

Dear WCASD Families,

I hope you are staying warm and finding ways to enjoy the winter weather! In recent months I've written to you sharing frequent updates regarding COVID information, and now I am happy to share good news that COVID-19 case counts have been rapidly improving as we move into the second month of the new year.

As local conditions continue to improve and the parameters regarding COVID have changed significantly since the school year began, the administration will soon be recommending revisions to our current Health and Safety Plan. Specifically, we will recommend adjustments to the transmission thresholds that determine when mask wearing will be required, recommended, or optional. You can see the proposed adjustments in the chart below.

County Transmission Level	7-Day Incidence Rate per 100,000		7-Day Percent Positivity	Masking Status K-12
Low	<10	AND	<5%	Optional
Moderate	10-49	OR	5% - 7.9%	Optional
Substantial	50-99	OR	8% - 9.99%	Recommended
High	≥100	OR	≥10%	Required

These recommended revisions are the result of carefully examining metric-based data and our commitment to being responsive to changing conditions while still prioritizing the safety of our students and staff. The following are important changes to note since the school year began:

- When the school year began the vaccine was not available for most students in grades K-6.
- Boosters only became available for 18-year-old students and staff in mid-November.
- Isolation for positive cases has been reduced to from ten to five days (if asymptomatic after day five)
- 12-17-year-old students are now eligible to receive a booster
- Schools are no longer authorized to conduct contact tracing per the CCHD

While some communities may be pointed to a date on the calendar for removing masks from K-12 schools, our plan will continue to be based on developing information. Through our [mid-year surveys](#), we are also seeking feedback from parents, students, and staff that will help guide our school board's decision on this proposal. You will receive another email with only this mid-year survey for parents later today.

**Per the current Health and Safety Plan and transmission levels, students and staff are still required to wear masks. Please also remember that students are required to wear masks while riding the school bus.** Mask wearing on school buses remains as a federal requirement at least until March 18, 2022.

If you have questions or feedback on these adjustments to the Health and Safety Plan, please email [WCASDInstruction@wcasd.net](mailto:WCASDInstruction@wcasd.net) or make sure to complete our [mid-year survey](#). Additionally, you can always find our current COVID cases numbers, FAQs, and data visualization on our [COVID Dashboard](#).

Sincerely,

Bob Sokolowski  
Superintendent