



WHITE PLAINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

March 1, 2022

Dear WPCSD Community Members,

As you know, Governor Hochul and the New York State Department of Health have designated that tomorrow, Wednesday, March 2, 2022, masking in public schools and on district transportation will become optional due to low rates of identified COVID-19 infection within our region. At this time, the district has not received any additional guidance related to this announcement. While we do anticipate receiving the guidance soon, we know that many in our community have questions with regard to the remaining health/safety measures within our school communities. We do anticipate that the forthcoming guidance will address these questions and we will share all information with our community once we receive it.

In the interim, masking in our schools, and on our district transportation, will become optional tomorrow. We recognize that many in our community will choose to remove masks and we know that many will choose to continue to wear masks in our school settings. We respect these individual family decisions, and we will continue to provide support to our children and community members as we move forward. As shared previously, we strongly encourage all members of our community to respect the decisions of others. These are deeply personal decisions and are dependent on a variety of factors that only you and your family know. We, as a community, will respect the mask choices that our families make. We know that masking has become a highly charged and politicized issue, however, there is no place in our schools for bullying, harassment, or shaming about masks or anything else.

Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support. We have come a long way together and together we will continue forward in a manner within which we will all remain **#WPProud**.

Respectfully,

Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools