

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

James Leo McGuinness Administration Building – 100 Bennett Street, Lynn, MA 01905
Tel. (781) 593-1680 ~ Fax. (781) 477-7487



Superintendent of Schools

February 11, 2022

Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

Governor Baker and Commissioner of Education, Jeff Riley, announced that the statewide mask mandate will not be renewed when it expires on Monday, February 28, 2022. It was further communicated that mask policies in schools will be made at the local level by individual school districts. At its regular meeting on Thursday, February 10th, **the Lynn School Committee voted to transition to giving all staff and students the choice of whether or not to wear a mask in school buildings beginning March 14, 2022.**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have closely followed state health policy and the direction of local health authorities. The decision to give staff and students the choice of whether or not to wear a mask in school buildings beginning March 14th is supported unanimously by state health officials and local health authorities alike for the following reasons:

- A sharp decrease in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools and broader community (see the LPS [COVID Dashboard](#)).
- The strong percentages of COVID vaccinated Lynn youth between the ages of 12-19 and the notable increase in the number of Lynn youth between the ages of 5-11 (See this [dashboard](#) for updated vaccination rates).
- The ongoing, frequent availability of vaccine clinics in our schools.
- A significant decrease in positive cases detected in our routine COVID safety check, also known as pool testing.
- The recent addition of the weekly at home testing program available to all students and staff. (Families and staff can still opt in [here](#)).

The shift on March 14th will still require mask wearing in particular spaces and under certain circumstances. Students and staff will still be required to wear a mask:

- On all buses per federal order
- If an individual is symptomatic at school
- While visiting or working in the school nurse's office
- Upon return to school from isolation or quarantine for days 6-10

Further, it is strongly recommended that all unvaccinated individuals continue to wear a mask while in school.

We began this school year with a layered approach to health and safety in our schools and we remain committed to it. Cleaning and sanitizing will continue in earnest. We will continue the emphasis on hand hygiene and staying home when not well. Ventilation systems and fresh airflow are being monitored and evaluated. Additionally, routine COVID safety checks, also known as pool testing, will remain in place at the elementary level.

I am encouraged that the conditions have given us the opportunity to allow choice with mask wearing. I know how challenging this year has been and I remain deeply appreciative of your support and patience. We are in this together – we will get through it together.

Yours in partnership,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent