



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

February 27, 2022

Dear Tonawanda City School District Families, Students, and Staff:

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout the pandemic. The primary goal of our district has been to protect our students and staff while maintaining the safest environment possible.

Recently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a new framework for measuring COVID-19 spread in communities. Under these new guidelines, Erie County is currently considered to be at a “medium level.” When at this level, the CDC no longer requires masking in schools. Further, Governor Hochul announced this afternoon that **effective this Wednesday, March 2, 2022 that masks are no longer required in schools.**

***\*\*\*The NYS mask mandate for students and staff in schools WILL continue on Monday February 28 (tomorrow) and Tuesday, March 1, 2022.\*\*\****

Based on this revised guidance and Governor Hochul's announcement, masks will be optional for all Warrior students, employees, and visitors to our schools beginning on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. As we have since the beginning of the pandemic, we will continue to follow the latest guidance and adjust as state and federal requirements change.

Additionally, **effective Wednesday, March 2, 2022** the CDC no longer requires wearing masks on buses operated by public school systems. As such, masks will now be optional for students and adults that utilize our school buses.

To be clear, and as stated in the recently released CDC guidance, “employees and students can continue to wear a mask based on personal preference, informed by personal level of risk.” It should be noted that our district will not tolerate and harassing, intimidating, or ridiculing behaviors regarding any individuals decision when wearing or not wearing a mask at any time.

I encourage individuals to discuss the latest CDC guidance with their personal health care provider to make a decision regarding the masking practice that is most appropriate while in school. We will share information regarding additional changes to practices and protocols when they are announced.

Sincerely,

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