies to help stop the spread of illnesses. We will continue our regular cleaning practices in buildings, we have maximized ventilation in buildings and we will continue to social distance whenever possible. Please continue to remind your child(ren) to wash their hands regularly and keep their distance when practical. These additional strategies will become vital in keeping the masks optional in our schools.

At the school level, we will be talking to students about respecting the choices of others and creating environments where everyone can make the choice that best suits them. Please be advised that schools will not be policing the use of masks during the school day, so if you as a family have decided to continue to mask, please have this discussion with your child(ren) over the weekend.

The federal mask mandate that requires masking on public transportation remains in place until further notice; because of this, students will still be required to wear a mask on the school buses. Students should still continue to have a mask available to them during the school day as we will also be requiring a mask when a student enters the school nurse's office. We will have some masks available for students that forget, but there is a limited supply.

Students and staff who test positive will be required to isolate for 5 days and may return on day 6. Masks will be required for those returning from quarantine on days 6-10. As always, if you are sick, please stay home. Please click [here](#) to access the CDC Isolation Guidelines.

We will continue to use the Screen and Stay strategy so that faculty, staff and families can self-monitor for symptoms. Below is a checklist of symptoms:

- Fever (100 or higher) or chills
- Frequent coughing
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting

If you have any of the above symptoms, please administer a COVID-19 home test. Should the results be positive, please reach out to your school nurse. As an additional precaution, we are highly encouraging everyone to test at home before returning to school on Monday. Tests are available at the schools; should you need one, reach out to your school nurse and arrangements will be made to make them available. Please click [here](#) to access our Health Services Website.

We will constantly assess the situation in the schools and will use the following metrics to make determinations about changes to our masking policy and increasing mitigation strategies. We will monitor any changes in mitigation strategies on a two week basis.

- 20% or higher infection rate in a class, cohort or school
- If we exceed the 50th percentile mark for case rates (positive cases per 100,000 population) in the 169 cities and towns in CT

This decision, as well as all other decisions, have been made in collaboration with the local health department. We will continue to work with our local health department, and if data and criteria change regarding if, and when we are to return to masking, we will notify you immediately.

Sincerely,



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