



**Superintendent
Dr. Autumm Jeter**

Bessemer City Schools

March 18, 2022

Dear Bessemer City School District Employees:

Beginning April 4, 2022, we will no longer require masks or facial coverings to be worn in our district. Therefore, individuals on campuses or inside buildings will have a choice whether or not they wear them. This is an important decision for us, and I want you to be the first to hear it directly from me. I, along with the superintendents of Birmingham City and Fairfield City Schools, have carefully considered the newest guidance from Jefferson County Department of Public Health leaders. Current data supports more relaxed mask and COVID-19 guidelines. We will announce the decision jointly to the public this morning.

This marks the first time Bessemer City School District has lifted mask mandates since we originally instituted them during early phases of the pandemic. The decision to make masks optional was made slowly and based heavily on official health data. Please, follow [this link for fuller details](#) on COVID-19 guidance from the Alabama Department of Public Health, as it relates to K-12 schools.

While numbers show an encouraging shift in the direction of the pandemic, Bessemer City School District will continue safe practices and recommendations from our health leaders. We will reexamine this protocol if emerging data reflects the need to do so.

In the meantime, we will continue COVID-19 safeguards, such as:

- On-site testing for students and employees
- Monthly COVID-19 vaccination clinics
- Providing masks upon request
- Preventative cleaning and sanitization measures
- Following guidelines for isolation and quarantine, along with other safe practices

In a combined effort to promote safety, we will be holding a **Joint COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Clinic. The joint clinic will take place Thursday, March 24th, 3-6pm, at Western Hills Mall in Fairfield, AL. Additional details are forthcoming.

As always, thank you for all you do. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your school principal for guidance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Autumm Jeter
Superintendent

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