

# NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo  
Superintendent of Schools

February 23, 2022

Dear NMPS Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As a follow-up to my previous communication that was sent on February 16, 2022, we are preparing the district schools for the transition to optional mask-wearing which will begin on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Classroom and cafeteria partitions will stay in place until at least after the April break. As a reminder, students will be required to wear masks on school transportation, per the Transportation Authority, until further notice.

As promised, we are working with administration and staff to prepare for discussions with students tomorrow, Thursday, February 24th, regarding the change to optional mask-wearing and the community expectations that will partner with this change. We are asking for your support of this message and to help us honor choice in our schools. Please see the link below to "Talking Points for Families: Masking Option".

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E8LZ9hYw6J\\_BFVBsBRoIB2wNV3jZbBOI/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1E8LZ9hYw6J_BFVBsBRoIB2wNV3jZbBOI/view?usp=sharing)

Additionally, the Department of Public Health (DPH) recently provided school districts with a set of recommended strategies to support us with our ongoing efforts. The document is entitled *Transitioning to a Model of Routine Respiratory Disease Prevention and Enhanced Outbreak Management and Control for COVID-19 in PreK-12 School Settings* and can be viewed on the State's portal here: [DPH guidance](#). The highlights of the guidance include the following information:

- Recommending COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students and staff including booster vaccine doses when appropriate.
- Supporting students and staff who choose to continue wearing masks in school settings.
- Following isolation guidelines for students and staff who have symptoms or have tested positive for COVID-19.
- Following existing quarantine guidance for students and staff who have been notified of certain higher-risk close contact exposures (e.g., household exposures, crowded social gatherings).
- Recommending COVID-19 transmission prevention strategies, including testing (self-testing and/or at provider sites) and masking for students and staff, following illness or exposures to COVID-19 cases. Note: *This will still include a return on Day 6 after being positive for COVID-19 with the recommendation that a mask be worn through Day 10.*
- Continuing to advise parents to report all cases of COVID-19 to the school.
- Being prepared to respond quickly to rapid increases in cases or clusters of cases in schools (including increases in absenteeism due to respiratory illness).

The State Department of Public Health is recommending that all students and staff (who have not tested positive in the past 90 days) take a home COVID-19 test prior to February 28th as

part of the shift to an endemic management approach. A negative test result does not need to be shared, however, if you test positive, please contact your school's administration or school nurse.

**The District is offering free COVID-19 home test kits for students who attend New Milford Public Schools. Families can pick up two kits each per student. The kits will be available tomorrow, February 24, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Sarah Noble Intermediate School to parents/guardians only.** Please drive up to the back cafeteria door to receive your kits. You will not need to come into the building to sign forms. Kits will be brought to you. The State also plans to distribute another round of test kits for both students and staff to us this Friday, weather permitting.

We continue to have KN95 masks for any staff member and can also provide additional PPE based on individual needs. The district also has a supply of test kits available for staff members as well. Please contact your principal to receive your two test kits.

We appreciate your ongoing support. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your school with any specific questions you may have.

Respectfully,  
Alisha DiCorpo  
Superintendent