

LYNN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Patrick A. Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent of Schools*

March 10, 2022

Dear Lynn Public Schools Community,

As I shared with you in my previous letter on [February 11th](#), 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 this upcoming Monday, March 14th, 2022. This policy, in response to the lifting of the statewide mask mandate, has the unanimous support of both state and local health officials. Additionally, on March 3rd, the Lynn School Committee voted to allow the choice of whether or not to wear a mask on the school bus in alignment with recent guidance by the Center for Disease Control.

Please note that students and staff will still be required to wear a mask:

- if they are symptomatic at school
- in the school nurse's office
- upon return to school from isolation or quarantine for days 6-10

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

I want to emphasize that this policy is designed to allow students and their families, as well as staff, to make the choice they are most comfortable with under the current public health conditions. As a community, we will respect the choices of each individual. We encourage you to talk with your student about this choice and make the one that is best for your family. We anticipate that some students will still wear masks, and others will not. Some students may feel nervousness about not wearing a mask, and some may feel relief. Each response is valid and will be supported in each school community. I remain encouraged that the public health conditions have continued to improve and have allowed us to support this shift in policy. Please reach out to your child's teacher or principal with any questions you have, or anything you would like us to know about your family's decision.

Throughout the pandemic, I have been inspired by and grateful for the consistent cooperation of students, families, and staff--all of us brought together in the common goal of keeping the community safe while ensuring teaching and learning continues. That goal has not changed. I am confident that with this policy, along with the other safety measures that will remain in place, we will meet this goal.

Thank you for your partnership.

Best,

Patrick Tutwiler, PhD
Superintendent