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February 26, 2022

Dear EPS Families,

As you may be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday updated its guidelines regarding the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19. **Under the new guidance, healthy people living in counties with low- or medium- levels of COVID-19 transmission do not need to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Individuals in high-risk areas are still encouraged to wear masks indoors, including in schools.**

Erie's Public Schools Health and Safety Plan follows CDC Covid-19 guidance. As such, we will suspend our district's universal masking requirement during periods of low- to medium transmission risk, effective immediately. **As of Feb. 25, Erie County is an area of medium transmission risk, which means students and staff will not currently be required to wear masks in our buildings and schools.** Please note that students who were in isolation or quarantine and return to school still will be required to wear masks until the tenth day of their isolation or quarantine period.

Universal masking may resume if Erie County's transmission level increases to "high," depending on guidance from the CDC and the Erie County Department of Health. In that event, all families will be notified as soon as possible.

For details on how county risk levels are calculated, visit this [CDC informational page](#).

Please note that masking is scientifically proven to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and is still encouraged for immunocompromised individuals in areas of medium and high transmission. Any student or staff member who would like to continue wearing a mask is welcomed and encouraged to do so. Masks will continue to be available to all who need or want them at all EPS schools.

All Erie's Public Schools staff and students are asked to continue practicing other COVID-19 health and safety protocols currently in place, including social distancing, proper and thorough handwashing, and staying home when sick. You can read our complete Health and Safety Plan [here](#).

For more information or questions related to COVID-19, contact EPS Pandemic Coordinator Neal Brokman at 814-874-6123 or nbrokman@eriesd.org.

Sincerely,

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Superintendent, Erie's Public Schools

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