



February 27, 2022

Dear TVHS Students and Families,

At a press conference this afternoon, the Governor announced the end of the mask mandate in schools, effective Wednesday, March 2. She cited declining metrics for making this decision, including a decrease in COVID cases and hospitalizations, as well as new guidance from the CDC on Friday. Here is what this means for students at Tech Valley High School:

- On Monday 2/28 and Tuesday 3/1, students and staff must wear masks at school and on school buses.
- Beginning Wednesday, 3/2, students and staff will no longer be required to wear masks at school and on school buses.

Students and staff will always have the option to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so. Wearing a mask is still recommended for those who are immunocompromised or at risk for serious illness. We recognize that it is a personal decision and expect such decisions to be met with mutual respect for all. We ask parents and guardians to speak with their child about personal choice and respect for each other's personal decisions.

We understand that this announcement may have a mixed reaction from parents, students and staff. Throughout the pandemic, we have relied on guidelines set forth by the State Department of Health and State Education Department in partnership with the county departments of health. Conditions are improving locally and across the state. Test positivity is now at the lowest rate since last fall and there is an increased number of students and staff that have been vaccinated.

Our schools also distribute at-home test kits to families - a mitigation tool that was scarcely available in the past. We encourage families to test their child when needed. Anyone testing positive should isolate at home and contact their school's office.

Thank you for your continued patience, cooperation and understanding. We will share additional information on the new guidance as soon as it is available. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or additional thoughts.

Sincerely,

Dr. Amy Hawrylchak