



February 24, 2022

Dear BCSD Families,

While our students and staff are on February break, I want to take a moment to update you on where our district stands in regards to the mask mandate.

Governor Hochul has announced that she will reassess the existing mask mandate for schools over this week's winter break, and if the metrics continue to look favorable, she could lift the mask mandate soon after.

If the governor does decide to lift the mandate, then Batavia City Schools will follow state guidance to shift to a mask-optional policy. When we receive information from the governor's office, we will share that with you immediately.

Since the outset of the pandemic, we have sought guidance from our local and state health departments, the CDC, and the American Academy of Pediatrics when implementing safety measures for our students and staff. We have monitored our local COVID-19 data and have seen it trend in the right direction over the last few weeks.

We are working with the Genesee County Department of Health and our school medical director to prepare for any shifts to the current mask mandate. However, until that time, New York State schools are still required to follow the existing state mandate until it expires.

We are monitoring this situation closely and will continue to provide as much information and guidance as it becomes available.

Enjoy the rest of this well-deserved February recess. Our continued thanks for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,

Jason A. Smith
Superintendent, Batavia City School District